**THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

**GRADUATE DIAGNOSTIC EXAM STUDY GUIDE**

**Diagnostic exams in music theory, music history and aural skills will be given**

**the week before the fall semester begins. The piano proficiency exam should**

**be taken during your first semester of graduate study.**

**MUSIC THEORY**

In preparation for the exam, it would be helpful for you to review a standard

music theory text. Kostka/Payne, Roig-Francoli, or Benward are suggested. The

website musictheory.net is also helpful.

**I. Basic Elements**

a. Chord qualities (e.g. major triad, diminished 7th chord).

b. Non-harmonic tones (e.g. passing, neighboring, suspension).

**II. Analysis of Harmony and Form**

a. Cadences (e.g. perfect authentic, half, Phrygian) and keys in which they occur.

b. Harmonic analysis (Roman numerals and figured bass). Harmonies include

secondary dominants and leading tone sevenths, Neapolitan chords, augmented

sixth chords.

c. Modulation and pivot chords.

d. Melodic and phrase structure (e.g. motive, phrase, period, double period,

repeated period, etc.).

**III. Harmony and Voice Leading**

a. Notate four-voice chords which correspond to given harmonic analysis symbols

(e.g., G minor: V6/5 of III).

b. Harmonize melodic fragments in a given key using one or more specified

chords.

c. Realize a figured bass by notating soprano, alto, and tenor voices and providing

harmonic analysis.

**IV. Classical Forms.**

a. Identify form or compositional process of an entire movement (e.g. rondo,

ternary, rounded binary, sonata, fugue, etc.).

b. Identify, by correct term, specific compositional devices in particular passages

(e.g. sequence, inversion, augmentation, diminution, retrograde, etc.).

**MUSIC HISTORY**

The music history portion of the Graduate Diagnostic Exam is limited to

the Western art music tradition from the Middle Ages through the twentieth

century. World music is excluded, as are the vernacular and ethnic traditions in

the United States. The exam concentrates on the understanding of music history

as opposed to knowledge of facts. In preparation for the exam, it would be

helpful for you to review a standard music history text that includes a listening

anthology. Grout, Stolba, or Wright are suggested. Most music history textbooks

also have companion websites with helpful study tools (outlines, quizzes, flash

cards, etc.). The exam consists of multiple choice, matching, and short-answer

essays. The listening section consists of identifying works by period and genre,

and listing musical techniques and/or features of the works.

Knowledge of the following is important:

1. Vocal and instrumental styles, genres, and compositional techniques.

2. Standard classical forms.

3. Instrumentation typical of the works of major composers.

4. Nationalism in music.

5. Aesthetic and stylistic trends in music.

6. The relationship of society to music.

7. Major composers and landmark compositions.

8. Patrons, audiences, and consumers.

**AURAL SKILLS**

In preparation for the exam, it would be helpful for you to review a standard

sightsinging text such as Ottman. The website musictheory.net is also helpful, as

are computer ear training programs such as MacGamut.

**I. Sightsinging** Diatonic melody, major or harmonic minor, using solfege (either

fixed or moveable Do) or numbers.

**II. Melodic dictation** Eight-measure diatonic melody, major or minor, either

simple or compound meter.

**III. Interval Identification** Simple intervals.

**IV. Chord identification** Major, minor, diminished and augmented triads;

major, minor, diminished and dominant seventh chords

**PIANO PROFICIENCY**

**I. Scales** All major and minor (natural, harmonic and melodic), two octaves,

ascending and descending, hands together.

**II. Arpeggios**

a. All major and minor triads, root position, two octaves, ascending and

descending, hands separately/cross hands.

b. All V7 chords, root position, two octaves, ascending and descending, hands

separately/cross hands.

**III. Sightreading** A four-part chorale.

**IV. Prepared Piece** Early intermediate level.