Guide to First-Year Musicianship Transfer Exams

An Aural Training Exam and Part I below are administered during orientation. The other exams are taken separately when the student is prepared.

I. Complete a figured bass in four parts (SATB) – functional harmony with secondary dominants and diminished sevenths.

II. Baroque Period:

Prominent works by Monteverdi, Schutz, Handel, Vivaldi and J. S. Bach
Sequence of movements in a dance suite
Prominent terms such as passacaglia, gigue, ritornello etc. – match term with given definition.
Specifics about the order and nature of pieces in J. S. Bach’s WTC
Analysis of beginning portion of one fugue from WTC

Terms:
- Passacaglia,
- Ritornello,
- Testo,
- Castrato,
- toccata,
- Sinfonia,
- da capo aria,
- Ripieno,
- Basso ostinato,
- Ground bass.
- Florentine Camerata,
- Madrigal,
- Chorale prelude,
- French Overture,
- Chorale Cantata,
- Oratorio.

III. Classic Period:

Instrumentation for an orchestral score (instruments, score placement, transposition)
Chromatic modulation from same utilizing and augmented sixth
Sonata form
Minuet form
Rondo form
Basic biographical info for Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven - significant works, significant life events
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19th Century:
basic info on Berlioz, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Wagner Brahms, Mahler;
significant song cycles; significant tone poems; significant etudes
analysis of Brahmsian chromatic harmony (with modulations, augmented sixths, etc.)

20th Century:
Knowledge, awareness of major styles and trends: impressionism, primitivism, serialism, neo-classicism, minimalism…
You should know some significant works (names, type of work, significant techniques) by:
Debussy
Stravinsky
Schoenberg, Berg, Webern
Bartok
Hindemith
Shostakovich
Ives
Messiaen
Cage
Babbitt
Know two minimalist composers
One significant electronic work
A “sound mass” work
Elliott Carter
George Crumb
Ligeti
A composer influenced by spectralism

Theory:

Alternative scales (octatonic, etc.)
Basics of 12-tone method
Basic set theory (0, 1, 4)
Middle Ages and Renaissance:

The test will focus on major composers, types of works, and significant terms associated with music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Ordinary and Proper of the Mass
Offices (Hours)
curch modes
melismatic, syllabic
types of organum
Leonin, Perotin
cantus firmus mass
parody mass
motets
madrigals
Burgundian/Flemish composers
Italian madrigalists
English madrigalists
Spanish composers
point of imitation