



School of Music

Graduate Studies

PREPARING FOR THE MUSIC HISTORY DIAGNOSTIC EXAM

The Music History Diagnostic Exam is given, as needed, at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters. The exam consists of 120 multiple-choice questions: 20 questions each on the Medieval-Renaissance era, the Baroque and Classical periods, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and American vernacular music (i.e., folk, jazz, and popular music).

To prepare for this exam, study your notes and the textbook(s) from your undergraduate music history courses. Here at Middle Tennessee State University we use the Grout/Palisca/Burkholder *A History of Western Music* and the accompanying *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, and the questions probably reflect that influence. You may find, however, that Mark Evan Bonds's book *A History of Music in Western Culture* or K. Marie Stolba's book *The Development of Western Music: A History* and their accompanying anthologies and recordings also are sufficient. For the American vernacular portion of the exam I suggest one of several general texts on American music: H. Wiley Hitchcock's *Music in the United States: A Historical Introduction*; Richard Crawford's *An Introduction to America's Music*; Charles Hamm's *Music in the New World*; or Candelaria and Kingman's *American Music: A Panorama*. In all cases you should try, when possible, to use the most recent editions.

Once you have completed the exam it will be graded. If you fail to score a 70% on the exam you will be required to remediate the individual eras that you failed by taking MUHL 5070 "Survey of Music History" (offered every spring semester) at the appropriate credit level in order to obtain and prove proficiency:

- 1-2 failed sections -- 1 credit section
- 3-4 failed sections -- 2 credit section
- 5-6 failed sections -- 3 credit section