

Primary B

Recommended for students no older than 9 by June 1 of Festival year.

(If marked with an *, that element will NOT be included in tests.)

I. Keyboard Geography

- Name **black keys** as **sharps** or **flats** on picture of a partial keyboard.
- Write **letter names** of notes, going **DOWN** by **step**: GFEDCBAGF starting on **any** letter.

II. Notation Concepts

A. *New*:  staccato , grand staff, D.C., D.C. al Fine

- Dynamics – f, mf, mp, p, cresc. , diminuendo or decrescendo 
- Notes – Bass: First line G to middle C; Treble: middle C to fourth line D



- *Stem rule: Notes on or above the 3rd line have downward stems; notes below the 3rd line have upward stems. (On the 3rd line, the stem may go up if this note is part of a series of “up” - stemmed notes.) *(Not tested until Lev. I)
- Accidentals – sharp #, flat b, natural ♮
- Intervals – (Melodic) 2nds and 3rds
- Pedal indications – Ped., 

III. Rhythm/Meter Concepts

- Time Signatures - 2/4 3/4 4/4
- Time Extensions – tied notes () and fermata ()
- Add the ONE missing NOTE in a measure.
- Add missing barlines.
- Write in counts in short examples in 2/4 3/4 and 4/4

IV. Chord Concepts C and G Major

- Root position triads

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A. Root position triads

Identify on a staff by writing letter name. (C or G)

*Write in whole notes on a grand staff in treble, bass, or both clefs.

Write the letter names of the notes of the chord: C E G or G B D

V. Beginning Key Signature/Scale Concepts

A. C and G Major pentascales (five-finger patterns; first 5 notes of the key)

Name a given pentascale: C or G

*Write in whole notes in treble, bass, or both clefs

VI. Terms and Symbols (Italicized words will be used in matching test.)

Crescendo – cresc.



gradually louder

Decrescendo – decresc.



gradually softer

Diminuendo – dimin., dim.



gradually softer

D.C. al Fine – **repeat from the beginning to Fine (the end)**

Damper pedal – the pedal on the **right** which when pressed, raises all the dampers, allowing **all the strings to vibrate**

Fermata – () **hold the note longer than its given value**

Fine – **the end**

Flat – () **lowers a note (pitch) a half step**

Grand staff – includes a **bass staff and treble staff** joined by a **barline and brace**

Harmonic interval – an interval (**2 notes**) written or **played together** at the same time as in harmony. (Note! Students will not be asked to distinguish between harmonic and melodic intervals on written test. However, the term may appear in the matching question.)

Melodic interval – an interval (**2 notes**) written or **played separately** as in a melody

Mezzo forte – **moderately loud** [Italian: half loud]

Mezzo piano – **moderately soft** [Italian: half soft]

Natural – () - **Cancels a sharp or flat; play the natural white key**

Phrase – a small group of notes that form a unit, much like a **musical sentence**.

The notes make sense together. A phrase is usually **indicated by a slur**.

Sharp – () **raises a note (pitch) a half step**

Staccato – (stacc. or ) – **play short and detached**. Opposite of legato.

Tonic – the **first and main note of a key**; the keynote; the first scale degree

VII. Music History – Early **keyboard (clavier)** instruments

- A. **Clavichord**—stringed keyboard instrument in use from the 15th to 18th century. When a key was played, a **tangent (brass blade) struck the strings**. The sound of the clavichord was **very soft**.
- B. **Harpsichord** – a stringed keyboard instrument in use from the 16th to 18th Century. When a key was played, a quill **plucked the string**. They often had **two keyboards**. It could not be played louder or softer by using a lighter or stronger touch.
- C. **Organ** – a **keyboard wind instrument** which is operated by the player's **hands and feet**. It consists of a series of **pipes, a wind chest, and keyboards** (including a pedalboard for the feet). The organ has the **greatest dynamic range of all instruments**.
- D. **Piano** – a **stringed keyboard** instrument in which the strings are **struck by hammers** when the keys are played. Because of the striking of the strings, it is also a percussion instrument. It was the **first** keyboard instrument which could be played **louder or softer** by using a **lighter or stronger touch** of the fingers. The piano was invented by **Bartolommeo Cristofori** around 1709.