

## Music theory test at audition

### Why we ask you to have a good understanding of music theory

A good understanding of the fundamentals of music theory will help you get the most out of your time as a music student at LIPA. Music theory is a key tool that professional musicians use throughout the industry in order to communicate musical ideas in a creative, production and/or performance-based environment. Regardless of career ambitions, a solid understanding of music theory will help you to reach your full potential.

### What to expect from our music theory test at your audition

We expect all UK applicants to attain a Grade 5 music theory qualification by the time they enrol with us. We also ask all applicants to sit our own music theory test (regardless of nationality). Most of the test should be able to be understood by anyone studying a recognised (e.g. ABRSM, LCM, RockSchool) Grade 5 qualification, though some questions will test more complex ideas. There is no specific pass mark for the theory test, but the results will inform decisions that are made regarding auditionees.

The LIPA music theory test will test applicants in the following areas:

#### Key Signatures, Scales, Modes & Clefs

- Major scales and key signatures in all keys
- Harmonic, melodic and natural minor scales and key signatures in all keys
- Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian and Locrian modes in all keys
- Bass and treble clefs
- Intervals written on staff paper (e.g. major 3rd, perfect 5th)

#### Chords & Chord Symbols

- Major, minor, diminished and augmented triads in all keys
- Dominant, major, minor, minor/major and diminished 7th chords in all keys
- Extended chord tones 9ths, 11ths, 13ths and relevant alterations (e.g. #11 or b13)
- Use of any (not every) industry standard chord symbol style (e.g. Dmin7 vs. D-7)

#### Time Signatures & Rhythm

- All time signatures with denominators 2, 4 and 8.
- 8th Note (quaver) beaming conventions for compound, irregular and simple timesignatures
- Duplets and triplets.
- All note and rest values, tied and dotted, using any (not every) established naming system (e.g. semi-quaver/sixteenth note)