

## Recommended Music and Music-Theory Knowledge For Students Applying to the Undergraduate Music Program

### 1. Music Theory

- ability to read notes in both treble and bass clef
- knowledge of how to construct and identify whole steps, half steps, and enharmonic equivalents
- ability to construct the major and three kinds of minor scales
- understanding of meter signatures and ability to add barlines or to complete measures with notes and/or rests of correct durations
- understanding of how to write two contrapuntal parts with different rhythms so that simultaneous notes are aligned vertically and durations are correctly indicated
- knowledge of how to construct and identify diatonic intervals
- knowledge of how to construct and identify triads and some seventh chords

### 2. Aural Skills

- ability to match both pitches in their singing range and pitch classes in a register outside their singing range
- ability to sing simple scalar passages and major and minor triads with good intonation
- ability to sing a familiar tune with good intonation and steady rhythm
- ability to sing at sight a simple diatonic melody that includes stepwise motion and small skips
- ability to identify a melody from its notation and spot errors in a mis-notated melody
- ability to identify meters aurally, including the presence or absence of upbeats

### 3. General Musical Knowledge and Abilities

- ability to follow along with the printed score while listening to piano music or music for piano and one other instrument
- ability to listen to music in a focused way and to independently note details of melody, rhythm, and texture
- some listening familiarity with Classical music of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century periods
- some listening familiarity with American folk music, African-American spirituals, historical and contemporary jazz, historical and contemporary rock 'n'roll, and other common styles of vernacular music

**All students auditioning for the School of Music must pass entrance exams in the areas of Music Theory and Aural Skills in order to register for freshman-level theory or aural skills.**

#### Suggested resources to help review music theory and/or aural skills fundamentals:

- *Teoria Music Theory Web* (<http://teoria.com>) Free, online tutorials and exercises for music theory and ear training.
- *Music Theory On Line* (<http://music-theory.com>)
- *MiBAC Music Software* ([www.mibac.com](http://www.mibac.com))
- *MacGAMUT Music Software* ([www.macgamut.com](http://www.macgamut.com))

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