

## Graduate Music History Placement Exam

The graduate music history diagnostic examination includes five sections, similar to the following:

1. Identify the approximate date of composition, the genre and a possible composer of four listening excerpts. Provide at least three rationales for your answer. Each listening excerpt is from a major work in the Western art music repertory.
2. Identify the approximate date of composition, genre and possible composer of four scores. Provide at least three rationales for your answer. Each score is from a major work in the Western art music repertory.
3. Write a short essay on the history of a major genre in Western art music. You will be given a list of three or four genres from which to choose.
4. Write a short essay on your choice of a major genre (traditional or popular) outside Western art music.
5. Write a short essay on a significant issue in musicology or ethnomusicology, such as gender, psychology of music, performance practice, the economics of music, ecomusicology, or musical technology.

Essays should be about 1,000 words or 4 pages. Students should plan to spend about 20 minutes on each essay.

### Sample Resources for Sections 1-3

Taruskin / Gibbs, *The Oxford History of Western Music*

Bonds, *History of Music in Western Culture*

Poultney, *Studying Music History*

Grout / Palisca / Burkholder, *A History of Western Music*

### Sample Resources for Section 4

Bakan, *World Music: Traditions and Transformations*

Titon, *Worlds of Music: An Introduction to the Music of the World's Peoples*

### Sample Resources for Section 5

Cook, *Music: A Very Short Introduction*

Harper / Samson, *An Introduction to Music Studies*