

Exit Exam and Comprehensives

FINAL WRITTEN EXAM [All candidates each year]

The written exam is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 5 and is offered at no other time. All candidates take the written portion each summer. All candidates must remain until 3:30 p.m.

The computer-based exam will include questions in all areas designated as weaknesses on the candidate's first-year entrance exam. These include areas in which the candidate scored below 70% on the entrance exam or, in the case of extremely high entrance exam numbers, represent the 7 areas comparatively lower than the others. If a first-year candidate has more than 12 study areas, the graduate faculty will temporarily reduce the number of areas tested the first year. In subsequent years, the candidate will be responsible for ALL areas.

A maximum of two and a half hours will be allowed to take the "written" portion of the final exam.

COMPREHENSIVE DEMONSTRATION FINAL [Final year only]

1. A 15- to 25-minute preparation rehearsal with one of the ABC Directors' Bands. Composition selected by the Graduate Faculty. (Conductor's score will be mailed on June 1.) These rehearsals will be videotaped and the candidate will meet with Graduate Faculty immediately after the session to review the video.

Scheduled from 12:00 noon to 3:30 p.m. on July 5, the demonstration portion of the exit exam will include:

2. A start-up lesson with a beginner on CLARINET. (10 minutes on July 5)
3. A start-up lesson with a beginner on HORN. (10 minutes on July 5)
4. A start-up lesson with a beginner on SNARE. (10 minutes on July 5)
5. A diagnostics rehearsal with the ABC master's candidate band in which players have been instructed to play specific, typical errors. (10 minutes) Music for this will be provided June 29; length of music approximately 32 measures.
[All non-graduating candidates must play in one of the Exit Exam Bands.]

There will be several groups of 4 rooms set up for exit exam testing purposes. Each room will include you (the teacher), the student or a master's candidate band plus a graduate faculty member. You will have a maximum of 12 minutes in each venue (including passing time.)

For the clarinet startup, plan to have two clarinets. One for yourself and one for your student; you should discuss this with other candidates and use some of the same equipment. (An email in May will show which candidates will be using the same room groups.) Have reeds soaking in water and the instruments pre-assembled (between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. on July 5). Teach basic tone quality, hand position, breath support, but not instrument assembly.



Renowned hornist, Phillip Farkas, enjoyed the company of the many ABC attendees who flocked around to hear his many interesting stories about professional playing (June 1992).

Student should play at least first line E or open G as well as low C during the lesson.

For the (French) horn lesson be concerned with matters related to hand position, embouchure, tone production, and breath support. Have students play at least 2 different notes during the lesson. Having a second horn available for you as the teacher is also a good idea.

For the snare drum lesson, teach set up, hand position, posture, and then address the bounce leading up to the process for playing a 5-stroke roll.

With the ABC Exit Exam Band, it is expected that you have done extensive score study with the 32-bar excerpt from standard band literature and will be prepared to diagnose and correct the 20 or more intentional errors performed by the bands, which are made up of first and second year master's degree candidates.

EXIT EXAM FAILURE

In the event that the candidate does not demonstrate mastery of the four demonstration areas, retake procedures are in place. (See page 14 for details.) Also, if the candidate fails to show a 3-year composite score of 70% or higher in each written exam area, the Graduate Faculty will assess the degree of failure and consider proctored re-examination in December or January, but only in those instances where the candidate has narrowly failed in one to three areas.

*ABC
Building Blocks
for
Better Bands*

