Study Guide for Graduate Music Theory Diagnostic Exam
Colorado State University
School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Note: This study guide is intended for all students entering the Master of Music degree programs for music education (all specializations), conducting, and performance. No aural skills component will be included.

Recommended Texts for Review:

Laitz – Graduate Review of Tonal Music: good review of tonal music theory

Clendinning and Marvin – A Musician’s Guide to Music Theory and Analysis (any ed.): Provides detailed instructions on analyzing post-tonal music and formal analysis

Recommended Anthologies for Review:

Turek – Analytical Anthology of Music (any edition)

Burkhart – Anthology for Musical Analysis (any edition)

Benjamin, Horvit, and Nelson – Music for Analysis (any edition)

Terminology and Concepts for Review: For each term be prepared to identify examples in scores from the literature and provide a short definition if called upon.

Diatonic Harmony
Diatonic triads and seventh chords
Roman numeral analysis
Chord function (Tonic, Dominant, etc.)
Major and Minor Scales/Keys
Figured bass/basso continuo
Cadences (PAC, IAC, HC, DC, Plagal)

Chromatic Harmony
Pivot chord/common chord modulation
Closely/distantly related keys
Phrase modulation
Direct modulation
Enharmonic modulation
Secondary/Applied dominants and leading tone chords
Augmented Sixth Chords
Neapolitan Chord
Terminology and Concepts for Review, cont.:

Post-Tonal Harmony
9th, 11th, and 13th chords
Quartal/Quintal/Secundal Harmony

Diatonic Modes
Whole tone scales (collection)
Diminished/octetonic scales (collection)

Atonality
Polytonality

Serialism/Twelve Tone Music
- Matrix construction
- Prime/Retrograde/Inversion/Retrograde Inversion
- Integral/Total Serialism
- Hexachordal Combinatoriality

PC-set Theory
- Normal Order
- Prime Form
- Complement
- Pitch class
- Interval vector/Z-Relationships

Formal Analysis
Binary Forms
- Rounded/Simple Binary
- Sectional/Continuous Binary

Sonata Form
- Exposition/Development/Recapitulation
- Key relationships among formal components/sections

Rondo Form
- Small/5-part Rondo
- Large/7-part Rondo
- Sonata Rondo

Minuet and Trio/Compound Ternary Form

Note: For all formal analysis topics, be prepared to identify component parts of individual sections (such as themes, phrases, periods, etc.), typical key relationships, and other sections that are not part of the overall form (such as introductions and codas).

Contact Information for Further Questions:

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