OMTA Solo Festival

2027 Theory Level Guide

Primer

- Identify the number of beats for quarter notes, half notes, dotted half notes and whole notes
- Identify note direction as up, down, or repeat
- Recognize the symbols for treble clef, bass clef, time signature, bar line, repeat sign, piano, forte
- Identify definitions for piano, forte
- Identify the letter names of white keys**
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff from fourth line bass F to second line treble G (or one octave of notes in primary clef/ range for instrument or voice)

Level 1

- Identify the number of beats for quarter notes and rests, half notes, dotted half notes and whole notes
- Identify and/or draw treble and bass clef symbols
- Recognize and/or give definitions for forte and piano symbols
- Recognize double bar, repeat, staff, bar line, time signature
- Identify note direction as up, down, or repeat
- Identify steps and skips, moving up or down, on the staff or a pictured keyboard**
- Identify the letter names of white keys**
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff from fourth line bass F to second line treble G (or one octave of notes in primary clef/ range for instrument or voice)

Level 2

- Identify the number of beats for quarter notes and rests, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, and whole notes and rests
- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4, or 4/4 meter (use any method, but must be consistent)
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for forte, piano, legato and staccato symbols
- Identify white or black keys on a pictured keyboard**
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff from second space bass C to fourth line treble C
- Draw sharp, flat and natural sign (and match to definition)
- Identify and/or draw whole and half steps on a pictured keyboard**
- Identify 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths on a pictured keyboard** and staff, white keys only

Level 3

- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 meter. Rhythms may include paired eighth notes, quarter notes and rests, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, and whole notes and rests
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte and forte symbols
- Identify ties and slurs
- Explain the meaning of numbers in a time signature
- Draw stems for notes on the staff in the proper direction
- Draw sharp, flat and natural symbols on the staff in proper placement
- Given a sharp or flat note, name the enharmonic equivalent
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff, including exterior space notes adjacent to the staff

- Identify 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths and 6ths by distance only on a pictured keyboard** and staff, white keys only
- Identify whole and half steps on the staff

Level 3A
- Covers the same concepts as Level 3, but applied to one or more musical excerpts

Level 4
- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 meter. Rhythms may include eighth note pairs, quarter notes and rests, dotted quarter followed by eighth note, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, whole notes and rests and upbeats.
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for pianissimo, piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte and fortissimo symbols
- Explain the meaning of the numbers in a time signature
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for accent, 8va and D.C. al fine
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff up to 2 ledger lines above or below the staff
- Identify 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, 7ths and octaves by distance only on a pictured keyboard** and staff
- Recognize and/or write the pattern of whole and half steps for major and natural minor scales
- On a pictured keyboard, complete major triads built on white keys by marking the middle note with an X

Level 4A
- Covers the same concepts as Level 4, but applied to one or more musical excerpts

Level 5
- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/8 or 6/8 meter. Rhythms may include eighth notes and rests, quarter notes and rests, dotted quarter followed by an eighth notes, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, whole notes and rests, eighth note triplets and upbeats.
- Write the sharps in order and the flats in order (by letter name and symbol only, not on the staff)
- Identify major key signatures
- Identify written major and perfect intervals on the staff, giving distance and quality
- Identify triads on a pictured keyboard as major or minor (triads may be built on any white or black key).**
- Write white-key major and minor triads on the staff
- Add accidentals to form major, natural minor, or harmonic minor scales built on white keys

Level 5A
- Covers the same concepts as Level 5, but applied to one or more musical excerpts

Level 6
- Using examples provided, complete measures by filling in the missing beats. Examples may be in any meter.
- Identify major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, giving distance and quality, built on any white key
- Write major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, up only, from white keys
- Write major, natural minor and harmonic minor scales built on white keys
- Identify major key signatures and give the relative minors
- Write major key signatures
- Identify and write major and minor triads on the staff (built on any white or black key)

Level 7
- Using examples provided, complete measures by filling in the missing beats. Examples may be in any meter.

- Identify and/or write double sharps and double flats and name their enharmonic equivalents
- Identify major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, giving distance and quality, built on any white key
- Write major, natural minor and harmonic minor scales beginning on white keys
- Write major scales beginning on black keys
- Identify major key signatures and give the relative minors
- Identify and/or write major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in root position on the staff

Level 8

- Using examples provided, complete measures by filling in the missing beats. Examples may be in any meter.
- Write major, natural, harmonic and melodic minor scales, beginning on any key
- Identify and write parallel and relative minor scales
- Write major, minor and perfect intervals in any key, up and down
- Write augmented and diminished 4ths, 5ths and octaves, up only, in any key
- Write major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in any inversion
- Identify dominant seventh, major seventh and minor seventh chords, root position, in any key
- Write white key dominant seventh chords in any inversion

Level 9

- Using examples provided, complete measures by filling in the missing beats. Examples may be in any meter, and may include tuplets.
- Write major, natural minor, harmonic minor, melodic minor, and chromatic scales, beginning on any key
- Identify modals scales in their natural state
- Write major, minor, perfect, augmented, and diminished intervals in any key, up and down
- Write major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in any inversion
- Identify major, minor, dominant half-diminished and fully-diminished 7th chords, root position, in any key
- Identify the key of an excerpt, and provide roman numeral chord analysis

Level 10

- Write major, natural minor, harmonic minor, melodic minor, whole-tone, chromatic, modal or pentatonic scales, beginning on any key
- Identify and write major, minor, dominant, half-diminished and fully-diminished 7th, root position and inversions, in any key
- Analyze the chords in a hymn. Give the chord name (i.e. F Major, g minor, etc.) for each beat and draw an X through non-harmonic tones
- Identify the key, mode or scale of an excerpt, and provide roman numeral chord analysis
- Ornamentation

*** Asterisks indicate theory test questions that apply to piano students only.*