

# MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Testing

**Chairperson:** Kim Roberts

**Date:** Saturday, February 9, 2019

**Location:** Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, 15 W Church St., Downtown Frederick

**Time:** Individual times assigned, between 9 am and 1 pm

**Fee:** \$12.00 per student per level

**Deadlines:** Online registration and fee to MSMTA by **December 29, 2018**  
(Follow instructions in MSMTA activity handbook at [msmta.org](http://msmta.org))  
Permission slips **to Kim Roberts by January 4, 2019**

**Rules:** See MSMTA Student Activities Handbook and Keyboard Musicianship Syllabus, or ask Kim Roberts any questions about this testing program.

**Description:** **The Keyboard Musicianship Program** is a comprehensive program designed to develop multiple musical skills. The six categories (called modules) are:

- 1) Scales and Cadences
- 2) Arpeggios
- 3) Sight Reading
- 4) Harmonization
- 5) Transposition
- 6) Improvisation

Each category has ten levels which are clearly described in the syllabus. Accuracy, good fingering and even finger work are stressed in the technical module of Scales and Arpeggios. Sight Reading also stresses accuracy and continuity, as well as dynamics, articulation and pedaling. Harmonizing requires correct chord placement and chord choices, in addition to reading skills, a good ear and familiarity with primary chords at the lower levels. Transposing is one of the easiest modules, as all but two levels are prepared in advance. Creativity is important in Improvisation, which has a wide variety of choices.

The testing is done on an individual basis with clear guidelines set up for the judges. The Scales and Cadences Module is required at each test and must progress to a higher level each time. All other levels may be presented in any order, as different and varied skills are required for each one.

The syllabus provides teachers with a graded system of teaching the above topics. Taking the test provides students and teachers with a goal to work towards as well as the satisfaction of a goal well met.