

## **GRADUATE PLACEMENT TEST INFORMATION**

The Placement Test is designed to assist the student and advisor in choosing those courses that will best strengthen the student's musical knowledge and training in his/her Master's program.

The Exam is offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. The student is required to sign up for the Exam in the Music Office well before the Exam date stipulated in the departmental acceptance letter. **On the day of the Exam, meet outside the Music Office (XSB 150) at 8:45 am. The exam finishes at 1:00 pm.**

### **THE EXAM INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

#### **AURAL SKILLS**

Assessment: Testing of Melodic, Harmonic, and Rhythmic Dictation Ability 25 minutes

Preparation: 1) Practice writing 16-bar patriotic songs, seasonal carols, or American folk tunes from memory without a piano. 2) Practice taking melodic dictation of those types of melodies. 3) Practice taking 4-part SATB harmonic dictation. 4) Practice notating rhythms without pitch.

Ten (10) general music history listening samples. 30 minutes

Preparation: Be prepared to write about each piece according to the following: period/style of a composition, genre, instrumentation, formal structure, possible composer, and other details that give the work its character.

#### **MUSIC THEORY**

A diagnostic examination is administered to assess each entering student's ability in two areas. The first area is voice leading in a four-part texture, given figured bass symbols. The second area is harmonic analysis, providing Roman Numerals.

Figured Bass: (20 min.) Given a soprano line and figured bass symbols, write the alto, tenor, and bass voices according to common practice, showing pivot chords if modulation occurs.

Harmonic Analysis: (30 min.) Given brief excerpts from the common practice period, identify the key and harmonic function of each chord with Roman Numerals, showing inversions, non-harmonic tones, and pivot chords if modulation occurs.

Preparation: Review analytical concepts and voice leading, using a current text such as Tonal Harmony by Kostka & Payne. Solve part-writing examples in the text. Analyze Bach chorales and Romantic piano literature (Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, etc.). Practice speed and accuracy.

Students who do not demonstrate proficiency will be required to take the Graduate Theory Review course.

(continued on reverse)

## MUSIC HISTORY

The Graduate Entrance Examination in History is a diagnostic test designed to assess entering graduate students' knowledge of music history as presented in traditional undergraduate history sequences. Students are expected to have a basic knowledge of genres, composers, compositions, and musical styles from the Middle Ages through the Twentieth Century. The examination will be divided by historical era and will include questions and recording and score excerpts from all musical periods.

The examination will be similar to the final examination for the Graduate History Review course. Students passing the examination will be exempted from taking the course, Music History Review (4 credits) for graduate students. Students passing items on all but one of the historical eras may be exempted from the Review course by taking a graduate music history course dealing with that era.

Students may prepare for the examination by reviewing Grout's *History of Western Music*. All recording and score excerpts will be similar to or taken from the companions to Grout's text, the *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, and the *Norton Recorded Anthology of Western Music*. Although most questions may be subjective, the information for the questions will be taken from the *Instructor's Manual for a History of Western Music*.

## SCORE RECOGNITION

The ultimate test of both theoretical and historical understanding of music is score recognition. Therefore, that skill is tested in the Exam. There will be five (5) examples in various styles, periods, and genre to identify. To prepare for this part of the Exam, keep in mind the following general guide in what to look for and write about in a score:

- \*What formal, harmonic, melodic, textural, or other characteristics show style, period, country of origin, etc?
- \*What is the genre of the work (opera, symphony, mass, etc.)?
- \*IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO WRITE ABOUT THESE ASPECTS OF THE WORK, EVEN IF YOU RECOGNIZE THE WORK AND COMPOSER!
- \*Write about the obvious. Do not take certain basic characteristics of a score for granted and forget to mention them!
- \*Then—possible composer? Date? Title?
- \*Practice looking at numerous of scores and answering these questions for yourself IN WRITING. Review by studying the Norton and Burkhardt Anthologies.
- \*Limit yourself to 10 minutes per score, since that is the amount of exam time you will have for each example.
- \*In the Exam, you may write either directly on the scores, or on a separate piece of paper.