

University of British Columbia School of Music

Graduate Entrance Examination in Music Theory

Students admitted to graduate degrees in Music at UBC are expected to possess the same knowledge of music theory as UBC undergraduates have. The entrance examination will test your knowledge of theories of tonal and nontonal music, corresponding to UBC's undergraduate courses 200, 201, 300, 301. If you do poorly on any section of the test, you will be asked to do remedial work, usually to audit one of these undergraduate courses and pass all its assignments and tests.

The examination lasts three hours. The questions will be drawn from the following topics:

Harmonization, in four-voice chorale style, of a brief melody or bass line, requiring:

- Clear notation
- Realization of a figured bass
- Effective harmonic progression
- Correct voice leading
- Uses of common linear or chromatic chords and techniques, such as applied (secondary) dominants, mixture, passing or neighbour chords, augmented-sixth chords, diminished-seventh chords, sequences, etc.

Harmonic function and modulation in early-Romantic music

Form and large-scale tonal plan of an extended movement of 18th or 19th century music

Formal procedure, rhythmic devices, and pitch structure in excerpts from early 20th-century music, for example by Bartók, Hindemith, Schoenberg, or Stravinsky.

Twelve-tone music: identifying and labeling row forms

Music since 1945: discuss pitch or rhythmic structure, and identify the composers of several short excerpts.

To prepare for the examination, you may wish to review textbooks such as the following:

Aldwell and Schachter, *Harmony and Voice Leading*, 2nd Edition

Berry, *Form in Music*, 2nd Edition

Kostka, *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music*

Straus, *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory*

Schwartz and Godfrey, *Music since 1945*