

Ear Training and Music Theory Topics for Preparation

In addition to your audition and a short interview with academic faculty, audition days at the Barenboim-Said Akademie include a music theory and ear training test.

The list below is intended to provide an overview of ear training and music theory topics to refresh before your audition day at the Akademie. We recommend training any of the below topics that are new or unfamiliar to you.

I. Written Ear Training

- determination of modes, intervals, triads and tetrads
- dictations of two-part polyphonic music, chord progressions, and rhythm (20th century)
- memory dictation (one voice of a multi-part setting)
- determination of instruments playing in a given audio-segment
- detection and determination of deviations between score and a recording

II. Music Theory

- writing of a second voice to a given tenor (16th century counterpoint)
- figured bass setting
- short written analysis of a given score from the 19th century (e.g. Lied or short movement of a string quartet)
- determination of the origin of three different pages from scores of 20th century compositions and description of the musical result

III. Practical Ear Training

- singing of modes, intervals and chords
- aural analysis (verbal description of the music) of a short example played from a recording
- sight-singing of a middle-voice of a („tonal“) four-part setting
- sight-singing of a twelve-tone row
- sight-reading/performing of a rhythm taken from a 20th century composition