

Duke Ellington School of the Arts Music Theory Proficiency Requirements

Students are required take a music theory class each year that they are at Ellington, and must demonstrate satisfactory proficiency in Music Theory in order to graduate. Proficiency exams are given at the end of Piano-Theory (Theory I) and Theory II classes; students must earn a minimum of 75% on each exam in order to move to the next level. Students not passing minimum proficiency requirements will repeat Theory I or II until they are able to pass the exam. Students satisfactorily completing the Theory II exam will continue in the theory program, enrolling in Theory III and/or more advanced theory classes.

For the Theory I Proficiency Exam, the student will

1. Identify, write, and locate on the piano keyboard notes on all lines and spaces of the treble and bass staves up to two ledger lines above and below each staff, within a specified time limit.
2. identify and draw notes of all rhythmic values and their corresponding rests from whole notes to thirty-second notes.
3. Sing the major scale and tonic triad from memory using solfege syllables and at sight using letter names.
4. Identify all major key signatures.
5. Write major key signatures and scales using accidentals in keys up to 4 sharps and flats in treble and bass clefs.
6. Chant or clap rhythm patterns with all note values from whole notes to sixteenth notes and corresponding rests and equal divisions of the beat in 2, 3, 4, and 6.
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7. Demonstrate the significance of both numbers in a time signature using note value equivalents.
8. Write a chromatic scale, including notes and solfege syllables.
9. Identify and write half and whole steps.
10. Identify and write simple intervals by number, from any given note.
11. Identify major scale and tonic triad patterns from aural presentation.
12. Identify intervals (by number only) from aural presentation.
13. Sight-sing simple melodies in major keys using solfege syllables and letter names.
14. Write simple melodies from dictation.
15. Write simple rhythms from dictation (see #5 above).
16. Define and apply fundamental musical terms.

For the Theory II Proficiency Exam, the student will

1. Identify, write, and locate on the piano keyboard notes on all lines and spaces of the treble and bass staves up to three ledger lines above and below each staff, within a specified time.
2. identify and write all major and minor key signatures, within a specified time. Construct and explain a diagram of the circle of fifths.
3. Write and identify major and natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales in all keys.
4. Write and identify notes and syllables in a chromatic scale.
5. Transpose (in writing) major and minor diatonic melodies to any given key.
6. Sing major and natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales and tonic triads from memory using solfege syllables.
7. Sight sing melodies that utilize scale passages and tonic triad arpeggios, written in all major and minor keys and in simple and compound meters.
8. demonstrate the significance of both numbers in a time signature using note value equivalents.
9. identify and write all major, minor, perfect, augmented, and diminished intervals within an octave on any note, identifying them by number and quality
10. identify intervals within an octave from aural presentation with an accuracy of at least 6 out of 10 correct.
11. Identify and write major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads on all notes, in root position and first and second inversions.
12. Perform, and identify and write from aural presentation, rhythm patterns
 - values from whole to thirty-second notes and rests
 - simple and compound meters
 - equal and unequal divisions of the beat, including dotted rhythms
13. Define and apply fundamental musical terms.

