

Information about the Music History Portion of the Graduate Student Entrance Exam

The exam has 2 sections:

- 1) Music before 1750 (Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras)
- 2) Music after 1750 (Classical, Romantic, Modern eras)

You will receive a packet of score excerpts for each section. For each excerpt, the proctor will play a recording, and you will answer multiple-choice questions about the music you see and hear, such as:

- In which period was this work created?
- Which of the following is a likely composer of this work?
- Which term best describes the genre of this work?
- In which location or venue would this work have been performed?

For some excerpts, you will also have questions about musical style and form related to the excerpt, its composer, or its genre, such as

- Which of the following forms is most common in a work like this?
- With which cultural or intellectual tradition does this example belong?
- What compositional technique is evident here?

Study Tips:

- Review notes from your previous music history classes.
- Study representative works from the six major musical periods, with analytical commentary if possible. (I suggest a historical anthology of scores such as the Norton Anthology of Western Music designed for music history classes.)
- Although many students find it helpful to read or reread music history textbooks, you should always do so in conjunction with studying musical works and their relationships to the larger historical trends of their time.
- Spend extra time studying works or genres that you don't typically play or sing because they'll be the most unfamiliar.

- Consider the broad categories of music history and historical style:

What makes Renaissance music sound "Renaissance-y"?

How does Romantic music sound different from or similar to Classical music or to Baroque music?

What are the most important or representative genres and techniques for the various eras of music making?

How do the musical works of a given time and place reflect the culture that created them?

GSU School of Music
PRACTICE Entrance Exam
for Graduate Students
Music History

Section 1
(Music before 1750)

Answer each question
on your Answer Sheet

Example 1

1. Choose the correct period for this work:
 - a) Medieval (Middle Ages)
 - b) Renaissance
 - c) Baroque

 2. Choose a likely composer for this work:
 - a) Du Fay
 - b) Gesualdo
 - c) Corelli
 - d) Anonymous

 3. Which term best describes the genre of this work?
 - a) oratorio
 - b) Mass
 - c) motet
 - d) madrigal

 4. In which location or venue would this work have been performed?
 - a) Catholic church
 - b) concert hall
 - c) aristocratic chambers or private home
 - d) theater

 5. To which tradition does this example belong?
 - a) plainchant
 - b) Notre Dame Polyphony
 - c) isorhythm
 - d) fugue
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Example 2

6. Choose the correct period for this work:
 - a) Medieval (Middle Ages)
 - b) Renaissance
 - c) Baroque

 7. Choose a likely composer for this work:
 - a) Du Fay
 - b) Gesualdo
 - c) Corelli
 - d) Perotin

 8. Which term best describes the genre of this work?
 - a) oratorio
 - b) Mass
 - c) motet
 - d) madrigal

 9. In which location or venue would this work have been performed?
 - a) Catholic church
 - b) concert hall
 - c) aristocratic chambers or private home
 - d) theater
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Example 3

10. Choose the correct period for this work:
 - a) Medieval (Middle Ages)
 - b) Renaissance
 - c) Baroque

 11. Choose a likely composer for this work:
 - a) de Vitry
 - b) Handel
 - c) Gesualdo
 - d) Bach

 12. Which term best describes the genre of this work?
 - a) oratorio
 - b) concerto
 - c) motet
 - d) Mass

 13. In which location or venue would this work have been performed?
 - a) Catholic church
 - b) concert hall
 - c) aristocratic chambers or private home
 - d) Protestant church

 14. Which of the following forms is most common in a work like this one?
 - a) one of the formes fixes
 - b) sonata form
 - c) ritornello form
 - d) Da Capo aria form
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Section 2
(Music after 1750)

Answer each question
on your Answer Sheet

Example 1

1. Choose the correct period for this work:
 - a) Classical
 - b) early Romantic (before 1850)
 - c) late Romantic (after 1850)
 - d) 20th Century

 2. Choose a likely composer for this work:
 - a) Schubert
 - b) Crumb
 - c) Haydn
 - d) Schoenberg

 3. What genre best describes this work?
 - a) opera
 - b) art song
 - c) string quartet
 - d) minimalist piece

 4. In which setting or venue would this work most likely have been performed?
 - a) church
 - b) public concert
 - c) salon or private home
 - d) opera house

 5. What is the role of the piano here?
 - a) to provide background noise
 - b) to give the singer pitches to match
 - c) to convey the emotion of the text
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Example 2

5. Choose the correct period for this work:
- a) Classical
 - b) early Romantic (before 1850)
 - c) late Romantic (after 1850)
 - d) 20th Century
6. Choose a likely composer for this work:
- a) Schubert
 - b) Crumb
 - c) Haydn
 - d) Schoenberg
7. What genre best describes this work?
- a) opera
 - b) art song
 - c) string quartet
 - d) minimalist piece
8. In which setting or venue would this work most likely have been performed?
- a) church
 - b) public concert
 - c) salon or private home
 - d) opera house
-

Example 3

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12. What genre best describes this work?
- a) opera
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 - c) string quartet
 - d) minimalist piece
13. In which setting or venue would this work most likely have been performed?
- a) church
 - b) public concert
 - c) salon or private home
 - d) opera house
14. Which performance/compositional technique is evident here?
- a) extended techniques
 - b) bel canto
 - c) minimalism
 - d) Sprechstimme
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