Music (MM) Performance with an Emphasis in Voice

This program is offered by the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts and is only available at the St. Louis main campus.

Program Description

The MM in performance with an emphasis in voice provides an intensive curriculum in solo and ensemble experiences culminating in two public solo recitals.

Graduates of the MM program will be trained to further their careers in private studio teaching or public performance as soloists, ensemble members, or composers. The emphasis for each student's training will be determined by individual consultation with the major professor.

The MM in performance conforms to the guidelines specified by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) for accreditation. Webster University is a full member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Students who desire a more general course of studies may pursue the master of arts (MA) with a major in music.

Learning Outcomes

Students with the master of music in performance will:

- Perform music at a level appropriate to the student's needs and interests.
- Articulate through writing, speaking, and other media an understanding of the theoretical, historical, and aesthetic frameworks of a variety of musics and musical cultures.
- Apply and integrate aural skills, analysis, and sociohistorical knowledge to the study and interpretation of various musics.

Admission

See the Admission section of this catalog for general admission requirements. Students interested in applying must submit their application online at www.webster.edu/apply. Transcripts should be sent from your institution electronically to transcripts@webster.edu. If this service is not available, send transcripts to:

Office of Admission
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Additional Requirements

Requirements for admission to the MM in performance program include:

- An official transcript that documents the awarding of a baccalaureate degree in music from an accredited institution.
- A satisfactory audition/interview before an appointed faculty committee. Guidelines for audition repertoire are available upon request from the specific program director (voice, piano, jazz, instrumental studies, and so forth). Please read the following section on Audition Procedures. Additional information on audition procedures and requirements may be found at the Department of Music website.
- A satisfactory performance on an entrance examination in music history and theory. Remedial studies (without credit) may be prescribed for students who have deficiencies in either or both of these areas.
- Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which should be from former music teachers.

Audition Procedures

Applicants for the MM in performance with an emphasis in voice should present five works from memory, including oratorio/opera arias and songs from the classical repertoire in four languages. A work from non-classical repertoire may also be included.

Departmental Standards and Policies

Students should consult the Academic Warning, Probation, and Dismissal sections of this catalog for further information. In addition, the Department of Music Handbook, available at the Department of Music website, includes departmental policies on admission to candidacy, degree recitals, theses, applied music, and ensembles, as well as other areas that pertain to MM and MA students. This departmental policy manual constitutes an extension of the Webster University Graduate Studies Catalog.

Ensemble Requirement for Graduate Students

All graduate students in music are required to participate in a major ensemble. Composition majors fulfill this requirement through participation in New Music Ensemble and another major ensemble, such as choir, orchestra, or wind ensemble. Additional performing groups may be chosen for elective credit, or substituted for one semester of major ensemble with the approval of the Department. Specific ensemble requirements are listed with each degree and area of emphasis or study.

Graduate Oral Examinations

The Graduate Oral Examination is required of all students at the graduate level. This examination is based on the student's program of study, and includes topics in music history and literature, music theory, and the area of emphasis or study. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to integrate and interpret materials and issues in the major field. The exam emphasizes topics dealt with directly in the student's thesis, recital, or other major project presented in fulfillment of the degree requirements.

This is an oral examination conducted by a faculty committee. The oral examination is usually taken during the last semester of study toward the degree.

Students who fail the oral examination may retake it upon the recommendation of the committee.

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- MUSC 4990 Webster University Opera Studio *(MM vocal performance majors may count Opera Studio as a major ensemble for one semester, but only if they have a significant role.)*

Supportive Courses

- MUSC 5150 The Art Song* (3 hours)
- MUSC 5160 Operatic Literature* (3 hours)
- MUSC 5090 Graduate Colloquium (taken every semester) (0 hours)
- Electives (7 hours)
  Suggested electives include:
    - MUSC 4250, MUSC 4255 Voice Pedagogy I, II (4 hours)
    - MUSC 5370 Advanced Topics in Music Entrepreneurship (3 hours)
    - MUSC 4800 Advanced Topics (2-3 hours)
    - MUSC 4995 Opera Workshop and Acting for Singers (1 hour)
    - MUSC 5002 Applied Voice (1-2 hours)
    - MUSC 5200 Independent Study (1-4 hours)
    - MUSC 5210 Seminar in Music Pedagogy (3 hours)

Students who completed these courses as undergraduates (with grades of B or better) may choose electives.

Language Proficiency Requirement

A minimum of 2 years of language study is required. Italian, French, or German is preferred, but Spanish and Russian will be considered as well. Other languages acceptable in consultation with the Director of Vocal Studies. Students can be accepted into the MM program without language study, but they must complete the equivalent of 2 years of language study by the time they finish the degree.

Oral Examination (0 hours)

Total: 32 credit hours

Advancement to Candidacy

Students are admitted to their graduate program upon completion of all admission requirements. Students are advanced to candidacy status after successfully completing 12 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. In specialized programs, courses required as prerequisites to the program do not count toward the 12 credit hours required for advancement.

Library Holdings

Books, periodicals, scores, records, compact discs, and videos, as recommended for music libraries by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), are conveniently housed in the Emerson Library. In addition, the library subscribes to a number of significant online music-related resources including Oxford Music Online, RILM, Music Online, Opera in Video, and Naxos Music Library.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Music offers graduate assistantships in jazz studies, music theory, orchestra, and choral music. For further information, interested applicants should contact the Chair of the Department of Music. Assistantship stipends do not include tuition remissions. Applications for assistantships must be received by April 1.

Graduate Scholarships

The Department of Music offers a limited number of scholarships to graduate students based on merit. Among these are the Buder Foundation Scholarships, the James Moroney Nigh Endowed Scholarship Fund in Opera, and the TKT Jazz Scholarship. These scholarships are available to graduate students only after the first year of study. For more information, interested applicants should contact the Chair of the Department of Music. Scholarship applications are due by April 1.

Graduate Student General Financial Aid Information

For information on non-music related sources of financial aid, including work study and loan programs, interested applicants should contact the Webster University Office of Financial Aid.