Additional Information about the Music Theory and Piano Placements

**Music Theory:**

All music majors, musical theatre majors, and music minors are required to take a music theory placement exam; this assessment determines at which level of written music theory and aural theory lab each student should begin their studies at Samford. Based on their results, students will be assigned to either Music Fundamentals or Theory I. **

The assessment consists of an online, timed test that must be completed in 30 minutes or less. The exam is designed to gather a diagnostic overview of a student's musical literacy in areas of written theory and aural theory. Students will be emailed an individual, time-sensitive link to access and complete the assessment. Students must complete the assessment once it is begun, and any incomplete exams will be automatically submitted if a student exits the assessment before finishing. Online, theory placement exams must be completed by May 30th in order for students to successfully register for courses during Bulldog Days Orientation sessions.

Advanced Placement scores or music theory courses taken at another institution do not automatically allow students to “skip” sequential theory courses at Samford. Students with AP or transfer credit must take and successfully pass the advanced portion of the online theory placement exam to receive transfer credit and/or earn their placement into a more advanced theory course.

**Assessment outcomes are not factored into recommendations for acceptance into the School of the Arts or possible scholarship awards.**

**Piano:**

All music majors with a concentration in vocal or instrumental performance areas and musical theatre majors must enroll in Class Piano to satisfy piano proficiency requirements for their respective degrees. Students without previous piano study may elect to begin in Class Piano I without completing the piano placement assessment**; if choosing this option, students should notify Katie Overturf, Arts Recruiter at arts@samford.edu or Cameron Barnes, Director of Student Services at cbarnes1@samford.edu.

Students with previous piano study who can meet the following requirements may be eligible to begin their piano studies at Samford at a higher level (Class Piano II-III) and should complete the piano assessment during their audition weekend**:

- All major scales and arpeggios, 2 octaves, hands separately
- At-sight harmonization of a melody with primary chords, using lead sheet notation and roman numerals
- Sight reading, hands together

**Assessment outcomes are not factored into recommendations for acceptance into the School of the Arts or possible scholarship awards.**