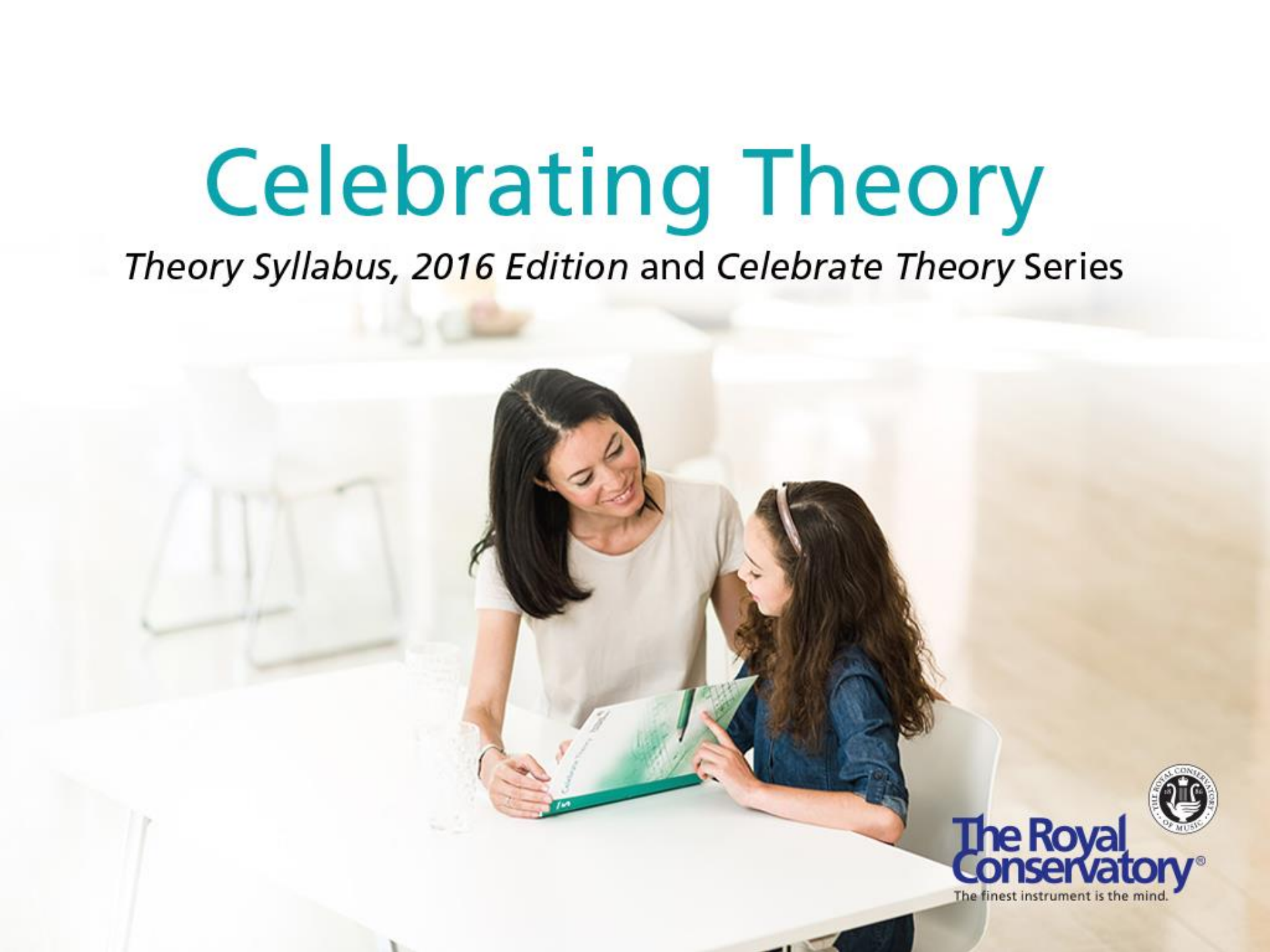
Celebrating Theory

Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition and *Celebrate Theory* Series



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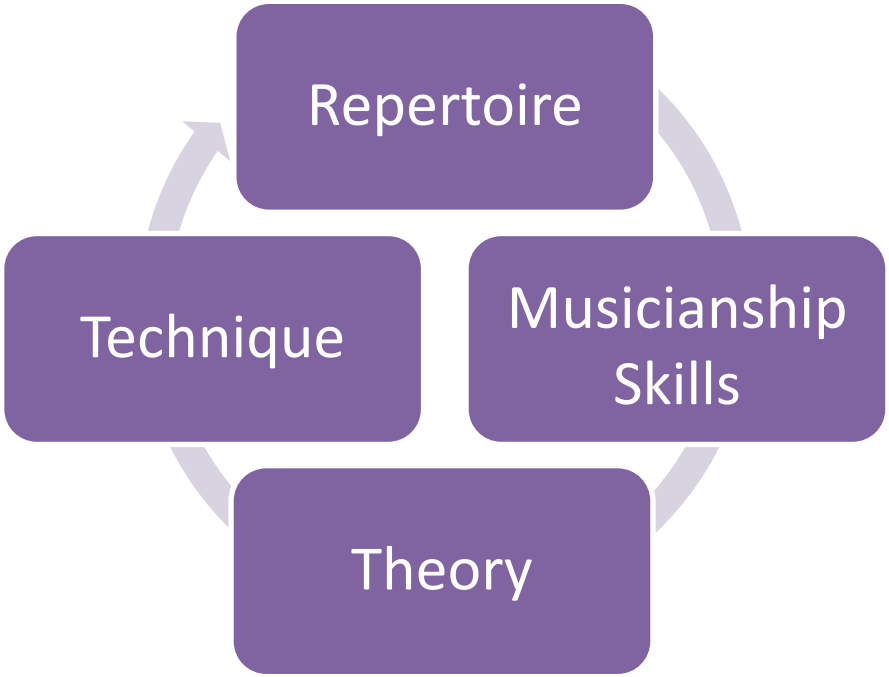
Theory is Foundational



The components of the RCM Certificate Program are all interrelated. Developing musical literacy and an understanding the building blocks of the musical language is a fundamental aspect of each student's musical journey.

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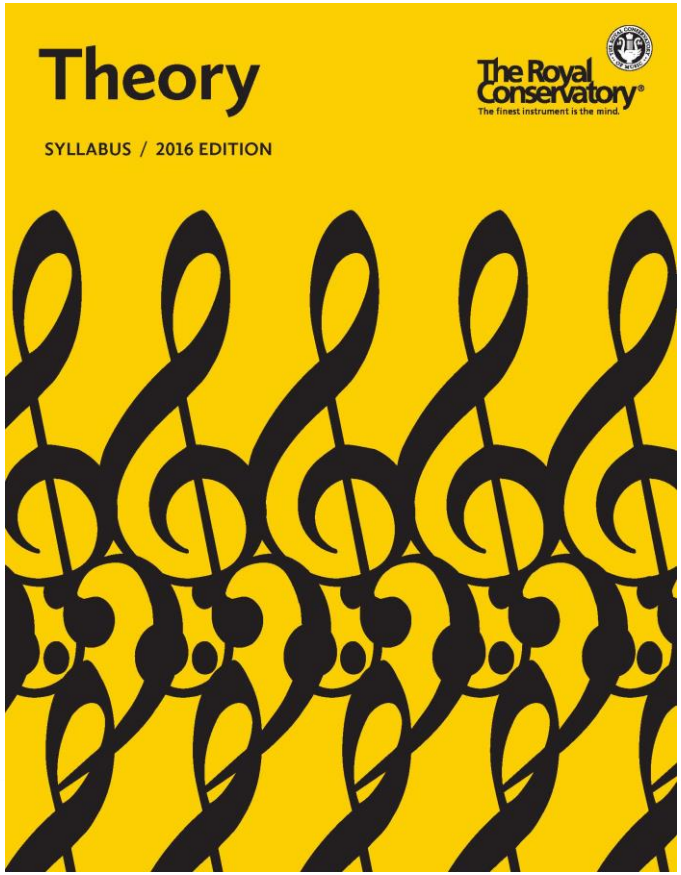
Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition
Overview and What's New



- Theory at <u>every level</u> – from Preparatory to Diploma
  - The *Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition* has been expanded to encourage theory study at every level and to support practical studies and the development of well-rounded musicianship
- Melody writing and history now integrated at all levels
- Theory requirements updated to reflect current pedagogy and terminology
- Supported by new RCM-authored publications (*Celebrate Theory* series) and online resources

www.celebratetheory.com

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RCM Theory Levels have been Renamed to Align with Practical Levels

Formerly	New	Aligns with
Basic Rudiments	Level 5 Theory	Level 5 Practical
Intermediate Rudiments	Level 6 Theory	Level 6 Practical
	Level 7 Theory	Level 7 Practical
Advanced Rudiments	Level 8 Theory	Level 8 Practical
Basic Harmony	Level 9 Harmony	Level 9 Practical
History 1	Level 9 History	Level 9 Practical
Intermediate Harmony	Level 10 Harmony & Counterpoint	Level 10 Practical
History 2	Level 10 History	Level 10 Practical
Advanced Harmony	ARCT Harmony & Counterpoint	ARCT Practical
History 3	ARCT History	ARCT Practical
Analysis	ARCT Analysis	ARCT Practical

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RCM Theory Levels are Grouped to Reflect the Stages of Progressive Development

Elementary	Intermediate	Advanced
Preparatory Theory	Level 5 Theory	Level 9 Harmony Level 9 History
Level 1 Theory	Level 6 Theory	Level 10 Harmony & Counterpoint Level 10 History
Level 2 Theory	Level 7 Theory	ARCT Harmony & Counterpoint ARCT History ARCT Analysis
Level 3 Theory	Level 8 Theory	
Level 4 Theory		

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Updates to Theory Terminology

Terminology has been updated to reflect current pedagogy

Formerly	New
Semitone	Half step
Tone	Whole step
Leading note	Leading tone
Perfect cadence	Authentic cadence
Imperfect cadence	Half cadence

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RCM Theory
Elementary Levels

Preparatory – Level 4

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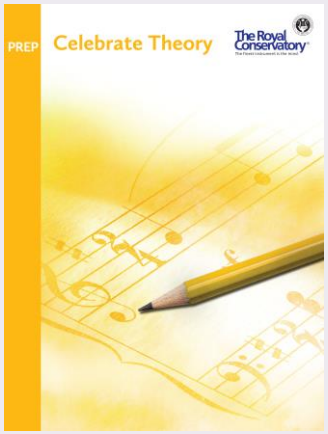
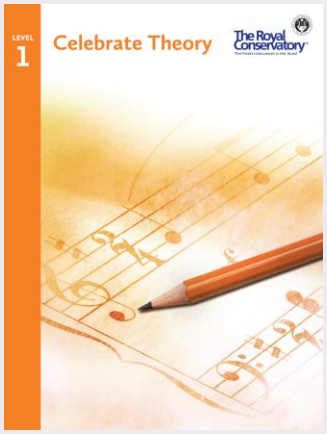
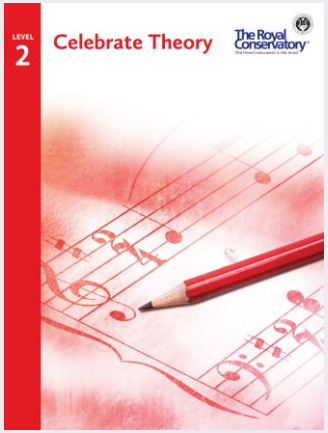
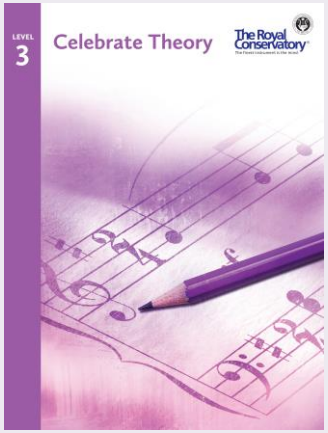
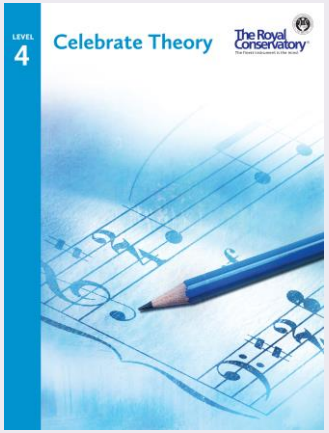
Celebrate Theory ELEMENTARY LEVELS

Preparatory	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
				

Celebrate Theory covers are color-coordinated with other RCM publications, such as the *Celebration Series*® and *Four Star*® *Sight Reading and Ear Tests*.

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Elementary Theory Topics (Preparatory–Level 4)

The Elementary levels of the *Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition* provide a well-sequenced approach to learning theory. Incorporating theory into practical lessons at the elementary levels will help to ensure student success on the first required written examination (Level 5):

- Pitch and Notation
- Scales and Keys
- Rhythm
- Intervals
- Chords
- Melody Writing
- Music History/Appreciation: Guided Listening
- Analysis

There are no written examinations for these levels.

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RCM Elementary Theory Levels – Overview of Content

	Preparatory	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Required Keys	• C major • A minor	• C, G, and F major • A minor	• C, G, and F major • A, E and D minor	• major and minor keys up to 2 sharps/flats	• major and minor keys up to 3 sharps/flats
Pitch and Notation	• the staff, clefs • notes up to 1 ledger line above or below	• Accidentals • notes up to 2 ledger lines above or below	• stems and beams • notes up to 3 ledger lines above or below	• octave transposition • enharmonic equivalents	• transposition with change of clef
Rhythm and Meter	• note and rest values • 2/4, 4/4 time	• dotted half • 3/4 time	• dotted quarter • adding time signatures, bar lines, notes, rests	• sixteenth, dotted eighth • anacrusis	• triplet eighths • 2/8, 3/8, 4/8
Intervals	• steps, skips, and repeated notes	• half steps and whole steps • intervals (size)	• half steps with same and different note names	• perfect, major intervals above the tonic	• minor intervals
Scales	• tonic notes • major and natural minor scales	• dominant	• subdominant and leading tone • harmonic minor • scale degree numbers	• subtonic • melodic minor	
Chords	• tonic triads		• chord symbols	• dominant triads	• subdominant triads
Melody and Composition		• motives • movement by step or repeat	• melodies with skips	• melodies with leaps between notes of tonic and dom. triads	• 4-measure melodies
Analysis		• identifying concepts in short excerpts	• identifying phrases	• identifying same, similar, or different phrases	• identifying sections
Music History/ Appreciation		• Telling a Story through Music	• An Introduction to Mozart	• J.S. Bach and Music for Dancing	• Getting to Know the Orchestra

RCM Elementary Level Music History/Appreciation Topics

Level 1	Telling a Story through Music
	• Saint-Saëns: *Carnival of the Animals*
	  • The Elephant
	  • Kangaroos
	  • Aquarium
	  • The Swan
	• Prokofiev: *Peter and the Wolf*

Level 2	An Introduction to Mozart • Twelve Variations on "*Ah vous dirai-je, Maman,*" K 625 • Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat Major, K 495 • third movement: Rondo

Level 3	J.S. Bach and Music for Dancing
	• C. Petzold: Menuet in G Major, BWV Anh. 114
	• J.S. Bach: French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 817
	  • Gavotte
	  • Gigue

Level 4	Getting to Know the Orchestra
	• Britten: *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*
	• Tchaikovsky: *The Nutcracker*
	  • Waltz of the Flowers
	  • Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

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RCM Theory
Intermediate Levels

Level 5 – Level 8

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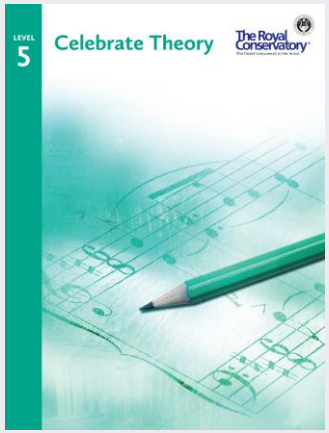
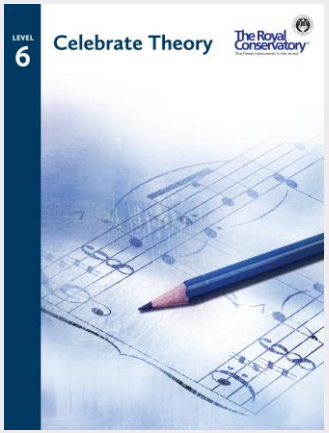
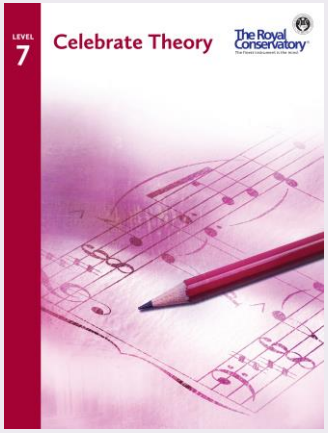
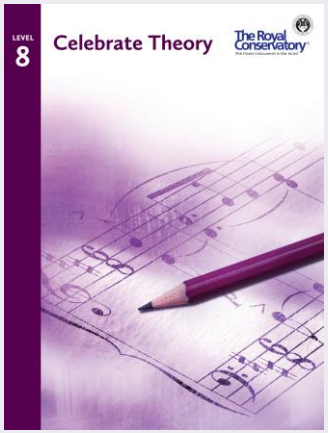
Celebrate Theory INTERMEDIATE LEVELS

	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Books				
Exams	Level 5 Theory (corequisite for Level 5 Practical)	Level 6 Theory (corequisite for Level 6 Practical)	Level 7 Theory (corequisite for Level 7 Practical)	Level 8 Theory (corequisite for Level 8 Practical)

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RCM Intermediate Theory Levels – Overview of Content

	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Required Keys	• major and minor keys up to 4 sharps/flats	• all major and minor keys	• all major and minor keys	• all major and minor keys
Pitch and Notation	• notes up to 4 ledger lines above or below • rewriting melodies in the alternate clef	• double sharp and flat • transposition up by any interval	• transposition up or down to any key	• alto and tenor clefs • score types • transposition to concert pitch
Rhythm and Meter	• breve, dotted whole, • triplet quarter and sixteenth • 2/2, 3/2, 4/2, 6/8	• thirty-second, dotted sixteenths • compound meter	• double dotted values • irregular groupings	• hybrid meter
Intervals	• chromatic and diatonic half steps • major, minor, and perfect intervals	• augmented and diminished intervals	• Intervals below • inverted intervals	• compound intervals
Scales	• parallel major and minor keys	• supertonic, mediant, submediant	• chromatic, whole-tone, octatonic, pentatonic, and blues scales	• scales starting on any scale degree • diatonic modes
Chords	• major and minor triads in root position and inversions • dominant 7th chord	• close or open position • cadence identification (authentic, half)	• dominant seventh inversions • diminished, augmented triads • diminished 7th chord • writing cadences	• triads built on any scale degree • plagal cadences • cluster chords, quartal chords, polychords
Melody and Composition	• writing an answer phrase to create a parallel period	• composing a parallel period	• composing a contrasting period in major keys • non-chord tones	• contrasting period in minor keys • applying chord symbols to melodies
Analysis	• identifying question and answer phrase pairs • Identification of major and minor keys		• application of chord symbols	• application of chord symbols to melodies • types of motion
Music History/ Guided Listening	• Voices in Song	• Baroque and Classical Style	• Romantic and Modern Style	• Expanding Musical Horizons

What's new in Level 5?

How does it compare to BASIC RUDIMENTS?

- Strong, weak, and medium beats in simple time
- 6/8 time
- Root position and inversions of tonic, subdominant, and dominant triads
- Dominant 7th chords in root position
- Chord symbols: functional and root/quality

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What's new in Level 6?

How does it compare to INTERMEDIATE RUDIMENTS?

- Enharmonic equivalents of intervals above a note
- Dominant 7th chords in close or open position
- Melody writing: parallel period (completion of antecedent–consequent phrase)
- Music History: Introduction to Musical Styles of Baroque and Classical Eras

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Which concepts from INTERMEDIATE RUDIMENTS are now in Level 7?

- Intervals below a given note
- Inversion of intervals
- Irregular groupings, double dots, and rests
- Writing chromatic, whole-tone, octatonic, pentatonic, and blues scales
- Diminished and augmented triads

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Which concepts from ADVANCED RUDIMENTS are now in Level 7?

- Transposition up or **down** to any key: major **or minor**
- Diminished and augmented triads in root position and inversions
- Leading-tone diminished 7th chords in minor keys, root position
- Dominant 7th chord inversions

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Which concepts from ADVANCED RUDIMENTS are now in Level 8?

- Alto and tenor clefs
- Score types
- Transposition of orchestral instruments (in B flat and F)
- Hybrid meters
- Compound intervals
- Diatonic modes
- Plagal cadences

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Which concepts from INTRODUCTORY HARMONY are now in Level 8?

- Writing cadences in chorale (SATB) style
- Non-chord tones
- Types of motion: parallel, similar, contrary, oblique, static
- Application of chord symbols to a melody with a clearly defined harmonic rhythm

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RCM Intermediate Level Music History/Appreciation Topics

Level 5	**Voices in Song** • Handel: "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* • Mozart: "Queen of the Night" from *The Magic Flute* • Arlen: "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*
Level 6	**Introduction to Musical Styles of Baroque and Classical Eras** • J.S. Bach: Invention in C Major, BWV 772 • J.S. Bach: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5,* first movement • Mozart: *Eine kleine Nachtmusik,* first movement
Level 7	**Introduction to Musical Styles of Romantic and Modern Eras** • Mendelssohn: Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* • Chopin: Etude in C Minor, op. 10 ("Revolutionary") • Stravinsky: *Petrushka*, First Tableau: "Shrovetide Fair" • Hugh LeCaine: *Dripsody* • Duke Ellington*: Ko-Ko*
Level 8	**Expanding Musical Horizons** • Hildegard: *Ordo Virtutum* • Anon: *Sumer Is Icumen In* • Josquin des Prez: *El grillo* • The Javanese gamelan: Kaboran (Gamelan Prawa) • The raga in Indian music: Evening Raga: Bhopali

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RCM Theory
Advanced Level

Levels 9 – ARCT

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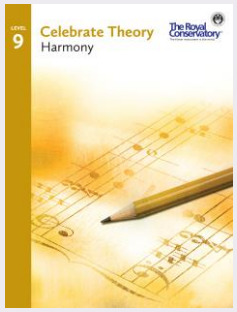
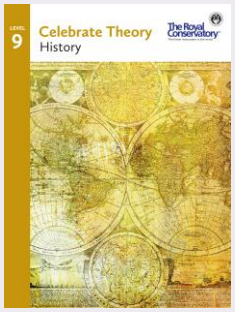
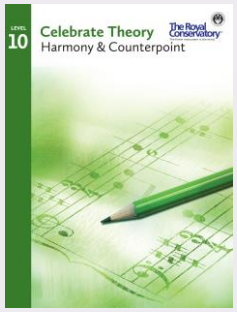
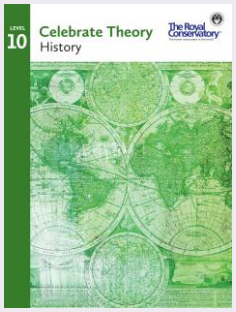
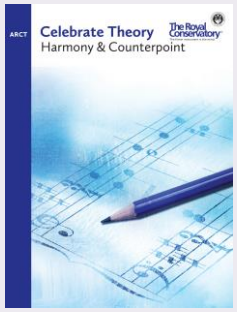
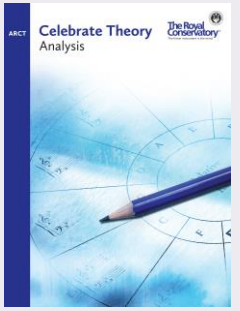
Celebrate Theory ADVANCED LEVELS

	Level 9		Level 10		ARCT		
Books							
Exams	Level 9 Harmony	Level 9 History	Level 10 Harmony & Counterpoint	Level 10 History	ARCT Harmony & Counterpoint	ARCT History	ARCT Analysis
	(corequisites for Level 9 Practical)		(corequisites for Level 10 Practical)		(corequisites for ARCT Practical)		

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Where Does Counterpoint Appear in the *Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition*?

Level 8	• Types of motion
Level 9	• Add a melody to a given bass line; bass lines at cadence points in melody writing
Level 10	• Provide a bass line in melody writing; Analysis of fugal exposition
ARCT	• Create a two-part contrapuntal composition; Complete a melodic line over figured bass; Analysis of fugue

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What's new in Level 9 Harmony?

Melody writing	• indicating the implied harmony
Counterpoint	• adding a melody to a given bass line to create a short two-part composition in a major key
Harmonic progressions	• indicating tonal hierarchy
Analysis	• two-part inventions *and* simple, rounded, and balanced binary form

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Changes to Level 9 History

J.S. Bach	Prelude and Fugue in B flat Major, BWV 866 from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 (instead of any selection from The Well-Tempered Clavier)
Franz Joseph Haydn	String Quartet, op. 76, no. 3 (“Emperor”) • second movement (instead of “Quinten,” fourth movement)
Franz Schubert	Erlkönig, op. 1, D 328 (instead of Erlkönig OR Gretchen am Spinnrade)
Frederic Chopin	Polonaise in A flat Major, op. 53 (instead of op. 53 OR op. 40, no. 1)
Georges Bizet	Carmen (instead of Carmen OR Madama Butterfly)
Igor Stravinsky	The Rite of Spring (instead of The Rite of Spring OR Petrushka)
Alexina Louie	Changes (instead of Distant Memories)
John Adams	Short Ride in a Fast Machine (NEW)

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Changes to Level 10 History

Moniot d'Arras	Ce fut en mai (instead of Ce fut en mai OR Kalenda Maya)
Guillaume de Machaut	Kyrie from Messe de Nostre Dame (instead of Puis qu'en oubli)
Thomas Morley	My Bonny Lass She Smileth (instead of Fair Phyllis)
William Byrd	The Carman's Whistle (instead of Pavane "Mille regretz")
Claudio Monteverdi	L'Orfeo (instead of The Coronation of Poppea)
George Frideric Handel	"V'adoro pupille" from Giulio Cesare (NEW)
Jean-Philippe Rameau	La poule from Nouvelles suites de pièces de clavecin (instead of Scarlatti Sonata K 481 or K430)
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano Sonata in C Minor, op. 13 ("Pathétique") (instead of "Pathétique" Sonata OR "Moonlight" Sonata)
Ludwig van Beethoven	String Quartet in C sharp Minor, op. 131 • first movement (instead of "Trout" Quintet)

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Changes to ARCT History

Franz Schubert	Piano Quintet in A Major, D 667 (“Trout”) (moved from Level 10)
Clara Schumann	“Liebst du um Schonheit,” op. 12, no. 4 (NEW)
Robert Schumann	“Florestan” and “Eusebius” from Carnaval, op. 9 (instead of Carnaval OR Dichterliebe)
Giuseppe Verdi	La traviata (instead of La traviata OR Rigoletto)
Aaron Copland	Fanfare for the Common Man (NEW)
Jean Coulthard	“The Contented House” from Canada Mosaic
John Cage	Sonata V from Sonatas and Interludes
Steve Reich	Electric Counterpoint
R. Murray Schafer	Snowforms (NEW)
Independent Study Essay (20 marks) • Musical Theater OR • Jazz OR • Technology in Music	

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Transition Timeline and Crossover Plan

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Theory Syllabus – Transition Timeline

August 2016	*Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition* available *Celebrate Theory* Levels 1 to 8 available
September 1, 2016	*Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition* in effect
Winter/Spring 2017	*Celebrate Theory* Levels 9 to ARCT available

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Crossover Plan

September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017	• New names in use • Crossover exams provided, with alternate questions to accommodate 2009 syllabus users
September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018	• Crossover exams for ARCT Harmony and Counterpoint **only** • All other exams based on *Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition*
From September 1, 2018	• All examinations based on *Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition*

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