

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

**Suggestions for the Preparation of the Graduate Placement Examination  
in Music History**

**Description of the Examination:** The examination consists of 3 parts:

- A. **Matching** of musical terms, composers' names, and important works, with their respective historical periods (Antiquity, Middle Ages, Early Renaissance, Late Renaissance, Early Baroque, Late Baroque and Rococo, Pre-Classical and Classical, Romantic, Impressionism and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century).
- B. A **Multiple-Choice Test** covering the history of musical style from the Greeks to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- C. Identification of **Musical Excerpts** (from scores) according to period, genre, style, and approximate date.

**Preparation for the examination:**

Be able to recognize important musical terms, names, and compositions, and classify them into one of the above periods. **This part of the test consists mainly of memorizing terms.**

Review your music history course from the Greeks to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Emphasis should be put on characteristics of specific styles and genres and the major contribution of important schools of composition (such as Classicism, Impressionism, etc.) and principal composers. Use the following list of topics to guide you in your preparation. **The emphasis of this part is on the development of styles and genres and contribution key composers and stylistic schools made to them.**

As you prepare for the above topics, listen to representative works for each period while following the score, and note distinctive characteristics for each genre (style, form, instrumentation, etc.). **This part of the exam consists in recognizing genres and styles by looking at a score, and determining an approximate time period.** Only very characteristic excerpts will be submitted.

**Suggested Study Tools:**

Barbara Russo Hanning, *Concise History of Western Music* (based on Grout/Palisca, *A History of Western Music*). New York: W.W. Norton, 1998;

or any good Music History textbook, such as K. Marie Stolba (*Development of Western Music*), or Grout & Palisca (*A History of Western Music*)

Don Randel, *New Harvard Dictionary of Music*

Milo Wold, *An Outline History of Western Music*

*Glossary* in Music History Books for technical musical terms (see Grout & Palisca, or *Schirmer's Music History*).

Anthologies of Music History (Stolba, Norton, etc.) for recognition of scores.

## SUGGESTED TOPICS

The Greek Doctrine of Ethos

Gregorian Chant

Polyphonic Music from 900-1300

Development of the Mass (Medieval and Renaissance: 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Development of the Motet (13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Development of Secular Music Medieval to Renaissance (14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Development of Instrumental Music (Renaissance to Baroque)

The Lutheran Choral and its Use in German Music of the Baroque (esp. Bach)

The Florentine Camerata, Monody, and Early Opera (17<sup>th</sup> century)

Cantata and Oratorio in the Baroque

Development of the Sonata (Classical, into the 19<sup>th</sup> century)  
(For Classical Sonata: emphasis on formal structures)

Development of the Symphony (18<sup>th</sup> century)

Development of Chamber Music (18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; emphasis on String Quartet)

Development of the Concerto (concerto grosso; solo concerto; 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century concerto)

Opera and Oratorio from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century

The 19<sup>th</sup>-century “Lied” (art song); include aspects of piano accompaniment

Character Pieces for Piano in the Romantic Period

The Romantic Symphony and Tone Poem; the 20<sup>th</sup>-century Symphony

Choral Music in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (sacred and secular)

Program Music

Nationalistic Trends in Music of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

20<sup>th</sup>-century Currents (know about representative composers and important works):

Post-Romanticism	<i>Gebrauchsmusik</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Viennese school
Impressionism	Twelve-tone music	Avant-garde music
Expressionism	Primitivism	Electronic music
Neo-Classicism	<i>Musique concrète</i>	Minimalism