

THEORY PROGRAM

Coordinator is listed at the back of this book on the SA Committee page.

Complete Coordinator contact information, deadlines, fees, and registration forms may be found on the Website at www.tmta.org.

Questions or exceptions regarding the Theory Program must be addressed to the TMTA-SA Theory Coordinator by the local chair only. Response will be given to no other contact.

Deadlines for submitting local testing dates and test corrections are listed at the back of this book.

Purpose

The purpose of the Theory Test is to evaluate SA members' musical knowledge of and the ability to apply theory, aural, and musicianship concepts across a broad musical spectrum

Description

Theory tests for students enrolled in grades 1-12 are prepared annually for administration in the fall and spring. Theory tests are administered by local associations in a formal atmosphere. Completed tests are returned to state Student Affiliate Theory Receivers for distribution to graders. ©Guidelines and test content for all tests are in the latest edition of the *Student Affiliate Theory Manual*. ©This publication may be ordered from the TMTA Office.

1. **Whitlock Tests:** Levels 1-12 are to be taken by piano, vocal, and instrumental students enrolled in school grades 1-12. Whitlock Tests are named in honor of Dr. E. Clyde Whitlock, a charter member of TMTA and a distinguished music educator and critic.

Eligibility

1. Students must be current SA members. Students competing for theory medals must pass the tests each year at their school grade level in accordance with Required Testing Levels #1 (See next page). These tests must go through the grading process.
2. Students planning to participate in state level activities, but testing below level must pass the tests each year in accordance with Required Testing Levels #2 (see next page). These tests must go through the grading process.
3. 'A student may not take the theory test in more than one association. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in disqualification and elimination of scores in state records.

Required Testing Levels

1. Pianists and Organists (Grades 1-12)

Grades 1-12: To be eligible for theory medals and other awards, a student must test at the school grade level. Home-school students must declare a school grade upon enrollment and take the test at that level.

- a. No student will be allowed to take a test above the current school grade level. Such tests will be considered ineligible and returned to the local chair.
- b. Students who **skip** a school grade **or** who are promoted during the year will be required to take the test at **both** grade levels for **medal and award eligibility**.
- c. The local chair must notify the TMTA Theory Coordinator and the TMTA office in order for the record to reflect both grades.
- d. A student may not take the theory test on two levels during the same testing period.
- e. Students who repeat a school grade must test at the current grade level even if it means repeating a test previously taken and passed. The student will be eligible to earn a medal. The local theory chair must notify the TMTA Theory Coordinator and the TMTA Office.

Required Testing Levels, Pianists and Organists, continued

2. **To be eligible for ensemble, original composition contest, or performance contest, all tests must go through the state grading process:**
 - a. Students in Grade 1 must pass the level one test.
 - b. Students in Grades 2, 3, and 4 must pass at either current school grade level or **ONE** level below.
 - c. Students in Grades 5-12 must pass the test at a minimum of level 4. Such students must advance at least one level higher each successive year and may skip levels until they reach their current grade level.
 - d. Local ensemble, original composition, and performance chairs are responsible for the verification of theory eligibility.
 - e. A student is required to take and pass the test on only one level in order to be eligible for ensemble, original composition and performance, even if that student has skipped a grade in school.
 - f. Post-12 students are exempt from the theory requirements.
3. **Vocalists/Orchestral Instrumentalists (grades 7-12)**
 - a. Students must take the Whitlock tests. These students should begin at Level 4 or higher and must progress at least one test level each school year. Students on Levels 4 or 5 are eligible to participate in Convention activities and will receive certificates, but no Whitlock medals.
 - b. Since vocalists and instrumentalists traditionally begin lessons at a later age, the recommended testing sequence to earn a Vocal or Instrumental medal is: Whitlock Test Level 6, Whitlock Test Level 8, Whitlock Test Level 9, Whitlock Test Level 10. Vocal or Instrumental medals will be awarded **ONLY** at these test levels with a score of 90 or higher.
4. **Post-12 students** are exempt from theory requirements.

Applications and Procedures

1. Forms for ordering tests are found on the Website at www.tmta.org or by email from the Theory Coordinator. Detailed information and instructions on ordering and administering tests are provided on the Website at www.tmta.org. Please read materials carefully. **The information in this handbook contains general information only.**
2. Time allowance for Levels 1-8 is two hours including ear-training. Whitlock Levels 9-12 are allowed three hours including ear-training.
3. Local associations are urged to administer the tests in both Fall and Spring, particularly to the older students and to those who are interested in taking part in convention activities.
4. Any student taking the test in the Fall and wishing to improve that score may take the test again in the Spring. Students taking the test in both Fall and Spring are credited with the higher of the two scores.
5. A passing score is 70 at all levels. A student failing the Spring test cannot have another opportunity that year.

Grading Procedures

1. Tests to be sent for re-grading should be returned to the local chair, who will send them to the Coordinator. Tests must be received by the Theory Coordinator by January 15 and April 15. Teachers should write the Coordinator about grading errors, **but should not return tests in which the medal does not change.**
2. Grading guidelines will be sent to each theory chair and should be distributed to participating teachers.

Fees (nonrefundable) Fees are listed at the back of this book.

The fee for state grading and a Multi-Purpose Form, found on the Website, must be sent to the TMTA office at 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 240W, Austin, Texas 78723.

®**IMPORTANT!! You must enroll students in Student Affiliate BEFORE enrolling them for the Theory Test. SA enrollment deadline must be met.** Any student of a TMTA teacher who takes the theory test prior to enrolling as an SA member runs the risk of not having the score recorded and is subject to processing fees and fines, as stated on page 23).

▶ **\$100 nonmember teacher fee to enter one or more students.**

Awards

1. Medal Rankings
 - a. Students who score 90 or above are awarded Whitlock medals for Levels 1-12. Fractions are dropped. A score of 93 3/4, for example, earns a Bronze Medal.
Gold Medal : 98-101 Silver Medal : 94-97 Bronze Medal : 90-93
 - b. **Vocalists** who score 90 or above on Whitlock Test Levels 6, 8, 9, and 10 are awarded the Vocalist Theory Medal.
 - c. **Instrumentalists** who score 90 or above on Whitlock Test Levels 6, 8, 9, and 10 are awarded the Instrumental Theory Medal.
 - d. **Students taking tests below grade level do not receive medals.**
2. Certificates are available for all students who score 70 or above on state-graded tests. ®These certificates may be printed from the Website or, upon request by the individual teacher, mailed from the TMTA office. **See Materials Order Form.**
3. Any student earning a medal in each grade level of a division or vocalists/instrumentalists earning medals on levels 6, 8, 9, and 10 will also earn a division award certificate. Division certificates may be printed from the Website or, upon request by the individual teacher, mailed from the TMTA office. **See Materials Order Form.**

Senior Awards

1. **Loving-Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award:** Because of her deep affection and years of work in developing the TMTA-SA theory program into the outstanding activity we have today, the award for students earning gold medals in grades 1-12 is named in honor of **Mary Loving**. The **Loving-Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award**, consisting of an engraved plaque and a cash award of \$300, will be presented to any graduating senior earning gold medals for the theory tests from Level 1 through 12.
2. **Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award:** Because of her efforts in organizing the TMTA-SA theory program, the award for earning gold medals in grades 4-12 is named in honor of **Mrs. Jimmie Mansfield**. The **Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award**, consisting of an engraved plaque and a cash award of \$200, will be presented to any graduating senior earning gold medals for the theory tests from Levels 4-12.
3. A **Twelve-Year Medals Plaque** will be presented to any graduating senior earning a medal on all twelve levels of the theory tests.
4. A **Twelve-Year Participation Certificate** will be awarded to any graduating senior taking and passing all twelve levels of the theory test.
5. A **Six-Year Vocal or Instrumental Award** consisting of an engraved plaque and a cash award of \$50 will be presented to any graduating senior vocalist or instrumentalist earning a Vocal or Instrumental medal on Whitlock Levels 6, 8, 9, and 10 plus a gold medal for Whitlock Levels 11 and 12.
6. Application forms for these awards are provided on the Website at www.tmta.org. Include the following:
 - a. Copies of the TMTA print-out showing the scores from the appropriate levels.
 - b. ®**Please enclose a signed photo release form.** ®Send a **digital photo** of the student as an email attachment to the Coordinator. **Label the attachment with the name of the student.**
 - c. Send all of these items to the Coordinator. **Award applications must adhere to the deadline.**

Instructions for Ordering Medals

1. All medals must be ordered by the local chair. Ordering instructions are on the TMTA Website under Forms/Theory/Medal Orders. Cost of each medal is \$3.50 postage paid.
2. Any medal-order discrepancy must be corrected within one month of receipt of the medals. Any corrections made after June 15 will be considered medal replacements.
3. Replacements for lost medals may be obtained for \$5, payable to TMTA. The name of the student, grade level, type of medal, and year should be sent to the TMTA Theory Coordinator.

Instructions for Ordering Study Materials

1. Mail or fax order forms found in the *TMT* magazine or on the Website at www.tmta.org to:
 - a. TMTA/TMTEF, 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 240W, Austin, TX 78723
 - b. FAX 512-419-1354
2. Checks or credit cards are accepted for payment.
3. There is a \$5.00 minimum for orders.
4. Study Materials
 - a. Any TMTA member may order study tests. Study tests ordered before the fall testing period will be from the previous testing period. Copies of the current tests may be ordered after the last testing date each semester.
 - b. Copies of tests and ear-training keys will be sold in complete sets only for \$6.00 per set.
5. Instructional Material
 - a. Guidelines and test content for all tests are in the latest edition of the *Student Affiliate Theory Manual*. ©This publication may be ordered from the TMTA Office. Cost is \$6.00.
6. Certificates
 - a. All certificates may be printed from the TMTA Website, www.tmta.org.
 - b. Theory certificates may be ordered from the TMTA Office by the individual teacher after theory grades are received.