

## **Sample TCM Grad Admission – Duration: 2 hours and 30 minutes**

### **Essays**

You will write a total of three essays, choosing one question from each of the three topic areas. Indicate which prompt you have chosen for each area. Answer each question clearly and concisely. Include important information and avoid unrelated facts and concepts. Support your points with specific relevant information, such as musical examples, composers, genres, dates, contexts.

These are not research essays, and you will not have time to write comprehensively. Instead, you are asked to organize your knowledge of music history to show your familiarity to the best of your ability.

You will have a total of 60 minutes to complete the three essays.

### **Sample Question from Area 1**

Discuss the emergence of the musical notation in the medieval Europe and its evolution until it gained the form of our present notational system. What different types of notations and notational systems emerged and dominated? What are the characteristics of these systems?

### **Sample Question from Area 2**

Who were some of the influential women composers and performers in Euro-American music history ranging from the Middle Ages to 1900s? In what genres did they compose or perform? Explain their artistic, cultural, and intellectual contributions to the tradition of Western art music.

### **Sample Question from Area 3**

Discuss the musical and historical development of American jazz and rock. Who were some of the main innovators in these musical traditions? What social forces led to their emergence? What kinds of musical forms, performance practices, and uses of technology characterize these traditions?

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## **General Knowledge I (Sample Terms)**

For each of the following 3 sections, choose 5 of the listed terms. Identify each term or name as completely, specifically, and concisely as possible. Your responses might include reference to several of the following information, depending on their relevance for the term you are identifying: composers, works, genres, dates, formal characteristics, etc. with which an item is associated.

You will have a total of 90 minutes to complete these three sections.

SECTION 1 -- choose 5 of the listed terms:

modal rhythm  
motet  
organum

musica ficta  
Josquin Des Prez  
Guillaume de Machaut

SECTION 2 -- choose 5 of the listed terms:

opera seria  
basso continuo  
concerto

sonata form (sonata-allegro form)  
recitativo accompagnato  
Alberti bass

SECTION 3 -- choose 5 of the listed terms:

minimalism  
Lied  
Sprechstimme

total serialism  
Gesamtkunstwerk  
indeterminacy

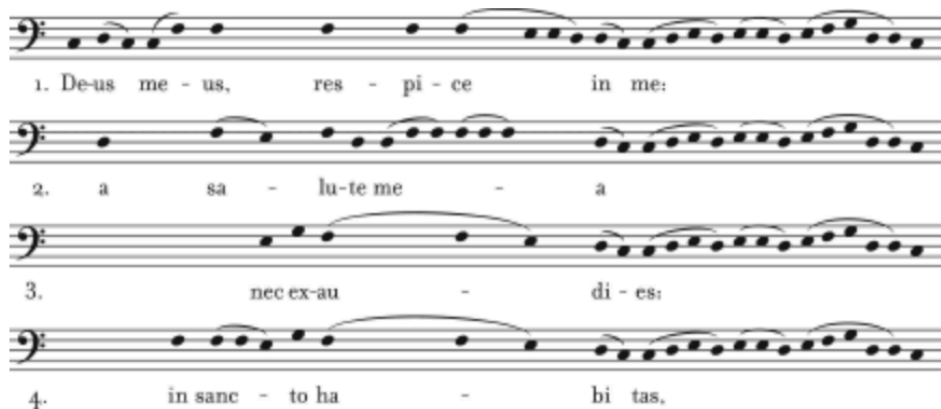
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### General Knowledge II (Sample Questions)

This section asks you multiple-choice questions about music, terms, and historical facts from the Middle Ages to the present time. Some questions will require you to view an image and read music notation. There is only one correct answer to each question.

You will have a total of 45 minutes to complete this section.

1- You see four chant phrases that have been aligned for comparison. The similarities and differences from phrase to phrase of this melody provide evidence that:



- the Schola Cantorum purposely taught the Franks incorrect melodies.
  - the melody resulted from a blend of various chant dialects.
  - oral transmission was unreliable.
  - chant melodies may have been composed using a pool of melodic contours and formulas.
- 2- Pavaues, galliards, passamezzos, and saltarellos are all examples of
- dance types.
  - variation sets.
  - abstract instrumental pieces.
  - bass ostinato.
- 3- Beethoven's late style is characterized by all the following except
- simplified performance challenges aimed at amateur players.
  - extreme contrasts of dynamics and register.
  - frequent juxtaposition of different styles and musical topics.
  - fugal passages or movements.

4- Which genre does this musical example best represent?



- Ragtime
- Sousa march
- Dixieland jazz
- Musical comedy

5- This painting by Arnold Schoenberg best typifies which artistic movement?



- Cubism
- Primitivism
- Chromatic saturation
- Expressionism

6- In Wagner's view of music history, the most important precedent for his own synthesis of drama and music was

- Beethoven's symphonies.
  - J. S. Bach's cantatas.
  - Mozart's operas.
  - Schubert's symphonies.
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## Listening (Sample)

This portion requires you to listen to streaming music excerpts through Canvas. Ensure that you have proper hardware such as a speaker or headphones and you are in an environment that allows you to listen to music. Each listening example is accompanied by several questions requiring you to choose the correct answer from a dropdown menu.

You will have a total of 15 minutes to complete the following three sections.

- 1- **This question features two audio examples. The first example is a secular genre, while the second is a sacred one. The first served as source material for the second, with the composer maintaining the rhythmic and melodic profile of the original.**

**Given the above information and the listening, the first example is an example of this genre: [genre1]. The second is an example of this genre: [genre2].**

**As a piece of sacred polyphony, the original performing forces of the second example most likely included: [performance].**

**The music was most likely composed in this century: [century].**

### Genre 1:

- French chanson
- Italian madrigal
- Spanish cantiga
- German Lied

### Genre 2:

- cantus firmus mass
- motto mass
- plainsong mass
- missa prolationum

### Performance:

- an all-male choir with 2–6 musicians on each part
- a mixed-gender choir with 2–6 musicians on each part
- a large choir of about 50 musicians, including the basso continuo group
- a small gathering of upper-class amateurs, with one person per part, singing or playing an instrument

### Century:

- 1400s
- 1600s
- 1300s
- 700s