

May 23, 2008

To The Incoming Undergraduate Class for fall 2008:

Congratulations again on your acceptance and on your decision to attend Eastman for your undergraduate degree! On behalf of the faculty, staff and students at Eastman, we are thrilled that you will be joining the Eastman community and we are in the process of preparing for your arrival at the end of August.

Most of our orientation materials are found on the admissions website. However, we have just mailed to you some materials, including our housing and dining contract form and some forms from the University Health Service (UHS). It is particularly important that your housing contract be returned **as soon as possible**.

A little later in the summer, there will be additional information made available on our website in a publication entitled "Clef Notes." This is our annual summer publication with further information that will help you prepare for your arrival; it is expected that this will be on our website **around July 7**, and we will notify you by email when it is available online. Details about what will happen during orientation week will be published on the web around the first week of August. Be assured that it will be a busy week filled with fun activities such as theory placement exams, among other things!

As most of you prepare for your high school graduation, or as some of you will also be finishing some college coursework, it is important that we receive your **final, official** transcripts in the Admissions Office **by July 1**.

The orientation information found on this website includes information on Special Services, Dining Information, a letter for parents, a letter from the Eastman Orientation Committee, a Contact Sheet, Calendar information, a welcome letter from one of our musical fraternities, and information on telecommunications, the Bookstore, String Orchestral Auditions, and on the Theory Placement Tests in the Fall. Please submit the Family Data Form online [by clicking here](#) no later than **June 2**. A Payment agreement form must also be returned to the University Bursar no later than **June 10** to ensure that your account is set up correctly (see the links to the Bursar's Office on this orientation website).

Please note that **new International Students and Rogers Scholars** may move into the Student Living Center on Sunday, August 24. All other new undergraduate students can move in no earlier than 8am on the morning of Monday, August 25, at which time orientation week officially begins. Please be sure to set up your University NETID and email account since official notices from Eastman will be sent there.

We look forward to your arrival.

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A Special Note about the Theory Placement Tests during orientation week in the Fall:

As part of our assessment of your candidacy, we gave candidates who auditioned in Rochester both the AMMA Musicianship Test and our Theory Diagnostic Test on the morning of your audition (transfer students received the transfer theory test). Students who auditioned at a regional audition site in January 2007 or 'by recording' will take the AMMA test at a scheduled time during orientation week in addition to the normal theory placements exams.

We would like to encourage all incoming students to work on written and aural theory skills in advance of the Fall semester to help you prepare for our Theory Placement Exams held during orientation week. If you do well on your theory placement exams, you will be placed in our 'regular' theory sequence. If we feel that you still are a little behind in theory following the results of the theory placement exams, you will be placed into 'intensive' theory instead; the intensive theory sequence is designed to bring your theory skills (by the end of the freshman year) to the same level as your peers who are in the regular theory sequence. Students in the intensive theory sequence meet 5 times a week instead of 3 times a week for the first 2 semesters of music theory.

In order to raise both your theory and aural skills knowledge to a satisfactory level, we recommend that you purchase the theory textbook in use at Eastman: "The Complete Musician: An Integrated Approach to Tonal Theory, Analysis and Listening" by Steven Laitz (2nd edition - 2007 - Oxford University Press). This is the text that you will use for the first two years of your theory curriculum. It can also be ordered directly from the Eastman School of Music Bookstore on the Eastman webpage, or by email at: bksrochestereastman@bncollege.com. If ordering through the [bookstore webpage](#), search by: Fall 2008; Department 6TH; Course: 101; Section 88652). The text is also available through online sources (e.g., oup.com / amazon.com / barnesandnoble.com / borders.com / walmart.com / froogle.com) and large book sellers.

Students are encouraged to purchase the following components of the text: textbook and workbook #1. Working through Chapters 1-6 by carefully reading and completing as many exercises as possible (including written, keyboard, and aural) in both the text and workbook should be sufficient preparation to succeed on the Theory Placement Exams given in late August at Eastman. The best way to undertake this preparation is to set aside a period of time, say six to eight weeks (eg., July-August) during which you can devote roughly one hour per day to the activities of reading, writing, playing, and listening. Generally, it is best to focus on two but not more than three activities each day. A good schedule is one that permits five to seven days of study for each of the six chapters. Like any technical text, you are encouraged to read slowly and to tackle portions of each chapter each day, rather than expecting to digest an entire chapter in a single sitting. An excellent strategy would be to read a few pages and then to allow ample time to work through the strategically placed exercise sets.

Further information about theory is found in the rest of the orientation materials.