

Sacramento State School of Music  
Musicianship

## **Transcription Placement Exam Information**

### **Rhythm**

Instructions: “Write down the rhythm (not the pitches) of the excerpt you will hear. Provide bar lines. There is a pickup of one beat, which is shown on the staff. It will be played six times.”

Details: The melody may be in simple or compound meter and will include values no smaller than divisions of the beat.

### **Melody**

Instructions: “Provide a key signature, complete the meter signature, and write down the melody you will hear. The melody will be played eight times, and the first two playings will happen in immediate succession.”

Details: You will be provided with the tonic note on your sheet, but you will not be told whether the melody is in a major or minor key. You will be provided with the denominator of a meter signature, but you will not be told how many beats there are in the measure; you must determine that on your own. The starting note will not be given, and the key will not be set up for you; you must determine the tonality and first scale degree on your own.

### **Chorale**

Instructions: “Write down both the treble and bass lines of the chorale you will hear. Show the implied harmonies by writing Roman numerals below the system. It will be played eight times, and the first two playings will happen in immediate succession.”

Details: You will be provided with a meter signature and a key signature, but not the tonic; you must determine whether it is in a major or minor key. Although three or four parts will sound simultaneously, you will be responsible for writing down only the highest and lowest parts. Both lines may contain whole, dotted half, half, dotted quarter, quarter, and eighth notes. Some of the pitches will be chord tones and some will be dissonances. The harmony will include a mixture of diatonic chords and secondary dominant chords.

### **Duet 1**

Instructions: “Provide a key signature, complete the meter signature, and write down both lines of the duet you will hear. It will be played ten times, and the first two playings will happen in immediate succession.”

Details: The duet will be polyphonic. One of the lines will be written on a treble or bass staff, while the other will be written on an alto staff. The lines will include decorative chromaticism and outline secondary harmonies, and the piece may modulate to the dominant (for melodies in major keys) or the relative major (for melodies in minor keys).

## **Duet 2**

Instructions: “Provide a key signature, complete the meter signature, and write down both lines of the duet you will hear. It will be played ten times, and the first two playings will happen in immediate succession.”

Details: The duet will be polyphonic. One of the lines will be written on a treble or bass staff, while the other will be written on a tenor staff. The lines will include decorative chromaticism and outline secondary or mixture harmonies, and it will modulate.