

SIMPSON COLLEGE
Department of Music

Recital Guidelines

Each recipient of a degree in music is required to perform a formal solo degree recital on their major instrument of study. Candidates must audition for the right to perform degree recitals (see guidelines below). Additionally, the full voting faculty must vote to approve the degree recital in order for the degree to be granted. Minimum recital requirements are as follows:

Bachelor of Arts in Music: Half program degree recital in senior year.

Bachelor of Music in Performance: Full recital in both junior and senior years.

Bachelor of Music in Education: Full recital in senior year.

Non-required recitals:

In the case of truly exceptional first and second year students, a non-required full program may be performed with approval from the applied teacher and upon a successful audition (see guidelines below). Juniors and Seniors may elect to perform a non-required half program at the discretion of the applied teacher without a formal audition. First and second year students are not allowed to perform half programs.

Guidelines for recital programs:

Program Length: *Full* recitals should include 45-50 minutes of music within a performance *not to exceed one hour*. *Half* recitals should include 20-25 minutes of music within a performance not to exceed 30 minutes.

Program Repertoire and Substance: Standard repertoire should be performed and should illustrate a wide range of musical styles from a variety of historical periods and composers. Composition students may choose to include a few selections of their own work, not to exceed 25% of the entire program.

Repertoire should be representative of the study that has taken place in applied lessons and demonstrate the age-appropriate technical proficiency expected by the faculty in the area. Vocalists should demonstrate competency in a variety of foreign languages. Instrumentalists should perform at least one set of music composed for their instrument (rather than all arrangements of music composed for another instrument).

If the recitalist is also a composer, a single composition by the student may be included on the program provided that the student has worked with one of the faculty composers on the composition and worked with the applied instructor on its preparation. The composition should be ready for performance at the recital audition.

Audition: Students must audition in order to be granted the right to perform all degree recitals and all full programs (non-required half programs in the junior or senior year do not require an audition, but must be reported at the same time as all other planned programs so that they can be scheduled). The audition takes place during finals week of the semester preceding the intended performance term of the recital (for a spring 2015 recital, the audition takes place in December 2014; for a fall 2015 recital, the audition takes place in April 2015). The student must present 50% of the proposed program to the music faculty in a polished and performance-ready performance. The student will select his or her first piece, and the faculty will call for remaining pieces in whatever order they desire. The major applied teacher is not allowed to call for pieces or make recommendations during the recital audition of his or her own students.

If a student is not granted permission to perform the recital based upon the audition, a petition to re-audition may be made with the Chair of the Department of Music. Such petitions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Group Performances: A chamber music set (saxophone quartet, woodwind quintet etc.) is appropriate for one section of the program, but not required. The chosen piece(s) of chamber music should not exceed one quarter of the total program. A jazz combo is an acceptable form of chamber music provided that the student has been engaged in formal study of jazz improvisation on the recital instrument. The focus of a jazz combo set should remain on the recitalist at all times, with other members of the combo playing a supportive role. Extensive soloing by other members of the combo is not appropriate.

Memorization: Vocalists, guitarists, and pianists should perform all selections from memory, except in the case of oratorio or chamber music selections. Instrumentalists and organists are permitted to use music.

Program notes: Students are expected to provide program notes for any degree recital(s). Notes should be written in an academic style, and sources cited with end notes. It is not appropriate to include any kinds of “thanks” or other sentences of a personal (including religious) nature. Program notes are due with your program submission to the main music office.

Recital Dress: Students are expected to dress in formal attire appropriate for a professional performance. For men, this would be a dark suit with collared shirt and tie, or a tuxedo. Women may choose an evening gown, or formal evening dress. Both men and women should strive to look as professional as possible. Clothing should serve as a complement towards the aesthetic whole of the event, and not as a distraction from the music.

Closed Programs: All degree recitals will be open to the public, except in the exceptional circumstance when it is deemed by the applied teacher that a public performance will prevent a successful performance by the performer. In such a case, a petition may be made to the Chair of the Department of Music and the appropriate Area Coordinator to close the program. A closed

degree program will be performed for the voting music faculty only and never on a weekend or evening.

Honors Recital Designation: Senior music majors at Simpson College are required to perform a senior recital that may vary depending upon the degree program in which they are enrolled. Expectations for degree recitals are outlined above.

The faculty may elect to grant or designate a required performance by a graduating senior an “Honors Performance.” Not all colleges offer this designation. It reflects the philosophy that performance is an important responsibility and that the Honors Program goes beyond existing requirements of the college. The designation exists for the student that sincerely shares in this belief and is willing to go the “extra mile” as they prepare and achieve this Honor.

To be considered for the honors recital designation, a student must demonstrate superlative technical skills found in exceptionally difficult music for a performer of their age. Music making must exhibit great insight and sensitivity that reflects significant preparation and practice. Exceptional musicality must be in evidence. The “honors” performer exceeds technical skill and exhibits high levels of stage presentation and communication. He or she connects with the audience. Requirements for this honor go beyond the expectations of a normal senior program.

	Length of Program	Repertoire Selections	Technical Proficiency	Memorization
Excellent (4)	Program is within suggested guidelines for length	Repertoire illustrates a wide range of musical styles from a variety of composers and historical time periods.	Performance demonstrates a high level of technical proficiency and musicality.	Music is very well prepared with few memory lapses.
Good (3)	Program is over or under suggested guidelines for length by 1-5 minutes	Repertoire illustrates a good range of musical styles from a variety of composers and historical time periods.	Performance demonstrates a solid technique and musical interpretation.	Music is well prepared, but may include some musical and/or text mistakes.
Fair (2)	Program is over or under suggested guidelines for length by 5-10 minutes	Repertoire is limited in variety of musical style and does not include a balanced selection of composers and historical time periods.	Performance demonstrates adequate technique and musical interpretation.	Music has not been adequately prepared for performance. Several musical mistakes are apparent.
Poor (1)	Program is over or under suggested guidelines for length by over 10 minutes	Repertoire is poorly chosen and does not demonstrate a balanced selection of various musical styles, composers and historical time periods.	Performance lacks technical proficiency and musicality.	Music needs more preparation.