

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS AND UPDATES

Updated 2023

A Comprehensive Examination Check-Form is included for both INSTRUMENTAL and CHORAL majors. You should select the appropriate form (see below) and have appropriate faculty sign each component as you pass this off. Comprehensive Examinations must be completed and this form must be submitted to the appropriate Dean by the specified deadline prior to the student teaching experience. (It is recommended that students keep a copy of their completed check form for their records.)

INSTRUMENTAL MAJORS are defined as students who have a major applied instrument as follows: flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone), tuba, percussion, violin, viola, cello, string bass.

***Instrumental majors, with the exception of piano and guitar, are not required to take a comp on their major instrument.**

VOCAL MAJORS are defined as students who study major applied voice, guitar* or piano*.

***Piano and Guitar majors may opt to be Instrumental Majors.**

INSTRUMENT CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

If you need to check out a VanderCook instrument to prepare for a comprehensive examination, please keep the following in mind:

- All instruments are issued through the Ensembles Office, with the exceptions of cellos and basses. These must be checked out through the Director of Strings.
- Students may check out an instrument for a period of no longer than 2 weeks. A fine of \$1.00/day will be charged for overdue instruments.
- Students may have no more than two instruments checked out for comprehensive exams at one time.
- Students needing a cello or bass should check one out through the Director of Strings. Cellos and basses should be kept in their assigned storage lockers in the basement.
- Students are not to use VanderCook instruments checked out to other students.
- Students must check in and check out instruments in person. Do not leave the instrument in the Ensembles Office unattended. Instruments dropped off in the band office with a note are not considered checked in until the paperwork is signed.

Note for Woodwinds and Brass: It is expected that only minimal marks (alternate fingerings, trill fingering, etc.) will be penciled on the examination music. If the examiner feels that too much is written in, they may require performance from a clean copy.

Comprehensive Examinations will be performed as defined below:

WOODWINDS (vocal majors choose one)

- See Woodwind Comp Exam Guidelines PDF

BRASS (vocal majors choose one)

Trombone

- Example 1 – play the first measure in first position then play measure two to the end in 6th position.

Example 2: Use “tongue slurs” where appropriate

- Example 3: Pay close attention to articulation markings.
- Example 4: Use the alternate slide positions of 5 for B-flat in measure 5 and 6 for A in measure 7 so that you can use natural slurs rather than “tongue slurs.”
- Exercise 7 is for Euphonium/Baritone only.

Euphonium/Baritone

- Example 1 – play the first measure open then play measure two to the end using valves 1 & 3, or 4th valve.
- Example 3: Pay close attention to articulation markings
- Exercise 7 is for euphonium/baritone only and is played in treble clef. Please consult your notes from Brass Methods for treble clef euphonium fingerings.

Tuba

- Example 1: Practice with a metronome, and keep the same pulse throughout. Do not play the last measure at half tempo or the first measure in double time!

PERCUSSION (vocal majors choose one)

Snare Drum - As written

(continued)

Timpani

- One page
- Line 3 of exercise – a two measure rest occurs between written measure one and measure three (D-flat)

Marimba

- Two exercises:
 - o Tarantella
 - o Love’s Old Sweet Song

STRINGS

Guitar

- Exercise 1 must be played with a pick.
- Examples 4 and 5 must be played with right hand fingers. (Choose finger or pick for all other examples).
- Example 6 is for INSTRUMENTAL MAJORS ONLY and may be played in any key.
- Example 7 is for CHORAL MAJORS ONLY. Strum chords while melody is sung. May be played in any key.

Violin

- Two pages as written
 - o Scales
 - o Minuet #1 – J.S. Bach

Viola

- Two pages as written
 - o Scales
 - o Minuet in C – J.S. Bach

Cello

- Two pages as written
 - o Scales
 - o Minuet #2 – J.S. Bach

Bass

- Two pages as written
 - o Scales
 - o March in D – J.S. Bach

(continued)

PIANO

Instrumental

- Perform the Star-Spangled Banner
 - o Choice of Version A or B
- Perform Pomp and Circumstance
 - o Choice A – as written
 - o Choice B – play melody in the right hand, and blocked chords in the left hand on every beat
- Harmonization of Melodies – choose one

Choral

- Perform the Star-Spangled Banner
 - o Choice of Version A or B
- Perform Pomp and Circumstance
 - o Choice A – as written
 - o Choice B – play melody in the right hand, and blocked chords in the left hand on every beat
- Perform Piano Harmonizations
 - o Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair
 - o Hine Ma Tov
 - o Annie Laurie
- Score Reading
 - o The Heavens are Telling
 - o Liebeslieder Waltzes
 - o Kyrie
- Perform Accompaniment – Lullaby
- Perform Accompaniment – Ah, Leave Me Not
- Perform Accompaniment – Poor Wandering One
- Prepare ALL Major Scales – NOT INCLUDED IN PDF

VOICE

Instrumental

- A Hymn or Song of their choice (not included) that demonstrates ability to sing in tune and on pitch.
- Perform up to seven melodic sight reading exercises with correct pitches, rhythms and solfege syllables in both the treble and bass clefs.

Choral

- Prepare a vocal solo (not included) that demonstrates ability to sing in tune and on pitch.

(continued)

- Perform required melodic sight reading exercises with correct pitches, rhythms and solfege syllables in both the treble and bass clefs.
- Prepare to sight read any or all of the parts in a choral selection.
- Prepare to sing all lines and discuss the challenging factors in each of:
 - o Let Us with a Gladsome Mind
 - o To the Glory of the Father

CONDUCTING

The conducting component of the Comprehensive Examination is fulfilled upon successful preparation and participation in the annual Spring Student Conductor Concert. See Dr. Sinclair for approval.