

WSU Department of Music
Graduate Entrance Examination in Music Theory

Information Sheet

- I. All students wishing to enter the graduate program in music at Wayne State University must take the graduate entrance examination in music theory.

- II. The exam will be given in a 1-1/2-hour period. It is in three parts, as follows.
 1. Ear training: brief problems in (tonal) melodic and harmonic dictation.
 2. Composition/partwriting problem: harmonize or compose a four-part chorale in common practice style. You will be asked to demonstrate applied knowledge of seventh chords, chord inversions, chromatic (altered) harmony, voice leading, modulation, and Roman numeral analysis.
 3. Analysis problem: based on the tonal common-practice literature. This will require knowledge and understanding of tonal forms, harmony, and voice leading, plus command of the language and apparatus of music theory and analysis, and basic writing and communication skills (for some brief essay answers).

- III. Preparation for the exam should include careful review of both of the following texts:

Paul O. Harder, *Materials in Tonal Music*, Parts 1&2.
Douglass M. Green, *Form in Tonal Music* (2nd ed.).

A good supplemental text for review of harmony, and especially voice leading is:

Edward Aldwell & Carl Schachter, *Harmony & Voice Leading* (2nd ed.).