## Music 110: Fluencies (Timed Skills Quizzes)

In order for music theory to make sense, it is not enough that you understand the fundamentals abstractly: you must also be able to read and write music **fluently**. The fluency quizzes exist to help you structure your acquisition of fluency. Success in the fluency quizzes will make all your music study more rewarding, leading to faster, less laborious assignment work with better results.

For each fluency quiz you will have **two** attempts ("a" and "b") as shown in the schedule below. Additionally, you will have a third opportunity to make up **one** fluency of your choice. Each quiz will last exactly two minutes and will contain 6 items. Scoring is as follows:

6/6 correct: 10 points
5/6 correct: 8.5 points
4/6 correct: 5 points
< 4 correct: 0 points

Your <u>best</u> score for any quiz will always be counted, even if you score lower on your second attempt. Absence for any fluency quiz, other than with an official medical or other instructor-approved absence, will result in a zero for that attempt.

Each quiz is described below, with samples attached. All fluency quizzes will employ treble and bass clefs only. **It is your responsibility to keep track of upcoming fluency quizzes and to drill as necessary;** we will devote little class time to these fundamentals.

1. **Construct** Write root-position seventh chords of the indicated quality (MM, Mm, mm, dm, dd) over a given note as root.
2. **ID** Identify the quality of given seventh chords in close, root position.
3. **ID** Given key and a chord on the grand staff, ID roman numeral function plus inversion for all **diatonic triads** (including the variants v vs. V and vii° vs. VII in minor keys).
4. **ID** Given key and a chord on the grand staff, ID roman numeral function and inversion for all **diatonic seventh chords** ("diatonic" here includes both vii°⁷ and vii°⁷ in major keys).
5. **Construct** Write root-position V/V and V⁷/V chords from roman numerals; single staff.
6. **ID** Given key and a chord on the grand staff, ID V/V and V⁷/V chords, using roman numeral notation. Any inversion is possible, and must be indicated in the roman numeral symbol.
7. **Construct** Write root-position vii°/V, vii°⁷/V, and vii°⁷/V chords from roman numerals; single staff.
8. **Construct** Write root-position secondary V and V⁷ chords from roman numerals; single staff. All secondary dominants possible (not just secondary functions of V).
9. **ID** Given key and a chord on the grand staff, ID secondary dominants (V and V⁷) of all kinds. Root position only.
10. **ID** Given key and a chord on the grand staff, ID secondary dominants (V and V⁷) of all kinds. Any inversion is possible, and must be indicated in the roman numeral symbol.
11. Given key and a chord on the grand staff, ID secondary leading-tone chords of all kinds. Includes all possible qualities (vii°/**x**, vii°⁷/**x**, and vii°⁷/**x** ). Any inversion is possible, and must be indicated in the roman numeral symbol.

Fluency quizzes will be given each Wednesday during class:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/26 | 1a | 3/23 | 8a, 6b |
| 2/2 | 2a | 3/30 | 9a, 7b |
| 2/9 | 3a, 1b | 4/6 | 10a, 8b |
| 2/16 | 4a, 2b | 4/13 | 11a, 9b |
| 2/23 | 5a, 3b | 4/20 | 10b |
| 3/2 | 6a, 4b | 4/27 | 11b |
| 3/16 | 7a, 5b | 5/4 | 3rd attempt (your choice) |

<u>Online drills</u>

**www.teoria.com** Good interactive site that can be set to many of the skills on the fluency quizzes.

**http://www.dolmetsch.com/musictheory43.htm** Good list of online tutorial and drill sites; the site itself is an interesting and thorough music theory text.

<u>MacGAMUT</u>

MacGAMUT is primarily an ear-training program, but can also be set to create custom notation drills that match the content of many of the **construction** (but not the ID) fluency quizzes. If you do not own your own registered copy of MacGAMUT, you can use it in the Music Technology Lab (Southwick 200D). Your CatCard will get you into the lab once the codes have been entered for this semester (about 2 weeks from the start of classes), and you can also ask at the Music Office next door to be let in if you're there during regular business hours. To use MacGAMUT as a non-registered user, double-click on the file **UVM_Students startMG6.mgs** which should be in the Documents folder. Your teacher may demonstrate the program at some point in the semester, but it's easy to use and learn, and there is good on-screen help. Of course, music is about sound, so you should take advantage of MacGAMUT's primary function as an aural skills program, learning to identify intervals and chord qualities by ear as well as by sight.

<u>Keyboard practice</u>

Playing keyboard is very helpful in developing quick visual and kinesthetic recognition of fundamentals. When you play, regardless of whether you're reading, improvising, playing by ear, playing from memory, or whatever, think about the intervals and chords you're playing. This is among the most meaningful ways of integrating music theory knowledge. If you want outside structure to help you in acquiring basic keyboard skills, consider signing up for one of the group piano classes MU 041-043 and MU 024-025.

<u>Other instruments</u>

Whatever your instrument, think about intervals and chords as you read and play them. Nothing is as good as the keyboard for a visually consistent, logical musical map, but all physical/aural/kinesthetic mappings are useful. Hear, feel, and own your musical fundamentals!

<u>Lab courses</u>

Consider taking the Aural/Keyboard skills component of the theory offerings here (the lab courses MU 54, 56, 154, and 156). These are required of all music majors, but are of great use to minors and general students too.