

MUSIC MAJOR ENTRANCE EXAM: CONTENT and PREPARATION

For students with no background in music, but interested in preparing for the entrance exams, you should consult the following books:

Theory – Joseph Straus: Elements of Music

History – Roger Kamien: Music: An Appreciation

These books are used in our introductory courses and may be purchased at the Hunter Bookstore.

For students who have taken music theory and music history at other schools, we recommend that you review the books and pieces previously studied to prepare for the advanced placement exams. This should be easier and more effective than purchasing new materials. If you don't have your old materials, purchase the books we use in our theory and history courses for the music major and study them:

Theory – Jane Piper Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin: Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis (textbook only) AND Carol Krueger: Progressive Sight Singing

History – Mark Evan Bonds: A History of Music in Western Culture

For the history exam, the most important thing is to be familiar with some specific pieces, not just textbook generalities. For the theory and musicianship exam, please read below:

- (1) Theory (Information and skills taught in Music Theory Fundamentals, MUSTH 101; For sample exam, see: http://www.music.hunter.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/entrance_exam_in_music_theory_SAMPLE2.pdf)

Read and write:

Pitches in treble and bass clef

Key signatures up to 4 sharps or flats

Diatonic scales and intervals

Major and minor triads

Rhythmic notation: dots, beams, and ties in simple and compound meters

- (2) Music history and literature (Information taught in Intro to Music, MUSHL 101; For sample exam, see: http://www.music.hunter.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/entrance_exam_in_music_history_SAMPLE2.pdf)

Match major composers with the historical periods in which they lived

Match terms for musical instruments, genres, and technical features (such as tempo, dynamics, form, etc.) with their definitions

- (3) Applied skills (Skills taught in Basic Musicianship and in private or class lessons on instrument or voice)
 - (a) Prepared piece(s):
 - For the 25- and 42-credit major, play or sing a piece of your choice on your principal instrument (including voice).
 - For the 60-credit B.Mus. degree, see: http://www.music.hunter.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/BMus_performance_audition_information1-1.pdf
 - (b) Aural skills
 - Clap a simple rhythm at sight.
 - Sing a simple melody at sight.
 - Identify simple intervals, chords, and rhythms by ear.
 - (c) Keyboard skills (for those with keyboard experience)
 - Play selected scales, chords, and arpeggios (hand-over-hand).
 - Sight-read a simple piece.