

University of British Columbia School of Music Graduate Entrance Examination in Music History

All incoming graduate students new to UBC are required to take the Graduate Entrance Examination in Music History, unless they took the GRE exams and **scored above 55** in the Music History/Theory Section. The purpose of this Entrance Examination is to determine deficiencies and how they are to be remedied; to allow the history faculty to make decisions about who can take graduate seminars; and, to help doctoral graduate students to identify their weaknesses in preparation for the Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations.

All students will be notified of the areas in music history in which their knowledge is deficient. Those with modest deficiencies will be required either to take one upper level undergraduate history course for credit towards the graduate degree or to retest in the areas of deficiency. Students with more serious deficiencies will **also** be required to take one introductory music history course **not** for credit towards the graduate degree.

No degree will be granted until the requirements for remedial work have been met.

The Music History Graduate Entrance Examination consists of **two sections**:

1. Short-answer questions covering the six periods in music history from Medieval to Twentieth Century. **All students** must complete this section.
2. Essay questions with choices of topics for each of the six historical eras:
 - a) **All students** must answer the questions on Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Twentieth-Century topics.
 - b) Questions on Medieval and Renaissance topics must be answered only by students majoring in Music Theory or Music History, or entering DMA programs, or by other students interested in taking a graduate seminar in these areas.

Samples of short-answer questions:

1. When did measured Organum first appear?
2. Give two important characteristics of Dufay's motets.
3. Who wrote the original play on which Berg's *Wozzeck* is based?
4. Mention two principal genres used by Monteverdi.

Samples of essay topics:

1. Discuss the development of Haydn's quartet writing, by giving examples of stylistic types from his early, middle, and late creative periods.
2. With precise examples, discuss the relationship between composers and patrons during the nineteenth century.
3. Compare late baroque French and Italian Opera as exemplified in the works of Rameau and Handel.
4. Discuss the emergence and use of the twelve-tone system in the works of Schoenberg, Webern and Berg.

In preparation for the Graduate Entrance Examination we suggest that students study a general history of music such as the widely used one by Grout/Palisca.