

Guidelines for Intermediate Performance Assessment

I. Overview

The Intermediate Performance Assessment is a juried examination typically done at the end of the second year of study. Students must have performed on at least two Student Recitals before they are eligible for this examination. Successful completion of the Intermediate examination is a prerequisite for MUL 4500 (upper level lessons).

Students are expected to show significant progress from their Entrance Audition and demonstrate their ability to perform in several contrasting styles.

These examinations are held during the first and last weeks of each semester and are scheduled by the Music Office.

For students in B.A. Composition/Theory, this examination is the capstone performance experience.

II. Repertoire

Students are expected to prepare pieces in consultation with their applied lesson teacher that demonstrate both their technical and musical abilities. More specific requirements by area can be found on the reverse of this sheet. Repertoire choices should be confirmed with the applied lesson teacher and/or Area Head.

Students directly hire and pay their accompanist. Music majors may request a scholarship for accompaniment if this assessment is required for their degree/concentration. See *S:\music\For Department Faculty\Rates of Payment for Accompaniment.pdf*

III. Program

Students need to provide a formal program (*S:\ADMIN\Juries\Level Juries\Juried Audition Reqs + Forms\SAMPLE Intermediate-Senior Program.pdf*) that includes title and date of each composition (and movements if applicable), name and dates of the composer, and approximate timing of each piece. Please print 8 copies of the program to the audition to distribute to the faculty committee. Additional program notes may be included, but are not required.

IV. Research

Students may be asked questions by the faculty committee and should be prepared to answer brief questions concerning composers, dates, stylistic aspects of the music being performed, or other information appropriate for program notes.

V. Attire

Concert black or business casual (no jeans, no sneakers).

VI. Results

Immediately following the Assessment, faculty will grade the performance. A faculty member will inform the student of their results: Pass, Repeat, or Pass With Conditions (e.g. the

faculty may request a repeat performance of a certain piece, or approve only some of the pieces on the student's program).

The Music Office will transcribe notes from the faculty, as well as a formal letter announcing results of the Assessment, and deliver them to the student and their private teacher within two days.

Intermediate Audition Repertoire

Piano

For the Intermediate Performance Assessment, the student is expected to perform a program of at least 15 minutes of music. The program should include contrasting repertoire from all four categories: baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary eras. Representative pieces at an appropriate level are dance movements from baroque suites, classical sonata movements, 19th century character pieces, and selections from Bartok's Mikrokosmos Volumes 5 or 6. Performance of the entire audition by memory is required for students in degree programs that include the senior recital. Memory of at least one work is strongly encouraged for all other students.

Strings

Students must prepare at least 20 minutes of music, and must include one movement of a major multi-movement composition. For this purpose, a major multi-movement composition is defined as a piece that would last more than 15 minutes when all the movements are performed. The program must contain three distinctive styles or time periods.

Voice

Prepare three to five unique pieces or movements from larger works to total 10-15 minutes in length. Repertoire should reflect a variety of (three or more) languages, styles, genres, and eras.

Woodwinds and Brass

Students should prepare about 20 minutes of music in contrasting styles and/or time periods. One of these pieces should be a large multi-movement work (more than 10 minutes when all movements are performed). At least one piece should have piano accompaniment (any piece with accompaniment is expected to be performed with that accompaniment).

Percussion

Students should prepare about 20 minutes of music in contrasting styles and/or time periods. This should include:

1. a mallet percussion (marimba/xylophone/vibes) solo with piano accompaniment (any piece with accompaniment is expected to be performed with that accompaniment)
2. a snare drum solo or etude
3. either a timpani or multiple percussion solo/etude

Jazz

For the Intermediate Performance Assessment, students should prepare at least four pieces in contrasting styles, such as ballad, blues, bebop/uptempo swing, modal, Latin, jazz waltz or other odd meter, and medium swing.

The basic elements to be assessed in the performance include:

- expressive playing
- intonation
- tone quality
- swing feel
- instrumental balance
- well-rehearsed ensemble
- “making the changes” (communicating the delineation of the chords), improvising during pieces that include modulation to various keys

Wind players and vocalists:

- perform at least one solo or duo piece (without drums accompanying)
- ensemble pieces should not feature solos by players other than the auditionee

Rhythm section players:

- demonstrate solo improvisation
- 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)
- except for drummers, perform at least one solo or duo piece (played without drums accompanying)

In addition:

- Prepare a printed program for the Intermediate Performance Assessment and bring 8 copies to distribute to the faculty committee. Include the title of each work and the name and birth-death dates of the composer. Additional program notes may be included.
- Students may be asked questions by the faculty committee and are expected to be able to speak informatively and accurately about the music (e.g., form, key, etc.), the era in which it was composed and/or originally performed, and the composer.
- As practice for situations in which casual attire is not appropriate, students should dress semi-formally for the Intermediate Performance Assessment.

EQUIPMENT: Requests for use of the Recital Hall jazz equipment (including mics, amps, and drums) should come in writing from the private instructor, addressed to the Jazz Area Head. The private instructor takes responsibility for setting up the equipment, putting it away, and securing the room. All equipment must be set up one half hour before the start of all juries for the day; there is not time for equipment set up in between juries.

The Music Office provides personnel only for taking an archival audio recording. Additional requests (e.g. for a sound board or A/V operator) must come in writing from the private instructor **at the beginning of the semester and there is no guarantee that anyone will be available, especially on weekends.**