

## **Music Theory Courses in the UNC Department of Music Placement & Registration**

All students who intend to take MUSC 131 (Theory and Musicianship I) in Spring 2017 *must* take the diagnostic test in order to be in the course. Please take the test whether or not you are already registered for MUSC 131. The Fall 2016 exam will be in Kenan Music Building, Room 2131 on Monday, August 22, 2016, at 9:00 am. A sample exam is included at the end of this document.

### **Non-Majors: Music Theory Courses**

Students with little or no formal musical education may take MUSC 121 (Fundamentals of Music). This course covers notational and theoretical materials of tonal music, addressing the vocabulary and syntax of that repertory, principally Western European art music from approximately 1600–1850 and contemporary popular song. MUSC 121 is a Visual and Performing Arts (VP) General Education Course, and has no prerequisites or co-requisites.

### **Music Minors: Music Theory Courses**

Students who intend to pursue a minor in music are required to take MUSC 121 (Fundamentals of Music). The Undergraduate Bulletin lists the complete requirements for earning a minor in music. Students who wish to minor in music but have an advanced background in music theory may choose to take MUSC 131 and 130. Upon successful completion of MUSC 131 and 130, students may submit a written request to their advisor to have these courses substitute for the MUSC 121 requirement. MUSC 121 is a Visual and Performing Arts (VP) General Education Course, and has no prerequisites or co-requisites.

### **Music Majors: Music Theory Courses**

Students who intend to pursue a B.M. degree in music must take MUSC 131 (Theory I) and MUSC 130 (Musicianship Skills I). Students pursuing the B.A. in music must take MUSC 131 and may use MUSC 130 towards their musicianship requirement. MUSC 131 offers an intensive introduction to music theory and analysis, covering basic contrapuntal writing as well as introductory principles of harmony and voice leading. Following MUSC 131, students take additional music theory courses for their degree.

### **MUSC 131 and 130**

“Music Theory I” and “Musicianship Skills I” are the initial music theory courses for all students pursuing a music major and are offered each spring semester. Non-majors and music minors with appropriate musical preparation may also take these courses. Some prior knowledge and skills are expected of all students taking these classes. In order to succeed in MUSC 131 and 130, entering students need to have already mastered the following:

- read fluently both treble and bass clefs
- understand key signatures and time signatures
- spell and identify simple melodic intervals
- spell major and minor triads on any given pitch
- sight-read simple rhythms and melodies on the student’s primary instrument

A diagnostic exam is administered on the Monday before fall classes begin to make sure that students have already acquired these skills at a satisfactory level. Information on the date/time is at the top of this page. Students whose incoming skill level does not meet expectations for MUSC 131 should take MUSC 121 first. Students are encouraged to study and review these skills prior to enrolling in MUSC 131. The following textbook may assist students who wish to undertake self-study in preparation:

John Clough, Joyce Conley, Claire Boge. *Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter: A Programmed Course in Elementary Music Theory, with an Introduction to Partwriting*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.

MUSC 131 is a Quantitative Intensive (QI) and Visual or Performing Arts (VP) General Education Course.

### **Honors Placement in Music Theory**

Some semesters, honors sections of music theory courses are offered. Placement into these honors sections is by permission of the instructor only.

### **Continuing Music Theory Studies**

Additional music theory courses are required for music majors; please consult the Undergraduate Bulletin and your advisor for complete degree requirements. The core theory requirements for music majors are:

- B.A. Degree: MUSC 131 (Theory I), MUSC 132 (Theory II) [MUSC 130 (Musicianship Skill I) and MUSC 133 (Musicianship Skills II) are among the options for completing the 2-hour Musicianship requirement.]
- B.M. Degree: include MUSC 131/130, MUSC 132/133, MUSC 232/230

Note that a grade of "C" or better is required in MUSC 132 in order to register for the next course. Additional music theory electives (MUSC 234, 265, 331, 332, 333, and 338) are also available; prerequisites for these courses vary. Please consult the Undergraduate Bulletin and your advisor to choose a course of study best suited to your degree program, interests, and area(s) of specialization.

# Sample MUSIC 131 Diagnostic Exam

These are the types of questions that could appear, though the exam itself will probably be shorter overall.

1. Identify these intervals.

example: minor 6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write the indicated interval *above* the given notes.

example: M7    solution    M3    d5    m6    P5    M2

3. Name these chords

example: A-flat major \_\_\_\_\_

4. Write these scales

5. Write the key signature indicated in treble and bass clef.

example: A major    f-minor    D major    E-flat major    c-sharp minor

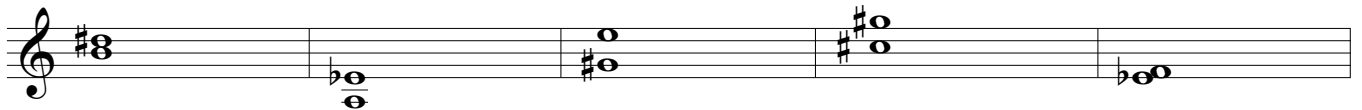
6. What meter do these rhythms best project? Add time signature and barlines.



### Answers

1. M3, m7, d5, m10 (octave + m3), P5

2.

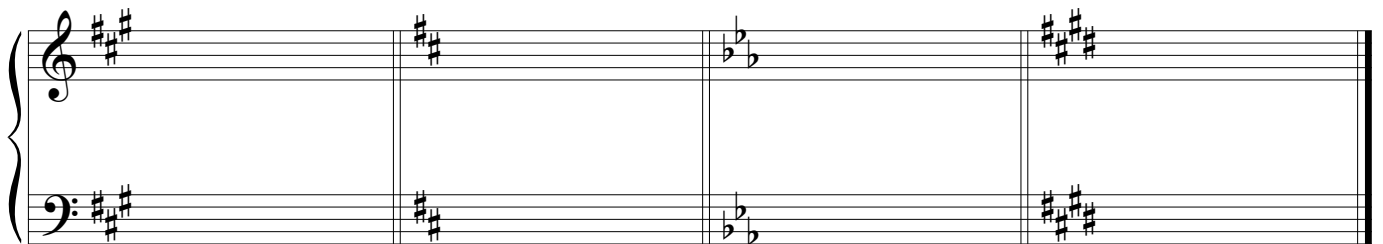


3. d minor, f-sharp minor, G7 (G dom.7), A major, E-flat major, B7 (B dom.7)

4.



5.



6.

