



Mead Witter School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Musica Practica Entrance Exam

All undergraduate music majors at the University of Wisconsin– Madison are required to take Musica Practica, a multi-semester sequence of courses in the basic concepts and materials of music. Students in the Bachelor of Music program complete four semesters; students in the Bachelor of Arts program complete three.

The aim of course is to cultivate essential musical skills. In addition to learning counterpoint and harmony, students become proficient at solfege, eartraining, functional piano, and score-reading.

In order to register for Musica Practica, students must pass an Entrance Exam on the rudiments of musical notation: scales, intervals, key signatures, and triads. Students need to be fluent with this material if they're to succeed in the major, and so that the course can be taught at a pitch that's appropriate for college students.

The Entrance Exam is given remotely once a year on the first Tuesday of August. Entering music majors will be contacted about the exam in June. Anyone else who wishes to take the test must register to do so with the Undergraduate Office at admissions@music.wisc.edu.

We encourage students to prepare and practice for the test over the summer. Because Musica Practica focuses on developing essential musical skills, it serves as a prerequisite for other courses in the undergraduate curriculum. In order to make timely progress toward their degrees, music majors need to begin the sequence in the first semester of study, so passing the Entrance Exam is imperative.

A sample copy of the Entrance Exam is appended below; the actual exam will look exactly like this. You will have to score 25 or better (out of 30 — 80%) in order to pass.

Students who have not yet learned rudiments should plan on working through Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter, by John Clough, Joyce Conley, and Claire Boge, 3rd ed. (Norton 1999). Although the book is no longer in print, you can rent digital copies from Amazon.

We like the book because it's a "program text," which means that students can work through the material at their own pace and without the aid of a teacher. It is not necessary to take a course in order to pass the Entrance Exam. Most students who pass the Entrance Exam learn the material on their own. It's not very difficult, and the ability to learn it is a good measure of aptitude.

The single biggest determinant of success in the music major, however, is some basic ability to play the piano. We strongly urge anyone thinking about majoring in music in college to begin (or recommence) piano lessons as soon as possible. There's no better way of preparing for the major than taking piano lessons over the summer. You can't begin too soon, and it's never too late!

If you have any questions about the Entrance Exam, contact Professor Brian Hyer at bhyer@wisc.edu.

Musica Practica Entrance Exam

name: _____

date: _____

UW ID: _____

email: _____

intended degree and major: _____

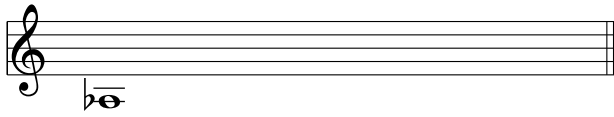
year: Fr. So. Jr. Sr.

I can register for either the 8:50 or 9:55 lecture. (Check one or both; checking both will improve your chances of getting into the course.)

SAMPLE TEST

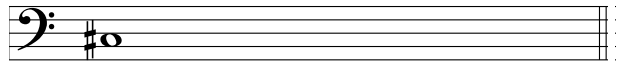
A. Write the following scales (ascending only) using the appropriate accidentals; any form of the minor scale will do:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



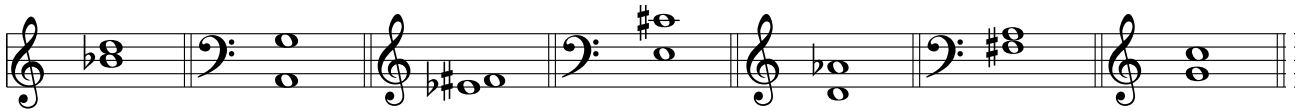
1. A \flat major

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



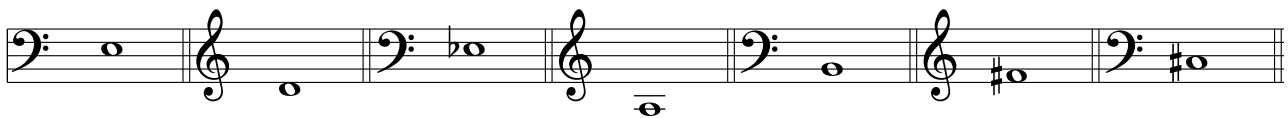
2. C# minor

B. Label the following intervals, where P=perfect, M=major, m=minor, d=diminished, A=augmented:



3. M3 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

C. Write the requested intervals ABOVE the following pitches:



10. M2 11. m6 12. A4 13. M10 14. P5 15. d7 16. M6

D. Write the requested intervals BELOW the following pitches:



17. m7 18. d4 19. m10 20. A6 21. M7 22. M3 23. m6

E. Write the requested *triads* above the following pitches:



24. m

25. M

26. d

F. Identify the following key signatures:



27. ____ major

29. ____ major

28. ____ minor

30. ____ minor

SAMPLE TEST

Since the Entrance Exam is being given remotely, there will be no listening section.