

# LHSOM Graduate Placement Exam:

## Music History and Literature

An effective way to prepare for this exam is to review a comprehensive music appreciation or music history text such as Joseph Kerman's *Listen or Music* along with the accompanying recordings and with any score anthology which covers the Medieval through contemporary periods.

### History Overview

The student should be able to list major composers, general characteristics and repertory of the major historical eras of European and American music (including jazz), namely the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classic, Romantic, early Twentieth Century, and Contemporary periods. Students will be asked to answer questions by filling in a chart covering the major composers, genres, and stylistic developments of each period.

*Example:* For each era, list beginning and end dates, innovations, genres, and composers

- Medieval: 900-1400 Isorhythm Chanson Perotin
  - "Landini" cadence Mass Machaut (etc.) (etc.) (list 4)
- Renais.: 1400-1600 Imit. Polyphony Mass Palestrina
  - Parody technique Madrigal Dufay (etc.) (etc.) (etc.)
- (continued for each historical era)

## Music History and Literature (cont.)

### Listening

The student will be asked to make pertinent decisions about specific works after hearing a recording, including who might have composed the work, the genre of work it represents, the movement (if a multi-movement work) and to make specific comments about significant formal and stylistic elements perceived.

*Example:* After listening to a recording of a movement of a string quartet, answer the following questions:

- Composer, date, genre, movement:
  - Haydn, 1800, string quartet, first movement
- Commentary on stylistic elements:
  - Classical period, slow intro, Sonata form, tempo allegro, minor key, second theme in major (V), exposition repeated
  - Other: First theme has many dotted rhythms. Second theme contrasting character.

## Scores

Similar to the listening section, but with additional specific questions to be answered by examining a score.

*Example:*

- Composer, date, genre, movement:
  - As above
- Commentary on stylistic elements:
  - As above
- Score-specific questions: What happens to the rhythm in mm. 8-32? What is the form? (etc.)

## Take-home Essay Question

Examinees will be asked to write about a topic in music history or another topic, such as a statement of one's goals for graduate study. Responses will be graded primarily on the student's writing ability.

*Example:*

Write a descriptive paragraph describing basso continuo practice.

OR

Describe your musical training and your goals for your graduate study.