

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Aural Skills Exam

The Aural Skills Exam, or Aliferis Test, is a three part listening exam required for students auditioning for the School of Music. It includes a harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic section. There are 64 multiple choice questions. The test is recorded on a CD and takes approximately 35 minutes.

### **Do you have to take this test to be admitted to the School of Music?**

Yes. The only way you are exempt from this test is if you have taken the AP Music Theory test and received a 4 or higher on the aural portion of the Exam. If you wish to waive the test, please fax a copy of your AP Score Sheet to us at **801-422-0533**. A good score on the Aliferis Test is often helpful in making a decision between close candidates for admittance. It is also required before you can register for any music major classes.

### **When do I have to take the exam?**

In order for your scores to be considered with your School of Music application, we need to receive your scores on or before the last Saturday in January.

### **What is a passing score for the exam?**

There is not a specific passing score, but students accepted to the School of Music typically get at least half of the questions correct (out of 64 questions).

### **How many times can I take the exam?**

You may take the exam as many times as you would like. We keep only your highest score.

### **How do I take the exam?**

There are three ways you can take the test:

1. On audition day (the last Saturday in January). It is offered twice: at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. You do not need to sign up in advance and it is offered at these times free of charge. All the materials for the test are provided. Ask at check-in where the test will be held, and please arrive a few minutes early.
2. Through the BYU Testing Center by appointment only. You must call **801-422-6147** to schedule an appointment. Appointments are only scheduled Monday – Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is a \$5 charge and you must bring headphones and a current photo ID.

3. Through a proctor. You may request to take the test through a proctor if you meet **all** the following criteria:

- You are **NOT** coming to campus for a live audition
- You live **outside of Utah County** and cannot come to BYU Campus and take the test in the Testing Center

If you meet **ALL** these criteria, you may request a proctored exam. The proctor should be a music teacher, either from a school or from private lessons. To arrange to take the test through a proctor, call 801-422-2660 or send an email to [musicadmissions@byu.edu](mailto:musicadmissions@byu.edu) with the following information:

- Proctor's name, mailing address, phone number and/or email address
- Student's name, phone number, and email address

The test will be mailed directly to your proctor as soon as an exam becomes available. This process takes **at least two weeks and may take over a month**, so you will want to do this as far in advance of auditions as possible.

#### **How can I prepare for this exam?**

- Enrolling in Music 190 at BYU (if you are a current BYU student).
- Studying a good beginning music theory text, such as Paul O. Harder and Greg A. Steinke's Basic Materials in Music Theory: A Programmed Course, 9th ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999).
- Practicing your ear training with such computer programs as Musica Practica and Guido.
- Studying at an appropriate web site, such as:
  - [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)

For more questions about the Aural Skills Exam, please contact us at 801-422-8903, or send an email to [musicadmissions@byu.edu](mailto:musicadmissions@byu.edu).