

MUSI 401

Test #2 Study Guide

The information from the readings in the text and our discussions in class are the basis for the exam. Terms in text, composers, compositions, historical notes, etc are all possibilities for this exam, as was the case for the first exam. As I have mentioned throughout the semester, there should be no surprises if you read the material and come to class.

For the listening portion, you do not need to be able to identify the title and composer of the piece that is being played. The listening list (see bottom of this document) is streamlined for the test as there will be questions asked about the excerpts regarding music fundamentals (texture, dynamics, pulse, instrumentation, etc) along with unique aspects about certain examples (word painting, terraced dynamics, etc). Keep in mind that the aural excerpts may or may not start at the beginning of the piece! Additional things that could be asked with each excerpt; this is not every possibility, but should give you a good frame of reference for practice/study.

Dates of the major time periods.

Important terms and categories of music discussed in class. For example,

- Melismatic vs syllabic
- Melodic contour shapes
- Fundamentals of a fugue
- Fundamentals of opera (aria, chorus, pit orchestra, libretto....)
- Motet vs mass: what is the difference?
- Concerto grosso
- Gregorian chant characteristics
- Forms such as ritornello form, fugue (already mentioned above), ground bass aria..

It is helpful to categorize pieces/information by type (here are a few examples):

- Instrumental vs vocal
- Sacred vs secular
- Polyphonic vs monophonic

Listening List examples for the test

- Anon., *Alleluia: Vidimus Stellam*
- Weelkes, *As Vesta Was Descending*
- Bach, Organ Fugue in G minor (Little Fugue)
- Purcell, *Dido's Lament*
- Handel, *Hallelujah Chorus*, from *Messiah*