



ENTRANCE TESTS

Sample exam

A3: HISTORY OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL CULTURE TEST

PART 1 [15 minutes, 6 points out of 10]

♪ Audition 1: H. Purcell: *Chaconne (The Fairy Queen)*

1. This passage presents a series of variations on a basso ostinato. What is the change that takes place in the instrumentation of the fourth variation? **The basso continuo disappears.**
2. In which era was this dance composed?
 - a) Late Middle Ages
 - b) **Baroque**
 - c) Classicism

♪ Audition 2: G. Verdi: *Addio del passato (La Traviata)*

1. Which instrument introduces the aria and reappears later imitating some soprano semi-phrases? **Oboe**
2. This aria from the opera *La Traviata* by Verdi reflects Violetta's sadness due to her impending death and nostalgia for her past. However, in the verse "*Della Traviata sorridi al desio*", the protagonist undergoes an emotional change (hope) which the composer emphasises with a crescendo and above all with the...
 - a) **Change from the minor to major mode**
 - b) Change in the instrumentation (from solo to tutti)
 - c) Change from the major to minor mode

♪ Audition 3: M. Ravel: *Pavane de la belle au bois dormant (Ma Mère l'Oye)*

1. What kind of sound effect do the strings use in the accompaniment of most of the movement? **Pizzicato**
1. What musical style is related to this work?
 - a) Primitivism
 - b) **Impressionism**
 - c) Expressionism



PART 2 [10 minutes, 4 points out of 10] [in bold and underlined the false ones]

1. The A-B-A-C-A structure may correspond to a rondo.
2. **Serial music refers to music produced in series.**
3. *Pierrot Lunaire* and *The Rite of Spring* are two 20th century musical works.
4. **Ravel's complete works include only works for piano.**
5. A *cantus firmus* is a borrowed melody which is placed in a voice of a polyphonic composition.
6. In the Middle Ages, troping consisted of lengthening standard elements of the liturgy by the addition of music and text.
7. **During the Classical era, opera became a less important musical genre in comparison with earlier eras.**
8. Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina was an outstanding Renaissance composer known for his innovation in polyphonic sacred music.
9. **Richard Wagner was the composer of *The Ring of the Nibelung* (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), a work known as "The Trilogy" because it comprises three operas.**
10. A madrigal is normally a polyphonic vocal piece which sets a previously existing poem to music.
11. **A countertenor is a singer with a lower register than that of a tenor.**
12. The baroque suite was a musical form consisting of a series of dances in the same tonality, albeit each one with its distinctive character and rhythms.
13. **During the Renaissance, both vocal and instrumental music underwent great developments and were equally important in the musical scene.**
14. ***Norma* is an opera by G. Puccini and *Tosca* is by V. Bellini.**
15. The tonal system was fully developed during the Baroque period, providing a coherent harmonic base for the music of the era.
16. **Antonio Vivaldi was an Italian baroque composer known for his famous oratorio *The Messiah*.**
17. **During the Classicism, music became more emotional and expressive in comparison with earlier periods.**
18. Chamber music flourished during the Classicism with composers like Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven writing numerous string quartets, piano trios and other works for small groups.
19. **The troubadours and trouvères of the Middle Ages wrote monodic songs with religious subject matter.**
20. **L. van Beethoven wrote five concertos for violin, but only one concerto for piano.**