Music Department Master of Arts Entrance Sample Exam Questions

The admission process for the master’s program includes an oral exam and an interview, which are conducted consecutively. The oral exam phase comprises general questions related to music history, theory, and form, as well as recognition and commentary on score excerpts. The purpose of this phase is to evaluate the candidate’s knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of music. The exam aims to assess the candidate’s ability to analyze and interpret musical compositions, their familiarity with music notation and terminology, and their overall comprehension of music theory and history. The following are some sample questions. The exam will include similar questions. However, please be advised that the actual contents of the Exam change every year and may differ from the contents of this sample exam.

MUSIC HISTORY

• Discuss the definition of character pieces in the 19th century. What are its main characteristics?
  Who are the foremost composers? How are they different from 18th-century classical paradigms? Give a few examples.

• Discuss the definition of leitmotif in opera. Give one or a few examples. How is a leitmotif different than a regular reminiscence motif?

• Discuss the basic structural and stylistic characteristics of Vivaldi’s concerto grosso.

• What are the commonalities and differences between comic and serious opera in the 18th century?

SCORE RECOGNITION

• What is the possible time period, genre, and composer of this piece? Explain the reasons for your answer according to your analysis of this score excerpt (Example 1)

MUSIC THEORY

• What is the phrase type of the given example? (Example 2)

• Identify the cadences in measures 4 and 8 (Example 3)

• Where does the second theme group start in the following sonata? (Example 4)

• How can you analyze the chord in measure? (Example 5)
EXAMPLE 2

Allegro.
Sonate.
Op. 10. № 1
Der Gräfin von Browne gewidmet.

Allegro molto e con brio.
Example 5

Ziemlich langsam.

Singstimme.

Am leuch...tenden Som...mer...

Pianoforte.

morgen. geh ich im Gar..ten her..um. Es

flüstern und sprechen die Blu...men, ich a...ber wand...te

stumm. Es flüstern und sprechen die Blumen und