

# Music Theory Placement Test FAQ

## A. What courses are covered by the Music Theory Placement Test?

This hand-out listing Department of Music undergraduate music courses summarizes our introductory theory and musicianship sequence and explains placement options for students wishing to take undergraduate music theory at Yale. The Music Theory Placement Test will put you in a music theory course and in a musicianship course according to your skill levels in music theory and musicianship.

## B. When/where will the results of the Music Theory Placement Test be posted?

The results of the Music Theory Placement Test will be available on classesV2 a day or two after the test. Log-in to classesV2 and look for the Music Theory & Musicianship Placement Notification Site. Go to: <http://classesv2.yale.edu>

## C. Who takes our theory and musicianship courses?

- **Students interested in the technical foundations of music:** All students, regardless of major, are welcome to take our undergraduate music theory and musicianship courses.

- **Students wishing to take upper-level undergraduate music theory courses in the Department of Music:** All of our courses at the 300 and 400 level require the ability to read music, and some require Music 211a or b and/or Music 219a or b. See individual course descriptions at the online YCPS for details.

- **Students wishing to take performance lessons for credit:** In order to qualify for Music 360 and Music 361 (individual instruction in performance), students must take (or must have completed) two 200-level music-theory courses. Questions? Contact [sarita.kwok@yale.edu](mailto:sarita.kwok@yale.edu)

1. **Music 360:** first term of performance instruction - after or concurrently with Music 205a or b or Music 210a or b.

2. **Music 361:** second term of performance instruction - after or concurrently with Music 210a or b or Music 211a or b; prerequisite - Music 360.

- **Prospective music majors:** Completion of Music 211a or b and 219a or b (or placement out of them via the Music Theory Placement Test) are required for entry into the Music major.

## D. What theory course fits you?

- **Music 110:** You can't read music notation or have only vague and uncertain ideas about it, maybe from some self-study or a few years of music lessons in elementary school. You could have experience playing an instrument or singing, but have done so "by ear." Questions? Contact Prof. Richard Lalli at: [richard.lalli@yale.edu](mailto:richard.lalli@yale.edu)

- **Music 205:** You can read music in treble and/or bass clefs, and have experience playing an instrument or singing by reading notation. You may have learned about key signatures, scales, intervals, and chords along the way, but need some

review. You're interested in strengthening your understanding of basic musical materials and procedures, as well as in training your ear to hear them. You may or may not be interested in being a music major, but you want to learn theory in a disciplined and systematic way that will enrich your experience as a listener and strengthen your skills as a performer. Questions? Contact Prof. Brian Kane at: [brian.kane@yale.edu](mailto:brian.kane@yale.edu)

- **Music 210:** You've had prior and recent training in music theory through a course at a preparatory division of a music school, or private study. You can read treble and bass clefs fluently, and know key signatures, scales, intervals, chords, and Roman numerals. You may have done some composition as well. You're interested in more advanced study of diatonic harmony (including melody harmonization and figured bass realization), counterpoint, and form, and their practical application through model composition. Questions? Contact Prof. Richard Cohn at: [richard.cohn@yale.edu](mailto:richard.cohn@yale.edu)

- **Music 211:** You've taken and mastered a full college- or conservatory-level course that covers the fundamentals of tonal harmony, counterpoint, and form, and are interested in more advanced study of tonal syntax (including an introduction to chromatic harmony) and its practical applications through model composition, performance, and analytical listening. Questions? Contact Prof. Patrick McCreless at: [patrick.mccreless@yale.edu](mailto:patrick.mccreless@yale.edu)

#### **E. What musicianship course fits you?**

- **Music 218:** You have no or little experience in dictation, sight-singing, aural analysis, and the realization of harmonic progressions at the keyboard, or you need significant work in these skills. Questions? Contact Prof. Sarita Kwok at [sarita.kwok@yale.edu](mailto:sarita.kwok@yale.edu)

- **Music 219:** You have experience in these skills, but could use another semester of work before reaching the level we expect of people who have studied theory to the Music 211a or b level. Questions? Contact Prof. Sarita Kwok at [sarita.kwok@yale.edu](mailto:sarita.kwok@yale.edu)

#### **F. What's this placement test for?**

We want to find out how strong your preparation is and how well you've retained any previous study of music theory. The Music Theory Placement Test is designed to take about 45 minutes to an hour if you choose to do all parts, although you may take up to 90 minutes to complete it. We also want to assess your practical musicianship skills, which we will do on the basis of individual meetings with you when you have completed the written test.

#### **G. Still have questions?**

**E-mail:**

**Prof. Patrick McCreless at:** [patrick.mccreless@yale.edu](mailto:patrick.mccreless@yale.edu)  
**Prof. Richard Cohn:** [richard.cohn@yale.edu](mailto:richard.cohn@yale.edu)