

INFORMATION ON THE PLACEMENT EXAMINATION IN MUSIC HISTORY FOR ENTERING M. M. AND M. A. STUDENTS

The Graduate Placement Examination in Music History is designed to determine if the entering graduate student has a basic grasp of music history--a mastery of the material covered in a good undergraduate survey of music history.

The Placement Examination (4 hours and 10 minutes) has four major sections:

SECTION I (1 hour and 35 minutes) contains the names of nineteen prominent composers drawn from the entire span of Western art music, the Medieval period to the present. For each of these composers, the student is to provide the following information:

- (1) Time during which the composer was active. Date as closely as possible.
- (2) Types of works that the composer is famous for writing.
- (3) Salient musical features of the composer's most characteristic works. (Comment briefly here on the most pertinent of the following: the composer's use of melody, harmony, rhythm, tone color, texture, form, and/or setting of text.)
- (4) The composer's major contribution(s) to Western music.

SECTION II (50 minutes) contains ten important terms (symphonic poem and sprechstimme, for example) drawn from the entire span of Western art music. For each of these terms, the student is to provide the following information:

- (1) A definition (including years associated with the item)
- (2) The repertoire involved (composers and types of compositions. Name specific compositions wherever possible.)
- (3) Importance in the development of Western music

SECTION III (45 minutes) is a short essay prepared by the student before the examination, but written at the examination. Skill in English composition as well as the content of the essay will be evaluated here. Notes on the subject designated cannot be used during the examination. The essay question for the Placement Exam is on page 2 of this description.

SECTION IV (60 minutes) contains six scores to be identified. The student will be given scores drawn from the entire span of Western art music. He/she will also hear a recording of each one of these scores. The student is then to provide the following information about each one of the scores:

- (1) Type of composition
- (2) Possible composer
- (3) Approximate date of composition
- (4) Three to five significant reasons for the choice of possible composer and/or type of composition. (Here the student might comment on the use of melody, harmony, rhythm, tone color, texture, form, and/or setting of text.)

ESSAY QUESTION FOR THE M.M./M.A. PLACEMENT EXAMINATION IN MUSIC HISTORY

(To be prepared by the student before the examination. Notes may not be used to write the essay at the time of exam, however.)

Ludwig van Beethoven has been depicted as the colossus who strode the "boundary" between the Classic and Romantic periods.

1. In what ways was Beethoven dependent on Classical traditions?
2. In what ways did Beethoven influence the composers of the Romantic era?

Refer to specific compositions wherever possible!

MATERIALS HELPFUL FOR A REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE MUSIC HISTORY

The textbooks suggested are:

1. *A History of Western Music* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006 or 2009) by J. Peter Burkholder, Claude V. Palisca, and Donald Jay Grout.
2. *Norton Anthology of Western Music* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006 or 2009) by J. Peter Burkholder and Claude V. Palisca. Volume I = Ancient through Baroque and Vol. II = Classic through Twentieth Century in the 2006 edition. Volume 1 = Ancient through Baroque, Vol. II = Classic and Romantic, and Vol. III = 20th Century in 2009 edition.

A two-volume set of CDs accompanies the 2006 edition, and a three-volume set of CDs accompanies the 2009 version. The 2006 edition of CDs is available at the Marriott Library, and a streamed version of the 2009 edition of CDs is available in the School of Music's McKay Library. Ask at the desk about this streamed version.

The 2009 edition of textbook, three anthologies, and three sets of CDs is probably available at the University of Utah's Campus Store, for it is used in the School of Music's undergraduate music history courses. If you live in Salt Lake City, you might find it there.

Otherwise, you could order whatever textbooks/CD set you feel you need at these websites:

1. www.norton.com
2. www.amazon.com
3. Earlier editions (1996 & 2001) of this same textbook, anthology, and CD set will also serve you well for reviewing music history.
4. Students who have taken their undergraduate courses in music history at the University of Utah may use their textbooks for those classes for their review. Newer editions are not necessary. A streamed version of the listening for Music History 3630 and 3640 (pre-2005/2006 academic year) is available. Note the instructions below for this streamed listening.

If you have any questions, please telephone Dr. Margaret Rorke at 801-581-4824.

BRING BLUEBOOKS TO THE PLACEMENT EXAM IN MUSIC HISTORY!!!

1. To acquire the ability to access the streamed version of the listening for Music History 3630 and 3640 (pre-2005/2006 academic year), e-mail Dr. Rorke (Margaret.Rorke@music.utah.edu): 1) your unID and 2) when you want your access to expire.
2. The address for this streaming site is <https://streaming.finearts.utah.edu/rorke>
3. If not currently logged in through go.utah.edu, you will be redirected and prompted for your campus credentials (unID and campus password).
4. Once at the streaming site, you should see [Review-3630](#) and [Review-3640](#). Click on the one that you wish to access.
5. Play a track by clicking on the “play” button to the far right of any track. This will download a playlist that should open in whatever application is set up on your system to handle playlists. On a Mac, this is typically iTunes.

If the playlist does not automatically launch an appropriate application, you may need to open your playlist application and then open the playlist manually.