

HARVARD UNIVERSITY • DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Guidelines for students considering an honors recital

Honors recitals are normally given in the second semester of the senior year, either in Paine Hall or in another space provided by the Music Department; alternative arrangements are considered on an individual basis.

Recitals ordinarily last 65 minutes for singers, 80-90 minutes for instrumentalists.

Recitals are recorded at the Department's expense, and a professional-quality recording is provided to the performer.

Recitals are evaluated by a committee of three persons designated by the Music Department faculty; occasionally, the faculty may designate an external committee member from within the Harvard community. The principal studio teacher is not normally a member of this group, but will be invited to attend the recital and to submit a written evaluation to the committee.

Joint concentrators are not permitted to present an honors recital as their thesis.

Preliminary approval for a recital must be obtained in the junior year. Students wishing to present a recital as a thesis project should submit the following for consideration by the performance committee no later than the date specified by the Music Department:

- a. A résumé of training and performance history (including music coursework)
- b. An audition video of at least 15 minutes with three contrasting pieces
- c. A letter from the principal teacher recommending that the student be permitted to give a thesis recital.

If preliminary approval is obtained (normally by mid March), the student identifies a thesis adviser from among the Music faculty and submits a thesis proposal (according to distributed departmental guidelines) for consideration at the Department's April meeting. All honors recitals include a substantial research component formulated in collaboration with the adviser, and subject to departmental approval. Typical research components may include:

- A theoretical analysis of the performance repertoire, examining salient compositional characteristics, representative structural designs, and other matters pertinent to the performance.
- A written survey exploring historical and cultural perspectives on the repertoire and the composer(s), issues of performance practice, and details of the development, premiere, and performance history/traditions of specific works.
- An original, public lecture-demonstration of about one hour discussing various matters described above, accompanied by a lecture outline and annotated bibliography. (This would be a separate event from the recital itself.)

- An analysis of the performance repertoire's dramatic impact and character, based on a detailed discussion of its content rather than the subjective impressions of the performer.

These written components should be roughly 20 pages in length (though the materials accompanying a lecture-demonstration may be shorter).

A date for an approved recital should be arranged by the candidate in consultation with the Undergraduate Coordinator, the thesis committee, and the principal teacher.

Assisting artists are the responsibility of the degree candidate.

Repertoire for the recital should be submitted to the adviser and to the undergraduate coordinator by November 15 of the senior year.

The program copy, including program notes suitable for distribution to the audience, should be submitted for the adviser's approval and possible revision one month before the date of the recital.