

MUSIC THEORY STUDY GUIDE

LEVEL A

SYMBOLS: Students should be able to draw and identify the following symbols

Staff; Grand Staff
Bar lines; Measures; Double bar lines
Treble (G) and Bass (F) Clefs
Note names on the grand staff
Flats, sharps, naturals---What are the symbols of each? What do they do?

SCALES & KEY SIGNATURES:

Patterns and definitions of WHOLE and HALF steps
Whole and half steps vs. skips—Do note names to check understanding
Keys of C, F, G—What do their key signatures look like?

INTERVALS:

Know basic intervals of melodic 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, and 5ths, ascending only

RHYTHM:

Whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes—
Students should be able to identify and draw.
Rests to match notes—Students should be able to identify and draw.
Know terms: notehead, stem, flag, beam
Time signatures: 2/4 4/4; What do each of the numbers (fractions) mean?

TRANSPOSITION:

At the octave—Students should be able to write notes an octave up or down using both bass and treble clefs.

TERMS:

Dynamic Terms: p, mp, mezzo, mf, f
Tempo alterations: a tempo, ritardando (rit.)
Articulation/Musical Notation: legato (slurs), staccato
Expressive text: crescendo, diminuendo (dim.)
Musical Directives/Signs: da capo (DC), fine, fermata, 8va, ties

EAR TRAINING:

Melodic direction: notes moving up, down, or same
Major scales: determine if scales sound major or minor
Intervals of skips or steps; unaltered scale tone intervals of 2, 3, 4, 5 ascending
Major and minor root position triads
Rhythmic dictation with note values of whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes
Major or minor keys—play examples to determine quality of selection