

Guidelines for Senior Recital Auditions

I. Overview

The Senior Recital Audition (formerly “Level IV”) typically takes place six weeks before the Senior Recital (MUL 4550), but never less than four weeks before it. It must successfully be completed before presenting a required recital. An unsuccessful audition may result in the recital being postponed or canceled. Students must have performed on at least four Student Recitals before they are eligible for this examination.

These auditions and performances are scheduled by the Music Office. Students should sign up for these dates no later than October 1st of their intended recital semester. A Recital Request Form (blue form), Recital Audition Evaluation Report Form (green form), and a copy of the student’s program are due to the Office by noon the day before the audition (otherwise the student may not be allowed to do the examination).

During the semester in which the student will perform the recital, the student must enroll for 1 credit hour in Senior Recital (MUL 4550). They should also enroll in 1 credit hour of MUL 4500 private lessons. The combination results in a one-hour lesson for the student and one hour of pay for the teacher.

For information on Senior Projects in Composition, see *S:\music\ADMIN\Course Syllabi\Music Course Syllabi\ Senior Project in Composition Preview.pdf*

II. Repertoire

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

A. Recital Length Requirements

- B.A. in Performance (instrumentalists) or Jazz are required to perform at least 50 minutes of music.
- B.A. in Performance (vocalists) are required to perform at least 25-30 minutes of music.
- B.S. Music Education students are required to perform at least 25-30 minutes of music.
- Upon the recommendation of the applied lesson teacher, and the agreement of area faculty, a student required to perform a 25-minute recital may perform a 50-minute recital. No student recital may exceed one hour. Recitals are played without an intermission.

For the audition, the student must be able to perform their entire recital program, with all performers present, and provide a formal program. The faculty jury will hear approximately fifteen minutes of music selected, at their request, from the program. Students typically choose their first piece to perform at the audition, and then the faculty will choose the other pieces they wish to hear.

If this audition/recital is required for the student’s major, the Music Office pays an accompanist \$40/hr for up to 8 hours (= \$320 total). Any fees incurred above that are the student’s responsibility to pay. The complete policy on accompanists may be found at *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 Requirements + Forms\SAMPLE Intermediate-Senior Program.pdf*) that includes title

and date of each composition (and movements if applicable), composer's name (and birth/death dates, for classical area only), and approximate timing of each piece/movement. Please print 11 copies of the program to the audition to distribute to the faculty. Additional program notes or translations may be included.

The Office will print programs for recitals and advertise them on the Music Program website Concert Calendar. Further publicity (concert posters, Instagram, UVM Bored, etc.) is the responsibility of the student.

IV. Research

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

V. Attire

Students should dress semi-formally for the audition. Concert black or "business casual." No jeans or sneakers.

VI. Results

Immediately following the audition, faculty will assess 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 audition, and deliver them to the student and their private teacher within two days.

Senior Recital Audition Repertoire

Piano

The program should be 45 minutes (minimum) to an hour in length. The recital should include solo repertory drawn from three or four categories: baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary eras. A representative recital program at an appropriate level could include an entire classical sonata, a Bach prelude and fugue or a suite, a single long work or a group of short 19th century pieces, and a single long work or group of short pieces from the 20th or 21st centuries. The contemporary music does not necessarily need to be memorized, the other selections should be. At the discretion of the piano student's teacher, it could be acceptable for the pianist to include a chamber work or duo with an instrumentalist or singer on the program.

Strings

Students should prepare about 50 minutes (minimum of 30 minutes for Music Education majors) of music in contrasting styles and/or time periods. One of these pieces should be a large multmovement work performed in its entirety. At least one piece should have piano accompaniment (any piece with accompaniment is expected to be performed with that accompaniment). In consultation with the private teacher, the recital may include a chamber music piece with a significant role for the recitalist. At least one piece should be performed from memory.

Voice

The recital requires a minimum of 25 minutes of music representing at least

1. three different style periods
2. three languages, one of which must be English
3. one song must be American

Woodwinds and Brass

Students should prepare about 50 minutes (minimum of 30 minutes for Music Education majors) of music in contrasting styles and/or time periods. One of these pieces should be a large multimovement work performed in its entirety (more than 10 minutes in length). At least one piece should have piano accompaniment (any piece with accompaniment is expected to be performed with that accompaniment). In consultation with the private teacher, the recital may include a chamber music piece with a significant role for the recitalist.

Percussion

Students should prepare about 50 minutes (minimum of 30 minutes for Music Education majors) of music in contrasting styles and/or time periods. One of these pieces should be a large single- or multi-movement work performed in its entirety (approx. 10 minutes in length). Repertoire should include pieces for mallet percussion (marimba/xylophone/vibes), snare drum, and timpani/multiple percussion. In consultation with the private teacher, the recital may include a chamber music piece with a significant role for the recitalist.

Jazz

The student must demonstrate proficiency on their primary instrument or voice, performing a broad range of jazz repertoire. The audition (and consequent senior recital) is meant to show what the student has addressed and accomplished during study at UVM.

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:

- The “tune test” is taken in the semester preceding the Senior Recital, during the end-of-semester area jury.

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.**