

General Guidelines for Level III Auditions

I. Overview

The Intermediate Level Examination (Level III) is a juried examination typically done at the end of the second year of study. Students must have performed on at least two Student Performance Recitals before they are eligible for this examination. Successful completion of the Level III examination is a prerequisite for MU 234 (upper level lessons).

Students are expected to show significant progress from their Entrance Audition (Level II) 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 Department of Music & Dance Office. Students may call, write, or stop by the Department Office throughout the semester to sign up.

For those students whose concentration does not require a Senior Recital (B.A. students in Music History, Theory/Composition, or Music Technology/Business), 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.

III. Program

Students need to provide a formal program 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 bring 11 copies of the program to the audition to distribute to the faculty committee (NOTE: the Department Office will not provide copies). 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

Business casual (no jeans, tie optional).

Level III Audition Repertoire

Jazz

For the Level III Audition Jury, students should prepare at least four pieces in contrasting styles, such as ballad, blues, bebop/up tempo swing, modal, Latin, jazz waltz or other odd meter, and medium swing.

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)

NOTE: The jazz area has a separate Guidelines for Level III Jazz Auditions document.

Piano

For the Level III audition, 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. The Level III audition is heard by a committee of the full faculty.

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

Voice students should prepare five (5) songs. Three (3) languages and three (3) styles/periods must be covered. One (1) song must be by an American composer.

Woodwind/Brass/Percussion

Woodwind/Brass

Students should prepare at least three contrasting pieces, one of them a major work.

Percussion

Percussionists should plan to perform a marimba piece (with piano accompaniment), snare drum solo, and either a timpani or multiple percussion piece (may have piano accompaniment if desired).