

Graduate Music Theory Entrance Examination

University of Louisville School of Music

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION

The purpose of the Graduate Music Theory Entrance Examination (GMTEE) is to ensure that all entering graduate students in music have previously acquired basic musical knowledge and skill equivalent to the content of a typical two-year undergraduate music theory core curriculum (often referred to as Theory I-IV). The GMTEE focuses on music from the common practice period through later chromatic tonal developments. Both written and aural skills are covered.

PROCEDURES OF THE EXAMINATION

WHO AND WHEN: Every entering graduate music student will take the exam before the first semester of study. Typically, the examination is administered on the Tuesday before a semester starts; classes usually start on a Monday. For Fall 2009, the GMTEE will take place on

//// **Tuesday 18 August 2009, 2:00-4:30(?)p.m.*, School of Music, Room 140** ////

OUTCOMES: If you pass the examination, your theory entrance requirement is satisfied. If you do **not** pass the examination, you will satisfy your theory entrance requirement by passing either of the following two classes during your first year of graduate study:

- MUS 400 Graduate Theory Review--Most students will opt to take Graduate Theory Review. This course is specifically designed as a review course for graduate music students. It is taught during the spring semester and meets twice a week for 100 minutes each session, usually on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. (Consult the current class schedule for the specific meeting time and place.)
- MUS 241 Theory III--This is the regular, third-semester undergraduate music theory/musicianship course, which meets for five contact hours each week, usually in the morning, Monday through Thursday. (Consult the current class schedule for the specific meeting time and place.)

Please note that, regardless of the outcome of the GMTEE or Theory III, **all students** must register for MUS 400 Theory Review, since MUS 400 is a curricular requirement. Students who have already passed the GMTEE or Theory III will receive an automatic passing mark for MUS 400.

MISSING THE EXAMINATION: There are no make-ups for the GMTEE. If you miss the exam for an excused reason consistent with UofL class policies, you will be allowed to take the exam at the beginning of the next semester. If you miss the exam for an unexcused reason, you will not be allowed to take the exam, and you must satisfy your theory entrance requirement by taking one of the two courses listed above during your first year of graduate study.

*Graduate students who teach full-time during the day sometimes need to arrive late for the GMTEE. Contact the Office of Admissions if you will need to begin the exam late; the professor administering the exam will arrange to stay late enough for you to finish.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE B.M. STUDENTS: If you earned a B (not B-) or higher in Theory III, you are exempt from the GMTEE. All other UofL graduates must take the exam.

The back of this page has information on preparation and practice for the examination.

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HOW TO PREPARE: A sample Graduate Music Theory Entrance Examination is mailed to all entering graduate students. The form and content of the actual examination will be similar to the sample exam. *Study it well.* Below are some resources for practice and review.

BOOKS FOR PREPARATION AND PRACTICE: UofL uses the following books for its undergraduate music theory core sequence, upon which the exam is based.

- Kostka, Stefan, and Dorothy Payne. *Tonal Harmony*, 6th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008. (ISBN 978-0-07-340135-5; www.mhhe.com.)

- Workbook to accompany *Tonal Harmony*, with accompanying CDs. (ISBN 978-0-07-332715-0.)

- Ottman, Robert W. *Music for Sight Singing*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006. (0-13-187234-6)

Hall, Anne C. *Studying Rhythm*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005. (ISBN 0-13-040602-3; www.prenhall.com.)

SOFTWARE AND ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PREPARATION AND PRACTICE

- **MacGamut**--currently \$40 plus shipping; works on both Mac and Windows. (www.macgamut.com)

- **Clarion 2.0.1** for intervals--currently \$14.95, with free demo download--Mac only; requires Mac OS X 10.2 or higher. (<http://www.red-sweater.com/RedSweater/Clarion.html>)

- **MusicTheory.net**--free elementary drill material (<http://www.musictheory.net>)

- **teoría**--various tutorials and exercises, including ear training (<http://www.teoria.com>)