

# Music Humanities Exemption Exam

## Music Humanities Exemption Exam Fall 2026

**Friday, September 11, 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.  
622 Dodge Hall**

**The Exemption test will take approximately 90 minutes and comprises:**

- Part I: Identification of works by composers in the syllabus, based on played excerpts
- Part II: Questions about musical techniques and styles, based on played excerpts from the Middle Ages through the present
- Part III: Short-answer questions on musical terms, concepts, genres, forms, and composers

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Music Exemption Test may be attempted only ONCE, during a student's FIRST semester at Columbia. It is offered only during the Fall semester of each academic year. Students matriculating for the first time in January may take the test the following Fall semester.

**QUESTIONS?** E-mail Professor Susan Boynton, [slb184@columbia.edu](mailto:slb184@columbia.edu).

# Ways to Obtain an Exemption from the Music Humanities requirement in the Core Curriculum

## EXEMPTION FROM MUSIC HUMANITIES Humanities UN1123

**Exemption may be obtained in either of TWO ways DURING A STUDENT'S FIRST SEMESTER at Columbia:**

- 1) *\*\*for transfer students only:* by satisfactory performance in an equivalent course at another college or university (please speak with your academic advisor for the exemption request link)
- 2) by passing an exemption test administered by the department (incoming first-year or transfer students; students matriculating for the first time in January may take the test the following Fall semester)

**The Exemption test will take 90 minutes and comprises:**

Part I: Identification of repertoire, based on played excerpts

Part II: Questions concerning techniques and styles, based on played excerpts from the Middle Ages through the 20<sup>th</sup> century

Part III: Short Answers or fill in the blanks on musical terms, concepts, genres, and composers

**If you wish to request exemption on the basis of a music course passed at another college or university:**

1. Please note that exemption is given only for courses substantially equivalent to Music Humanities (not theory courses or performance study); see the Columbia College or General Studies bulletin for course description.
2. Please fill out the online Music Humanities Exemption Request Form from the Center for the Core Curriculum: <https://my.undergrad.columbia.edu/s/core-exemption-request>.

**QUESTIONS?** E-mail Professor Susan Boynton, [slb184@columbia.edu](mailto:slb184@columbia.edu).