Music Systems & Theory
Entrance Examination

Section I: Aural Dictation (1 hour)
Accurately notate music performed at the piano by exam proctor:
- Isolated chords (SATB, with bass given)
- Tonal melodies (with chromatic alterations)
- Modal melodies (diatonic)
- Tonal duets (with chromatic alterations)
- Tonal SATB harmony (four voices plus complete harmonic analysis)

Section II: Written topic area exams (2 hours total)

Part 1: Harmonic Analysis
Analyze score excerpts:
- Tonal (Roman numerals, inversions, nonharmonic tones, cadences)
- Modal (identify diatonic mode, cadence areas, and relevant techniques such as planing)
- 12-tone serial analysis (with matrix provided)
- poly-chord use

Depending on the concentration of your master’s degree, the following theory/systems areas are also evaluated.

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Part 2: Form & Analysis
Analyze large-scale form on score examples provided:
- Identify historical period
- Identify overall formal plan, citing supporting evidence
- Identify primary sections (formal divisions [A B A’], key areas, major cadences)
Part 3: Instrumentation & Orchestration

- Identify ranges and transpositions of standard orchestral instruments and choral voices
- Define standard score expressions and terms
- Transpose excerpt from score into concert pitch

Part 4: Counterpoint

Complete score example (choose one of two provided):
- 16th-century modal canon phrase with cadence
- 18th-century imitative trio sonata phrase with cadence

Suggested Review Materials

Overall review:

Harmonic Analysis:

Form & Analysis:


Instrumentation/Orchestration:

Counterpoint:
There are many, many texts available for both 16th- and 18th-century counterpoint, and most are equally fine for review and study

—Dr. Brian Belet
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