

**Music Theory Program
The Hartt School
University of Hartford**

Guidelines

**Doctoral Music Theory
Admission Essay**

Revised 07-14-14

These guidelines may be revised and will be dated accordingly.

A. Essay

- 1. The Doctoral Music Theory Admission Essay is prepared by a music theory faculty member.**
- 2. A score, blue book, and music manuscript paper will be provided to write the essay.**
- 3. 1 hour is given to write the essay.**

B. Directions

- 1. A set of analytical directions will be provided for the essay.**
- 2. Two tonal pieces will be provided. One piece will be a tonal vocal piece. Another piece will be a tonal instrumental piece. The pieces will be selected from the Baroque, Classical, or Romantic eras.**
- 3. The student may chose to analyze either the vocal piece or the instrumental piece for the essay.**
- 4. The analytical directions will refer to elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, timbre, text) of the music. The directions will relate directly or indirectly to the form of the piece.**
- 5. The essay will be evaluated by a music theory faculty member. The essay will be evaluated regarding organization, information, and musicianship. The clarity and accuracy of the writing will also be important factors in evaluating the essay.**

C. Preparation

The following books are suggested for study in preparing for the doctoral music theory admission essay.

- 1. *Anthology for Musical Analysis* (Charles Burkhart with William Rothstein, sixth edition with postmodern update, Thomson Schirmer, 2008) is a standard anthology containing a selection of instrumental and vocal music from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras.**
- 2. *The Analysis of Musical Form* (James Mathes, Pearson, 2007) is a standard textbook for the form and analysis of tonal and post-tonal music.**
- 3. *Writing about Music: An Introductory Guide* (Richard J. Wingell, 4th, Prentice Hall, 2009) is a standard book with information concerning music writing and research.**