

Sacramento State School of Music
Musicianship

Transcription Exam

NAME:

General instructions

This transcription exam will test your ability to write down music by ear. You may play the recordings of the pieces as many times as you wish. Your work must be written by hand. Low-resolution or unclear photos will be disqualified.

Part I

Listen to the melody under the title “Part I” in the “Transcription Exam” instructions field. On the staves below, write down the rhythm (not the pitches) and provide bar lines. There is a pickup of one beat, which has been provided for you. Do not work with anyone else on this exam, and do not check your work by playing it on an instrument, using a notation program, etc.

Suggested time allowance: 5 minutes.

[A melody similar to this will be played:]

Allegro non troppo

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Part II

Listen to the melody under the title “Part II” in the “Transcription Exam” instructions field. Then, on the staves below:

- Provide a key signature after the clef on each system. Assume that the melody is in F major.
- Complete the meter signature on the first system. The denominator (8) is given, but you must determine whether the melody is in $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{6}{8}$, or $\frac{9}{8}$.
- Write down the melody.

Do not work with anyone else on this exam, and do not check your work by playing it on an instrument, using a notation program, etc.

Suggested time allowance: 12 minutes.

[A melody similar to this will be played:]



Part III

Listen to the melody under the title “Part III” in the “Transcription Exam” instructions field. It will differ from what you see on this page. Circle the errors you hear. Then, explain in as much detail as possible how what you heard was different from what you see by writing above or below the staff.

Suggested time allowance: 8 minutes.

[A melody similar to this will be played:]

A musical notation example on a single staff in 6/8 time. The notation is divided into three sections by brackets above the staff:

- incorrect pitches:** The first two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and an eighth note B4. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and an eighth note B4.
- incorrect pitches:** The third measure. It contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and an eighth note B4.
- incorrect rhythm:** The fourth measure. It contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and an eighth note B4.

Part IV

Listen to the melody under the title “Part IV” in the “Transcription Exam” instructions field. Then, on the staves below:

- Provide a key signature after the clef on each system. Assume that the melody is in **E minor**.
- Complete the meter signature on the first system. The denominator (**8**) is given, but you must determine whether the melody is in **$\frac{3}{8}$** , **$\frac{6}{8}$** , or **$\frac{9}{8}$** .
- Write down the melody.

Do not work with anyone else on this exam, and do not check your work by playing it on an instrument, using a notation program, etc.

Suggested time allowance: 12 minutes.

[A melody similar to this will be played:]



Part V

Listen to the melody under the title “Part V” in the “Transcription Exam” instructions field. Then, on the staves below:

- Provide a key signature after the clef on each system. Assume that the melody has a tonic of D.
- Write the time signature after the key signature on the first system.
- Write down the melody in an octave of your choice, but without changing the clef.

Do not work with anyone else on this exam, and do not check your work by playing it on an instrument, using a notation program, etc.

Suggested time allowance: 12 minutes.

[A melody similar to this will be played:]

