

## Tips for Studying: Listening and Score ID

- I. Do not listen to listening assignments while doing other things.
- II. Always listen with the score in hand; when you have visual information reinforcing what you are hearing, you will remember it better.
- III. Important!! Spend some of your time **not** listening, but instead studying the information on the listening study sheet. Treat this information as you would for a vocabulary test in a foreign language class. It is relatively easy to distinguish one recorded selection from another, but you are being asked to **identify** it yourself.

Link up the composer with the title with the genre with the general date; know the definition of each genre so that it has some meaningful connection with what you hear. This way you are less likely to have Philippe de Vitry writing responsorial psalmody in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (for example). One of the best methods for this: old-fashioned flashcards. Put the composer and the genre on one side, and the name and the date on the other.

- IV. Pay attention to details when you listen; don't simply let music wash over you passively. If you know the piece well, you will be able to recall it in your mind without even playing the recording. To do this, listen with blank manuscript paper in hand. When you hear something distinctive, write it down for yourself. Writing it down will reinforce a memorable motive, and you will be more likely to remember it in your mind's ear. After you have listened to selections, go back and study the selections on the staff paper and see if you can remember the work in your head.
- V. Don't put off the listening until the last minute. It is much harder to cram for a listening exam than for other exams, because music takes up the time it takes up. If you keep up, you won't have to cram.