

**SAMFORD UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
DIVISION OF MUSIC**

**STUDY GUIDE FOR GRADUATE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

Graduate entrance examinations have been prepared by faculty members who teach in the appropriate areas at the graduate level as a means to assess each applicant's preparation for graduate study. They are read and evaluated by these same persons. The evaluators provide summaries of strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations regarding acceptability for admission and/or requirements for additional study.

**Music History and Literature**

This examination is designed to assess an individual's knowledge and understanding across a wide range of history and literature, with primary focus on western art music, including music of the twentieth century and music of the United States. The largest portion of the examination asks for brief identifications of composers and forms/genres/terms. Some questions are asked in multiple-choice format. Specific questions requiring brief answers are asked about musical examples presented in score. Two hours are permitted for the completion of this examination.

The examination is not geared to a particular textbook or approach to music history. An effective means of preparation is the review of texts from the undergraduate coursework that the applicant has completed. The following texts, which have been used in courses at Samford University, may be helpful in review:

Grout, Donald J., and Claude V. Palisca. A History of Western Music. 5th ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 1996.

Machlis, Joseph, and Kristine Forney. The Enjoyment of Music. 7th ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 1995.

Seaton, Douglass. Ideas and Styles in the Western Musical Tradition. Mountain View, Calif.: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1991.

*Questions about this examination may be addressed to Dr. Donald Sanders (205-726-2499).*

## Music Theory

This examination is designed to assess an individual's knowledge and understanding across a wide range of areas, including chordal analysis, part-writing, form and analysis, and orchestration. Some questions are answered with short answers, while others require responses in musical notation. Two hours are permitted for the completion of this examination.

The examination is not geared to a particular analytical method or language. An effective means of preparation is the review of texts from the undergraduate coursework that the applicant has completed. The following texts, which have been used in courses at Samford University, may be helpful in review:

### *Music Fundamentals and Theory*

Kostka, Stefan, and Dorothy Payne. Tonal Harmony, with an Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music. 2nd ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

Ottman, Robert W. Advanced Harmony: Theory and Practice. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_. Elementary Harmony: Theory and Practice. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1989.

### *Form and Analysis*

Berry, Wallace. Form in Music. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1986.

Spencer, Peter, and Peter M. Temko. A Practical Approach to the Study of Form in Music. Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland Press, 1988.

### *Orchestration*

Kennon, Kent, and Donald Grantham. The Technique of Orchestration. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1990.

*Questions about this examination may be addressed to Dr. James Jensen (205-726-2852).*