A note from Dr. James Briscoe about preparation for the music history diagnostic exam....

To our new graduate students,

May I offer these suggestions regarding your review for the Diagnostic Exam in Music History as you enter Butler's Master of Music program.

First, you should review all class notes from your undergraduate studies of music history.

Second, I urge you to study the score anthology you worked with in undergraduate music history, whether that be by Stolba, Grout and Palisca, or otherwise. The score anthology will immediately draw to your mind the major composers, certain important works, style traits, and chronology of important genres and composers.

Third, I would suggest that you read the short Study and Listening Guide for a History of Western Music by Peter Burkholder. We've been using this book for several years; the Butler Bookstore may have a back copy of the Burkholder on hand. The bookstores’ website is: http://www.bkstr.com/butlerstore/home. The Burkholder no doubt is available online through www.Amazon.com, www.half.com, www.CollegeBooksDirect.com, www.eCampus.com, or any of the used textbook online dealers.

And fourth, I suggest you read the Grove Dictionary articles on "Jazz" and "Popular Music, American" in the Grove Dictionary of Music. Your local or college library will have Grove in print or online, almost certainly. If you have a Butler username and password, you can read Grove from our library’s website here: http://legacy.butler.edu/library/

These four steps would be particularly helpful, I believe. Please let me know if I may help further in any way.

James R Briscoe, PhD
jbriscoe@butler.edu

updated DS 5/12/2015