Master of Sacred Music Program
Keyboard Proficiencies and Score Reading Competencies

All entering MSM students (except those in the Organ and Keyboards concentrations) and all entering MM-Choral Conducting students must pass a Keyboard Proficiency and Score Reading Competency examination, consisting of the components described below. If a student fails to show sufficient progress toward the passing of all the components, the faculty may recommend remedial work including review courses.

Under normal circumstances, the Sacred Music faculty offer the exam shortly after the beginning of the fall and spring terms in each academic year. **All parts of the exam must be passed by the end of the student’s third semester.**

**Keyboard proficiencies**

1. Play any major or minor scale through two octaves, ascending and descending, with one hand at moderate tempo.
2. Play any major or minor arpeggio through two octaves, ascending and descending, with one hand at moderate tempo.
3. Play the I (i) — IV (iv) — V⁷ — I (i) progression in any major or minor key (four voices, two hands).
4. At sight, provide a simple harmonization (root-position diatonic harmonies) of a simple melody with five minutes’ preparation.

**Score reading**

1. Play at a reasonable tempo two hymns from the following list of ten, drawn from *The United Methodist Hymnal*. You may choose one ahead of time, and the faculty jury will choose the second. Scores are attached.

   75  All People That on Earth Do Dwell (OLD 100TH)
   89  Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (HYMN TO JOY)
  122  God of the Sparrow God of the Whale (ROEDER)
  145  Morning Has Broken (BUNESSAN)
  184  Of the Father’s Love Begotten (DIVINUM MYSTERIUM)
  239  Silent Night, Holy Night (STILLE NACHT)
  344  Tú Has Venido a la Orilla (PESCADOR DE HOMBRES)
  378  Amazing Grace (NEW BRITAIN)
  618  Let Us Break Bread Together (LET US BREAK BREAD)
  703  Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (SWING LOW)

2. Play at reasonable rehearsal tempo two anthem accompaniments from the following list of five. You may choose one ahead of time, and the faculty jury will choose the second. Scores are attached.
3. Play at reasonable tempo one chorale harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach, chosen by the faculty jury from the following list of three. These are drawn from The United Methodist Hymnal. Scores are attached.

286 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (PASSION CHORALE)
532 Jesus, Priceless Treasure (JESU MEINE FREUDE)
644 Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring (JESU, JOY OF MAN’S DESIRING)

4. In open score (G and F clefs), play at reasonable rehearsal tempo any combination of voices (2, 3, or 4) from mm. 1–39 of Tomás Luis de Victoria, O magnum mysterium. This portion of the score is attached.

*Revised July 2017*