

**CORNELL COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**  
**RECITAL GUIDE FOR TEACHERS**

The studio teacher's responsibility is to ensure appropriate musical and logistical preparation for their student's recital. Undergraduate students may not have had prior experience in solo performance preparation and will look to you for guidance in matters ranging from repertoire to stage etiquette. This guide is to assist you with procedures in Cornell's music department. If you have any questions, please ask the department chair or the fine arts secretary.

**Music Seminar recitals:** Music Seminar recitals are scheduled for several Fridays each semester at 3:15 p.m. Most of these occur in Ringer, although King Chapel may be used if logistically necessary. Studio teachers must approve student appearances on Friday afternoon music seminar recitals. Recital forms are available in the music office and must be signed by the studio teacher. Teachers are encouraged to attend music seminar and other student performances for the purpose of assessing the success of the performance. Music seminar is a training ground for those students who wish to prepare for junior or senior recitals. All students who intend to perform a junior or senior recital should appear on music seminar recitals during the two years prior to the preparation for their major recital.

**Juries:** Juries occur at the end of each semester (block 4 and block 9). Each area—piano, vocal, and instrumental—may specify their own requirements. Please ensure that students secure an accompanist by mid-semester. Contact information for accompanists is available in the Fine Arts office. Students are encouraged to rehearse with accompanists and include them at lessons for coaching with you.

**Performance majors:** To be admitted to the performance major, the student must audition for the full faculty by the end of their third semester (sophomore year). This audition may be conducted during the fall jury. See the department chair for details regarding repertoire requirements.

**Junior and Senior Recitals**

- Junior recitals •Scheduled Fridays at 3:15 p.m. during Music Seminar
- required for performance majors
  - optional for music education majors (elective)
  - optional for B.A. music majors (elective)
  - optional with department permission for minors or non-majors (elective)
- Senior recitals •May be scheduled for evenings or weekend afternoons
- required for performance majors
  - required for B.A. Music majors who choose this option as their senior project
  - optional for music education majors (elective)
  - optional with department permission for minors and non-majors (elective)
- Half recitals (25 minutes of music)  
Half recitals are required for junior recitals, and are acceptable for any senior recital other than performance majors
- Full recitals (50 minutes of music)

Full recitals are required for senior performance majors and are acceptable for B.A. Music, B.Mus. education, or elective recitals

All students performing recitals should gain experience by performing on music seminar during the two years prior to their recital. Optional recitals may not be approved without prior performance experience.

### **Scheduling**

- Select repertoire appropriate for the level of the student; consider contrasting styles and length of program
- Select a date available for the student, accompanist, and teacher. Please schedule through the music office (Cathy Schonhorst). All dates are subject to approval by the department chair.

Fall Recitals should be scheduled by the end of the previous school year.

Spring Recitals should be scheduled by the end of the previous school year or during the fall semester.

### **Accompanists**

- Make sure the student contracts a piano accompanist well ahead of time; see Cathy Schonhorst for contact information regarding staff accompanists.
- Accompanists should have all recital music no fewer than eight weeks prior to the recital date. Accompanists may refuse to accommodate students who fail to adhere to the timeline.
- Students and teachers should schedule lessons rehearsals with the accompanist; coaching with the teacher is an important aspect of the preparation process.

### **Recital Hearing**

•Recital hearings can ensure quality control and timely preparation. They are also a helpful means for the studio teacher and student to solicit feedback from other faculty. Hearings should be scheduled at least 10-14 days prior to the recital date in the recital performance space.

Vocal: A recital hearing before the voice faculty is required for all singers. Approval of the faculty is required for a recital to proceed. Program and translations should be prepared

Instrumental: A recital hearing is strongly encouraged for pianists and instrumentalists.

Studio teachers should arrange for at least one other faculty member (adjunct or fulltime) to be present.

•If the studio teacher determines the student is inadequately prepared to give a satisfactory performance, the teacher has the discretion to cancel or postpone the performance.

### **Recital Logistics**

- Approve/proofread the program format; submit to the fine arts secretary one week prior to recital
- Help prepare information for stage crew, including set up and set changes
- Schedule a dress rehearsal at which the student, accompanist, teacher, and any other performing personnel can be present; consider page turners and pertinent stage crew as well
- Acquaint student with appropriate stage conduct; rehearse entrances and bows.
- The studio teacher must be in attendance at the recital. Recital grades should be based on the responsible preparation and the performance of the recital.

