

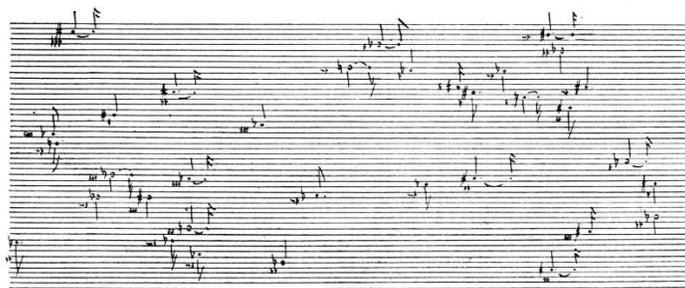
GRADUATE PLACEMENT EXAM IN MUSIC HISTORY

All entering graduate students of the Eastman School of Music are required to take a placement examination in the history of music during the orientation period preceding the first day of classes. The candidates may prepare themselves for this examination in various ways, but it is suggested that they review at minimum the most recent standard histories of music along with representative scores, such as: *A History of Western Music*, J. Peter Burkholder, Donald Jay Grout, Claude V. Palisca (New York: Norton); *Norton Anthology of Western Music* (New York: Norton).

Students whose music history background is judged to be deficient will be required to make up for this in a manner which may vary from individual to individual and dependent on area of study. Some will be required to take a review course that does not carry credit toward any degree (MHS 119); others may be required to take MHS 420 courses in particular periods of music history (e.g., MHS 423, Music in the Baroque Era; MHS 424, Music in the Classic Period; etc.). Those entering the DMA program with a Master's Degree from Eastman should have achieved passing scores on the Medieval and Renaissance portions of the placement exam when first taken. Deficiencies in these areas will be evaluated at the time of admission to the DMA, and students will be advised as to recommended or required courses as needed.

The Placement Examination is taken online through the learning management system and consists of 72 multiple-choice questions concerning the entire range of Western music from the Middle Ages to the present. While the exam is technically "open book"/"open internet," it must be completed within 90 minutes, leaving little if any time for consultation of outside materials. Further, the questions tend to emphasize synthesis of concepts over raw facts. The questions are drawn from a test bank, making each test unique. Sample questions:

- How did tenors change in the evolution of the thirteenth-century motet?
- Identify which of the items below was not a reform undertaken in Gluck's operas after 1762.
- Which composer likely wrote this passage?



Students are urged to prepare well for the exam, which is normally taken only one time. "Retakes" of all or part of the exam are given only in exceptional circumstances, with permission from the chair of the Musicology Department.