

Theory - Dr. Valentin Mihai Bogdan

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Since taking this position in May of this year, I have worked on two projects. I have been working alongside Vice President of Non Competitive Events, Tanya Brooks in an effort to revamp the theory requirements in the Student Activities Handbook. In addition to familiarizing myself with the already existing requirements, I have also examined some of the most popular piano methods (Bastien, Alfred) in an effort to observe their methodology of introducing the materials. There are a number of discrepancies between what is emphasized in some of the handbook requirements and some of the information presented in these books. In the last conversation that I have had with Mrs. Brooks we agreed that we should focus the revamping process on bridging this gap, since a majority of the FSMTA teachers use one of these methods. The second project which I have worked on is the creation of a Music Theory test meant to be used for the FSMTA certification process. This test is meant to cover the basic music theory materials introduced to the music major during the first four levels of music theory. There are four main sections to the test, each covering a specific level of music theory, similarly to the college-level curriculum. The first section is focused on scales, chord structures and some four part harmony. The second section focuses on analyzing phrases and smaller musical sections. The third section focuses on theoretical and compositional elements of the 20th century, while the last section is an analysis of a work from the traditional repertoire. The test combines multiple choice questions with

I have tailored this test in order to fit the needs and expectations of a private teacher: even though issues regarding four-part harmony, voice leading are discussed, the emphasis is put on music theory elements that are most common in instrumental music. The test taker is also expected to understand elements such as cadences, phrase structure and large structure analysis. By conveying this information to their students, an accurate, knowledgeable understanding and performance of the work will be insured.

Thank you for your time. For any additional questions or comments, please email me at valybogdan@yahoo.com