

MIDTERM INFORMATION

Your midterm will be Wednesday, February 19. You should expect the following components:

Listening Identification (50%)

Identify the composer and show for each excerpt you hear and describe why it is interesting and/or important. As specifically as possible, address the particular excerpt played (e.g., a style it exemplifies, a compositional feature that it includes, its location in the song's overall form, harmonic features it contains, how it depicts the current scenario or refers back to earlier portions of the show or foreshadows later events, etc.). Naming the song title would be helpful but is not required. You will hear each excerpt twice.

Analysis (30%)

Any musical excerpts will be drawn from the shows we have studied. They will probably be passages that we did not specifically study in class, but they will include features that we addressed in other contexts. Be prepared to analyze:

- Harmony — representing chords with appropriate Roman numerals and figures
- Phrase structure — identifying cadences, depicting phrase structure in a clear diagram, and describing phrase structure using standard technical vocabulary
- Form — representing form with letters (e.g., ABA') and describing formal components using standard technical vocabulary when it exists

You will be provided with a score for any analysis question, and you will also hear the passage.

Short Essay (20%)

There will be a fairly broad question that will provide ample opportunity for you to display your knowledge of the libretto, the literary background, and/or the music of one or more of the shows we have covered. Sample questions:

- The main couples in all three of the musicals we have studied are mismatched in some way. Summarize each mismatch (based on information contained in the libretto) and describe how this mismatch is portrayed musically.
- Much of the music in *Show Boat* is heard multiple times. Pick three examples of songs that are heard more than once (either as songs or as underscoring for dialogue) and explain what meaning the music contributes to the scene because of its other associations.
- Both Julie LaVerne and Liat end up alone at the ends of their respective shows. Which do you feel is the more tragic character? Do you think their associated music contributes to your decision? Explain.