

# NNMTA Festival Theory Test Vocabulary List

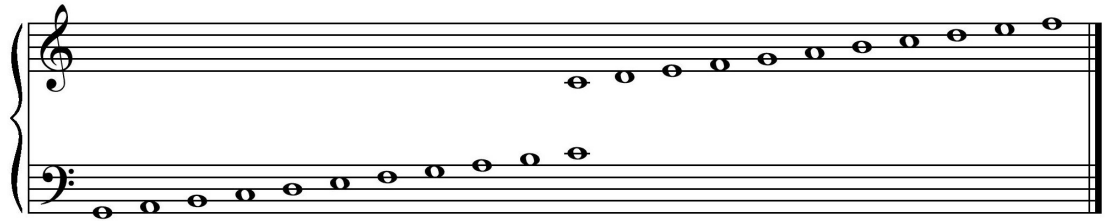
Know all symbols, words, translations, and definitions

## **PREPARATORY**

The Grand Staff

Treble clef

Bass clef





Left hand – L.H.

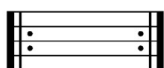
Right hand – R.H.

Forte ***f*** – loud

Piano ***p*** – soft

Staccato  – play short and detached

Legato  – play smooth and connected


Repeat signs  Repeat section between signs


Double bar  Indicates end of a section or piece




Slur – phrase mark, connect all notes within the phrase mark

Tie – continue to hold the same note for the total number of counts

Sharp  – raise the note to the right a half step

Flat  – lower the note to the left a half step

Natural  – cancel the previous sharp or flat

**LEVEL 1** – Know all the terms from PREPARATORY LEVEL, plus the following:

Mezzo piano ***mp*** – moderately soft

Mezzo forte ***mf*** – moderately loud

Diminuendo ***dim.*** – gradually softer

Crescendo ***cresc.*** – gradually louder

***Fine*** – the end

Da Capo ***D.C.*** – return to the beginning

Allegro – fast tempo, cheerful

Moderato – moderate tempo

Andante – slow walking tempo

Adagio – slowly, a leisurely tempo


Ritard, ritardando ***rit.*** – gradually slowing down

**LEVEL 2** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:


Fortissimo ***ff*** – very loud

Pianissimo ***pp*** – very soft

Decrescendo ***decres.*** – gradually softer

Fermata  – hold a note longer than its value

Dal Segno ***D.S.*** – go back to the sign

 – the sign to which you return

AB Form ( Binary Form) – There are two different sections in the piece.



ABA Form (Ternary Form) – The first and second sections of the pieces are the same, the middle section is different.


First ending – Second ending


Menuet or minuet – an 18<sup>th</sup> century court dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time


**LEVEL 3** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Accelerando *accel.* – gradually speed up, accelerate

Con pedale – with damper pedal, also written with any of these symbols: *Led.* \*

Cut time or Alla Breve  – played in  $\frac{2}{2}$  time signature

Common time  – played in  $\frac{4}{4}$  time signature

Accent mark  – stress, play the note stronger or louder

Gigue – a fast court dance in triple meter



Play one octave higher



Play one octave lower

**LEVEL 4** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

$\frac{2}{4}$  Duple meter – two beats per measure

$\frac{3}{4}$  Triple meter – three beats per measure

$\frac{4}{4}$  Quadruple meter – four beats per measure



Cadence – the chords or harmonic progression at the end of a phrase or section of a piece

Plagal cadence – a IV-I chord progression ending a phrase or section

Authentic cadence – a V-I or V7-I chord progression ending a phrase or section

Half cadence – a V chord ending a phrase or section

**LEVEL 5** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Eighth note triplet – three notes equal to one quarter note  = 

Sforzando *sfz* – a sudden, sharp accent

Motif or motive – a short melodic or rhythmic pattern used repeatedly throughout a piece as a unifying element

Lento – slow

Vivace – lively, with spirit

Largo – stately, with dignity, broadly

**LEVEL 6** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Poco – a little

Piu – more

Molto – much

Dolce – sweetly

Con brio – with brilliance

Tranquillo – peacefully

poco a poco – little by little

Cantabile – in a singing style

Coda  $\Phi$  – extending ending or “tail” found at the end of a piece

Simple meter – each pulse is divisible into two. Examples are  $\frac{2}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{4}{4}$ .

Compound meter – each pulse is a dotted note, divisible into three parts. Examples are  $\frac{6}{8}$ ,  $\frac{9}{8}$ ,  $\frac{12}{8}$ .

**LEVEL 7** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

m.g. – main gauche – left hand

m.d. – main droit – right hand

Waltz – a dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$  meter with a strong first beat

Nocturne – a lyric, romantic-style composition, often suggestive of night

Invention – a short piece in contrapuntal or counterpoint style utilizing imitation

Sonata-Allegro form – sometimes called the first movement form. This form is important in the Classical sonata and has three division:

Exposition: The initial presentation of the melodic material, usually has two main themes.

Development: The section that “works out” the two themes by taking them through key changes, rhythmic changes, or some different treatment, and then returning to the initial key.

Recapitulation: The restatement of the themes from the exposition.

**LEVEL 8** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Imitation – the repetition of a melody or melodic group in close succession, but in a different voice

Exact repetition – the motif is repeated in the same voice without any change

Varied repetition – the motif is repeated in the same voice with small changes

Sequence – the motif occurs again immediately in the same voice, beginning on a different degree

Irregular meter – A time signature in which the number on top is not divisible by 2 or 3, also known as asymmetrical meter. Examples include:  $\frac{5}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ,  $\frac{11}{8}$

Spiritoso – in a spirited manner

Con moto – with motion

Andantino – slightly faster than andante

Allegretto – playful, happy, and slightly slower than allegro

**LEVEL 9** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Double flat  $\flat\flat$  – lower the note two half steps

Double sharp  $\sharp\sharp$  – raise the note two half steps

Assai – very

Calando – getting softer and slower

Espressivo – expressively

Grazioso – gracefully

Allargando – broadening, slower and with fuller tone

Sostenuto – sustained, giving notes their full value

Modulation – changing from one key to another

Tritone – augmented 4<sup>th</sup> or diminished 5<sup>th</sup> (3 whole tones)

Embellishment – a musical ornament such as a trill  $tr$ , a mordent  $\text{mordent}$ , a turn  $\text{turn}$ , or an appoggiatura  $\text{appoggiatura}$

**LEVEL 10** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Tempo giusto – strict time

Marcato – play in a marked, accented manner

Scherzo – literally, a joke; a movement or composition in lively  $\frac{3}{4}$  time

Rondo – alternating form with a returning primary section, such as ABACA or ABACABA

Stretto – quickening speed or the overlapping of the musical theme in two or more voices

Toccata – a “touch piece,” usually an instrumental solo that exhibits the performer’s touch or technique

**LEVEL 11** – Know all the terms from previous levels, plus the following:

Prestissimo – very quick

Trill  $tr$  or  $tr$  – rapid alternation of a note and the next scale note higher

Turn  $\text{turn}$  – decorating a note with its upper and lower scale tones to form a rapid succession of 4-5 notes

Appoggiatura  $\text{appoggiatura}$  – “leaning note,” sometimes called a grace note

Mordent  $\text{mordent}$  – literally “biting,” begins on the beat with its main note, descends quickly to the lower scale note and returns at once to the main note

Pralltriller  $\text{pralltriller}$  – a short trill (also known as praller or triller)

Bitonality – the use of two different keys at the same time in a piece

Atonality – the lack of key or tonal center in a piece

The Baroque suite dances:

Allemande – usually the first movement; a German dance in binary form and written in quadruple meter.

Gavotte – a French dance in quadruple meter, beginning on the third beat.

Bourree – a lively French dance, much like the gavotte, in quadruple meter beginning on the upbeat.

Courante – literally, “running”; a rapid French dance that may change from triple to compound duple meter.

Minuet – a stately court dance in moderate triple meter.

Sarabande – a slow, highly ornamented Spanish dance in triple meter, emphasizing  $\text{sarabande}$

Gigue – usually the last movement of a dance suite; a quick English dance of Irish origin using the characteristic rhythm of  $\text{gigue}$  (compound meter)

**Tempo indications across all levels from fastest to slowest:**

Prestissimo

Presto

Vivace

Allegro

Allegretto

Moderato

Andantino (however, some composers use this term to indicate slower than Andante)

Andante

Adagio

Lento

Largo