

Master of Music

with concentrations in

Music Performance and Music Composition

2012-2013 HANDBOOK

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

CONTACT OFFICE EXT [410.704-] E-MAIL/WEB SITE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Important Contacts
Welcome
Table of Contents
The MM Program – An Overview
Application Process6
Audition Dates and Deadlines
Audition Requirements: Composition
Audition Requirements: Performance
Placement Exams in Music Theory and History/Literature
Degree Requirements15
Degree Projects—Recital, Recital Paper, and Oral Exam
Exceptions 2°

THE MASTER OF MUSIC PROGRAM IN PERFORMANCE OR COMPOSITION: AN OVERVIEW

THE PROGRAM AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Music program offers advanced performers and composers the opportunity to s

AUDITION DATES AND APPLICATION DEADLINES

The Department of Music holds auditions three times annually (usually in January, February, and March or April). Applicants with a performance concentration must submit their applications two weeks prior to the published audition dates. Check the Department of Music web site for audition dates. Applicants with a concentration in composition must submit application materials by the following dates to assure consideration: December 21 for Fall semester entry and October 1 for Spring semester entry.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS: COMPOSITION

COMPOSITION

- 1. A selection of work (portfolio) that provides a profile of the quality and variety of compositional and/ or arranging experience. The portfolio should include an assortment of notated works and represent completion of a Bachelor's degree in composition or the equivalent. The portfolio should include at least one work of substantial proportion. Compositions should be presented with clear music manuscript or computer notation.
- 2. Submit recordings of the works (if available) in portfolio. All recordings should be on a single, high quality cassette or CD with applicant's name and repertoire clearly labeled.
- 3. A single-page, written statement regarding musical background and goals. This should include a description of prior compositional experience, a description of compositional influences, and professional goals as a composer.

JAZZ/ COMMERCIAL COMPOSITION

- 1. A cross-section of work (portfolio) that provides a profile of the quality and variety of compositional and/ or arranging experience. The portfolio should include an assortment of applicant's notated works and represent completion of a Bachelor's degree in composition or the equivalent. The portfolio should include at least one work of substantial proportion. Compositions submitted may include but are not limited to non-jazz works. Compositions should be presented with clear music manuscript or computer notation.
- 2. Submit recordings of the works (if available) in portfolio. All recordings should be on a

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS: PERFORMANCE

All candidates must bring a list of their repertoire to the audition. This list should be comprehensive and include dates of performances.

APPLIED INSTRUMENTS: JAZZ/ COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE

Applicants must be prepared to perform three compositions. One of the compositions presented must be a standard jazz tune. One must be based on "I Got Rhythm" progression. The third may be a standard jazz blues, ballad, or an original composition in any jazz style. The university will provide a stereo system (turntable, cassette, or compact disk) for the audition if the applicant wishes to use a recorded rhythm track (such as the Jamey Aebersold Series). Applicants may choose to provide their own rhythm section, consisting of piano or guitar, bass, and drums. The university will have a piano available upon request.

BRASS INSTRUMENTS: TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONE, EUPHONIUM, TUBA

Audition repertoire must include a minimum of 30 minutes of solo literature encompassing three contrasting stylistic periods and five orchestral excerpts. At least one solo work must be a complete sonata or concerto. Memorization and piano accompaniment are optional. Trumpet players are recommended to demonstrate proficiency on piccolo trumpet as well as B-flat and/ or C trumpet.

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Applicants must perform a 30-minute audition demonstrating technical and musical proficiency using literature representative of contrasting styles. Applicants will also be asked to play scales and to sight-





- IV. Musical Forms: (10 minutes) You will be presented with a list of traditional forms from which you will provide diagrams for several as requested. Examples could include scherzo-trio, concerto, etc.
- V. Name the Composer: (10 minutes) Standard compositions are grouped by fours and you will indicate the composer for three in each group. Examples might include *The Creation*, "Jupiter" Symphony, *An die ferne Geliebte, Pierrot lunaire, Night in the Tropics, Nixon in China,* etc. Examples come predominantly from 1600 to the present.
- VI. Write two 15-minute essays: (30 minutes) Subjects are different for Classical and Jazz concentrations and should be answered according to the program to which you have been accepted. Essays require students to consider an issue from a variety of approaches. Examples could include (classical concentration): the use of pre-existent music in compositions from 1950-2000, or the impact of Beethoven on classical forms found in the works of Haydn and Mozart; (jazz concentration) a significant figure in the field of jazz composition and performance, or the impact of the electric guitar on the history of jazz.

Essays are graded according to content, organization, and written expression in English.

Suggestions for Exam Preparation

Undergraduate students at Towson University study Peter Burkholder's A History of Western Music, 8th

of Music History (MUSC 621) as part of their degree program with the understanding that they pursue individual remediation concurrently with coursework. Appropriate remediation is determined in consultation with the Coordinator of the Music History and Literature Division. Once Perspectives of Music History (MUSC 621) has been passed, students are eligible to take any other graduate-level music history course.

3. Students scoring below 60% will not be allowed to enroll in graduate-level music history courses until one of the following conditions is met: 1) review undergraduate-level music history, retake the exam, and score 60% or higher and follow the guidelines as stated in 1 or 2 above; 2) undertake appropriate undergraduate coursework (recommended to be taken at Towson University) approved by the Program Director before enrolling in graduate-level music history courses. This coursework must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

Students who have specific questions about exam preparation are invited to contact

Dr. Carl B. Schmidt (Coordinator, History and Literature Division)
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Towson University
Towson, MD 21252
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normally granted upon successful completion of the end-of-semester jury the semester before the recital is to be performed.

Upon successful completion of the recital, an archival CD and a program copy must be submitted to the MM Director for retention in the student's permanent file. Students are allowed to repeat MUSC 795 (Graduate Composition Recital) or MUSC 797 (Graduate Recital) only one time. A second failure of a graduate recital will result in termination from the program.

COMPOSITION RECITALS

The Graduate Composition Recital (MUSC 795) will consist of works completed during the student's graduate tenure at Towson University. Total performance shall be no less than 30 minutes of music. The recital program will be drawn from works in the student's Master's portfolio (see below). Repertoire for the recital is subject to approval by the composition faculty, and the recital will be evaluated on musical excellence and organizational skill as evident in the student's ability to compose the music, find performers, organize rehearsals,

carefully notated,	photo-copied	back-to-back,	and spiral	bound with	a title page,	information

MM COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

(Project Continuum) or another course during this additional term of study provides compliance with Towson University's continuous enrollment policy. A second failed examination will result in termination from the degree program. With the exam, students must submit a portfolio with the following materials:

- 1. A copy of the recital recording.
- 2. A paper with grade of B or higher from a TU graduate history and literature with course.
- 3. A representative sample of analytical work from a graduate-level music theory course.

By the last day of classes, students must submit a MM Comprehensive Exam Form signed by each committee member along with their portfolio and recital program to the MM Director.

GRADUATION

Candidates must notify the MM Director in writing of their intention to complete the program before the beginning of the last semester of study. They must submit a Request for Graduation Review to the Graduate Office by the deadline published yearly in the Academic Calendar. If the application is submitted late, graduation will be postponed until the next graduation date. All graduation requirements, including resolution of incomplete grades and passing of the Comprehensive Review must be completed by the last day of the semester in which a student has applied for graduation. If the student does not complete graduation requirements as anticipated, the application must be resubmitted when he/ she again seeks graduation in a subsequent semester.

EXCEPTIONS TO MM HANDBOOK POLICIES

Requests for exceptions to any policy or procedure stated in this document must be submitted to the MM Director in writing with a clear rationale. Any major decisions normally include consultation with the Department of Music Graduate Studies Committee. Students should accommodate this process by submitting requests as early as possible.