

Guidelines for LEVEL IV Examination and Senior Recital

for those students performing jazz repertoire

Level IV Examination

The Level IV Examination is required before performance of a senior recital. The examination typically takes place six weeks before the recital, but never less than four weeks before it.

In this examination, the student must be ready to perform the entire recital program. The faculty jury will hear approximately fifteen minutes of music selected, at their request, from the program. The student must provide nine printed copies of the recital program for distribution to faculty members (include the title of each work and the name and birth-death dates of the composer). He/she also should be prepared to answer brief questions concerning composers, dates, and stylistic aspects of the music being performed, and provide other information such as that which might be appropriate for concert program notes. Students should dress semi-formally for the Level IV Examination.

The student must demonstrate proficiency on their primary instrument or voice, performing a broad range of jazz repertoire. The examination (and consequent senior recital) is meant to show what the student has addressed and accomplished during study at UVM. Among basic elements such as expressiveness, intonation, tone quality, swing feel, instrumental balance, and a well-rehearsed ensemble, the performance must demonstrate the student's ability to "make the changes" (communicating the delineation of the chords) through improvising during pieces that include modulation to various keys.

For non-drummers, at least one piece should be a solo or duo piece, played without drums accompanying. For non-rhythm section instrumentalists or vocalists, ensemble pieces should not feature solos by players other than the auditionee. In addition to solo improvisation, rhythm section players should demonstrate proficiency in various accompaniment styles ("comping," walking bass, playing "in two," etc.). For bassists and drummers, at least one arrangement must feature the auditionee during the head, and one other piece must feature the auditionee prominently throughout the arrangement (e.g., in stop time passages).

During this examination, (beginning AY 2006-07) the faculty will name four pieces from the UVM List of Required Jazz Tunes. The student will choose one from the four named and will perform that piece from memory.

Senior Recital

The senior recital should illustrate principles outlined in the guidelines for the Level IV Examination and may reflect choices made by the student that have been endorsed by the private teacher. During the semester in which the student will perform the senior recital, the student must enroll for 1 credit hour in MU 250 Senior Recital plus 1 credit hour of private lessons (the combination results in a one-hour lesson for the student).

B. A. Jazz Studies concentrators are required to perform a full recital in the last year of study. A full recital should consist of roughly 50 minutes of music. No student recital may exceed one hour.

Students in the B.S. program studying jazz repertoire are required to perform a half recital in the last year of study. A half recital should consist of roughly 25 minutes of music, and must be shared with another student who is also presenting a half recital. Upon the recommendation of the applied teacher, and the agreement of the entire faculty, a student required to perform a half recital may perform a full recital. No student recital may exceed one hour.