

## Study Tips for Score Identification Portion of the Music History Comp Exam

For the score IDs, it can be effective to make flashcards for the score ID works list. If you're feeling anxious about some musical works you don't remember well or might mix up with others, it can be very helpful to create flash cards for works you don't know (but also the ones you do know well). There are smartphone apps for making digital flashcards, but if you are able to write out words at length, it can be a great form of studying to prepare the hard-copy, index-card flashcards themselves in the first place (before even reviewing them).

You might consider make one flashcard per work listed in the “Section V” of the Department’s M.M. Comprehensive Exam Study Guide, putting the title of the work on one side of a flashcard and on the other making bullet-point information lists about that work:

- date,
- genre,
- composer,
- instrumentation (generally),
- key or other relevant harmonic features
- title,
- any form of that work,
- if there’s a text what it’s about,
- 3-4 significant features described in the Norton Anthology of Western Music commentary connected with those works appearing in that anthology, including important trends and styles we might associate with a work of that genre from that period of music history
- any other visual cues that might help you remember that work’s score,
- ultimately, you're trying to come up with the things that make each work stand apart from the other ones (what makes them sound and look different)

Additional tips for score ID study:

- review the flashcards while not looking at the scores (get to know the info you’ve collected about the works),
- review the cards with the scores,
- review the cards while listening to those works (make a playlist of those works and listen to those works without the scores),
- you might scan PDF of the title pages of scores without the titles and names to practice and review them
- practice with others studying for the comp exam, using covered-up scores or even unknown (other scores) to see how you do with real unknowns and observations you can make about them (like you'd give when justifying your answers in the score ID questions)
- practice writing out short justifications using the kinds of information listed above to identify a work’s stylistic era, composer, and genre
- make a low-stakes game of the flashcard review

*Related study tip:* you might also make flash cards for glossary terms you don't know (but also the ones you do know). It helps to find at least one representative work, composer, or genre you can associate with that term/concept. Music history textbook glossaries are a helpful resource.