

MM Final Examination Study Guide – Saxophone

Major Area

Repertoire (solo, quartet, chamber, orchestral)

Be able to discuss important repertoire at all levels. Know composers, style of pieces, difficulty, and challenges provided by each piece.

Pedagogy (beginning through graduate study)

Be able to describe basic pedagogical concepts (embouchure, tonguing, hand position, fingering choices, etc.). Know methods and etude books suitable for use at every level of study.

History of the saxophone (1836-1950)

Be able to discuss the origins of the saxophone, important events in the life of Adolphe Sax in regard to the saxophone and its acceptance as a legitimate instrument. How did the saxophone gain popularity in Europe? in the US? When did it begin to be accepted as a jazz instrument? Know key saxophone teachers in Europe and the United States, and their contribution to the field.

Bibliography

Know important reference works for the saxophone: bibliographies, pedagogical reference works, histories, biographies...

Acoustics

Be able to expound upon the following topics as they relate to the saxophone: conical bore, overtones, octave key function, tuning, principles of tone production on wind instruments.

Cognate Areas

Music Theory

Tonal analysis. Some serial analysis. Knowledge of compositional style of some significant contemporary composers who have written for the saxophone (Berio, Feld, Karlins, Creston, Dubois, Glazunov, Ibert, Lauba, Maslanka, Bolcom, Albright, Bassett, etc).

Music History

Everything you're supposed to know from the Baroque to the Present.

Music Technology (nothing)