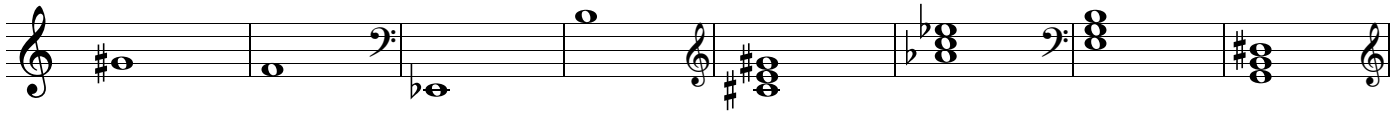
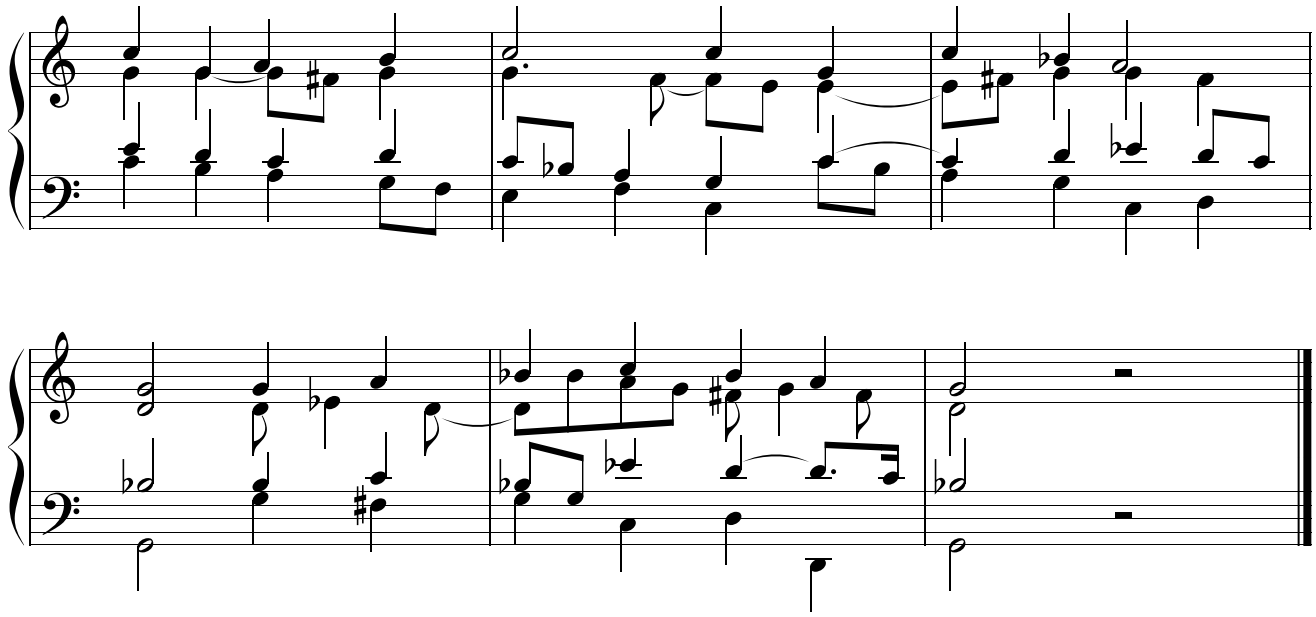
# Columbia College Chicago
## Music Department Placement Exam

All incoming students to Columbia's Music program must participate in placement activities. These are given during new student orientation and twice more before and during the first week of classes. The purpose of these exams is to match up incoming students with their appropriate level of Theory, Sightsinging and Keyboard classes. Students with little or no music background can opt out of all or part of the tests and register for Introduction to Music Theory 32-1100-01.

The written portion of the test ranges from the extremely simple (see below - note and chord identification)



...to the moderately complex, as in this Bach chorale analysis, which asks for figured bass, alphabetical chord symbols and non-harmonic tones.



Sightsinging and keyboard portions of the exam cover a similar range. Rhythmic and melodic dictation examples are given with the written portion of the exam and are of moderate difficulty.

The Sightsinging exam asks for simple rhythmic drill and scale singing and proceeds to sightreading melodies and rhythms of moderately difficulty.

Keyboard portions of the exam begin with two-octave scales in two hands with cadence chords and include sightreading and the performance of a piece of your choice.

If you have specific questions about placement, you may call Doug Lofstrom, the Music Department Assessment Coordinator at 312-344-6324.

Good luck!