

Graduate Diagnostic Exams

(Revised April 17, 2012)

Students admitted to the Master of Music program at the University of Manitoba are expected to possess a certain breadth and depth of knowledge of music theory. To help ensure this, all incoming graduate students will be given diagnostic examinations to evaluate their knowledge of the theoretical aspects of tonal and post-tonal music. These diagnostic examinations will normally be given during the week preceding the first week of classes in September or January. The material on these examinations will correspond to that studied in our undergraduate courses in music theory.

Incoming graduate students who do not achieve satisfactory results on any portion of these tests may be required to do remedial work as a co-requisite or pre-requisite to their graduate program; such work, in the form of course or other requirements, will not count for credit toward the Master of Music degree. Since remedial coursework may be specified as a pre-requisite to a required graduate course, incoming graduate students will not be permitted to register for courses in the Faculty of Music until these diagnostic exams have been taken.

The theory diagnostic examination may last up to three hours. The questions will be drawn from the following topics:

Harmonization, in four-voice chorale style, of a brief tonal melody, requiring

- Clear notation
- Figured bass analysis
- Effective harmonic progression
- Correct voice leading
- Inclusion of some decoration (including non-harmonic tones)
- Uses of common linear or chromatic chords and techniques, such as applied (secondary) dominants, passing or neighbour chords, diminished-sevenths chords

Chromatic harmony 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 (e.g., Bartók, Hindemith, Schoenberg, or Stravinsky)

Twelve-tone music: identifying and labeling row forms

Music since 1945: Discuss pitch or rhythmic structure; identify the composers of several short excerpts

To prepare for the theory examination, we recommend that you review books such as the following:

- Aldwell & Schachter, *Harmony and Voice Leading*, 3rd edition
- Berry, *Form in Music*, 2nd edition
- Horton & Ritchey, *Harmony Through Melody*
- Kostka, *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music*, 3rd edition
- Straus, *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory*
- Schwartz & Godfrey, *Music Since 1945*