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.


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.