

The Hartt School / University of Hartford
Music History Department / Music Theory Department

***Guidelines for Incoming Doctoral Applicants
Completing Essays In Music History/Music Theory***

Doctorial applicants, in addition to playing an audition and submitting a paper, are required to write separate essays on music history and music theory on the day of the audition.

The subject of the MUSIC HISTORY ESSAY is a topic chosen by the student from a selection of questions provided. The essay is intended to aid in assessing the applicant's breadth of knowledge and his/her ability to express ideas articulately, synthesize information, and establish patterns of thought rather than simply regurgitate facts. The essay questions are comparable to these in nature:

- Why is the Baroque period difficult to define as an historical epoch? Name some outstanding composers and explain why their music is typical or atypical of the era.
- In the history of opera, the genre often requires the listener to "suspend disbelief." Explain what this means.
- What were once called "early music" performers are now often referred to as advocates of "historically-informed performance." The influence of such historically-oriented performers has affected our sound ideal of Beethoven and Brahms as well as Machaut and Monteverdi. What are some of the considerations that enter into the world of the modern concert performer?
- Cite and elaborate upon several examples of technology itself influencing the artistic decisions of composers.
- While visiting the New World, Dvorak advised American composers to develop an indigenous national style of art music based on music of native Indians and African Americans. Why did this not come to pass?

The MUSIC THEORY ESSAY will be an analytical essay on either a short tonal piano piece or a short tonal vocal composition. Both scores are provided at the time the essay is to be written. The essay is intended to aid in assessing both the applicant's skills in basic analysis and his/her ability to express ideas clearly and articulately.