

PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION IN MUSIC HISTORY, PART I: SAMPLE

Note: for the actual exam, you will be given a score of the pieces discussed in Section III and you will also hear recordings of these excerpts. Scores for this sample exam may be found at:

<http://sapientia.hunter.cuny.edu/~music/graduates/scores.shtml>

- I. (20 points: 2 for date, one each for genre and title) Write the name of each of the following composers next to the time period when most of his works were written. Give the genre and title of one work by each composer.
Composers: Dufay, Lully, Machaut, Morley, Vivaldi

	Composer	Genre	Title
800-1000	_____	_____	_____
1000-1100	_____	_____	_____
1100-1200	_____	_____	_____
1200-1300	_____	_____	_____
1300-1400	_____	_____	_____
1400-1475	_____	_____	_____
1475-1525	_____	_____	_____
1525-1600	_____	_____	_____
1600-1650	_____	_____	_____
1650-1700	_____	_____	_____
1700-1750	_____	_____	_____

- II. (21 points: 4 for definition, 1 each for composer, genre/title, and date of example) Define **three** of the following terms as concisely as possible. Give the composer (if any), genre, title, and approximate date (century or half-century) of a piece that exemplifies each of the three terms, and explain briefly how the term applies to the piece. Answer in exam book. Terms: Chorale, Clausula, Paraphrase, Psalm tone

- III. (20 points each: 2 each for questions a-e, 5 for f, 5 for g) Each of the pieces or excerpts for which scores are attached will be played once. Answer the questions below about each of them.

Piece no. 1

- The language of the words of this piece is _____.
- The top voice (m. 1), middle voice (m. 2), and bottom voice (m. 6) all begin with the same melody. This compositional technique is called _____.
- In mm. 19-21 (beat 1), all voices sing the same rhythms, producing a series of chords. This type of texture is called _____.
- The words in mm. 21-23 mean "my strength has deserted me." How does the composer express the meaning of those words in the music? _____

 This type of musical representation text meaning is called _____.
- Why does the editor recommend F# on the last note of m. 3, top voice?

- Probable composer, genre, and date (century or half-century) of the work:

- Give the composer and title of a piece in the same genre from about a century earlier, and list similarities and differences between this piece and that one. (Answer in exam book.)

Piece no. 2

- a. To what does the word "MULIE(RUM)" under the lowest written voice refer?

- b. The lowest written voice is called the _____.
- c. List the harmonic intervals above the lowest sounding voice on the downbeats of the first three measures:
m. 1 _____; m. 2 _____; m. 3 _____.
- d. The rhythms of all of the voices consist of repetitions of a short pattern. Rhythms of this type are called _____.
- e. The piece has two poetic texts, both expressing love for an unattainable woman. This type of love is called _____.
- f. Probable genre, and date (century) of the work:

- g. Give the composer and title of a piece in the same genre from about a century later, and list similarities and differences between this piece and that one. (Answer in exam book.)

Piece no. 3

- a. The attached score contains the first two movements of a piece. What is the most likely total number of movements? Which movements are slow and which are fast?

- b. The principal place of performance for which a work with this overall design was intended was _____.
- c. The numbers below the lower staff indicate that the performer is to play _____ in addition to the written notes. An accompaniment of this type is called a _____.
- d. What is the relationship between the two upper staves in movement 1? Which one did the composer write? What is the source of the other one? _____
- e. In movement 2, the composer sometimes creates 3-voice counterpoint by having the violin play two voices simultaneously. On what beat of which measure does the second voice in the violin part enter? _____ What term describes the relation between the two voices played by the violin in mm. 1-5? _____
- f. Probable composer, genre, and date (century or half-century) of the work:

- g. Name a piece in the same genre by the same composer and list similarities between that work and this one. (Answer in exam book.)