Department of Music – Composition Honors Project Guidelines

Students may complete an honors project in music in several different areas or combinations thereof: composition, culminating in a recital of original compositions; performance, culminating in a solo recital accompanied by program notes; research, culminating in a written thesis. Combination, or hybrid, honors projects are those that combine research with either performance or composition. A hybrid research/performance honors project culminates in a half recital (30 minutes) coupled with a 25-40 page written thesis. A hybrid research/composition honors project culminates in a half recital of original compositions coupled with a 25-40 page written thesis. Projects should represent high achievement within the undergraduate academic setting, on a par with the best undergraduate work at any academic institution. Honors projects that combine areas must meet the stated requirements for both the areas being combined. Students with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher may submit a proposal for an honors project in music. The deadline for submission is March 1 of the junior year.

Procedures to Submit Prospectus for Composition Honors

1. In January of the Junior year, student should schedule a meeting with the Honors Coordinator to go over the Emory College Honors Program as it is fulfilled in the Music Department. The student then secures a faculty member from the composition faculty as an honors advisor. The advisor must be a full-time member of the music department faculty.

2. Student must meet with advisor by February of the junior year to define the composition project. Under the guidance of the faculty advisor, student should prepare a prospectus of the proposed honors project for submission to the full faculty by March 1 of the junior year. The prospectus should be 1-2 pages and include a description of the project, a timetable for its completion, a list of personnel/instruments and other necessities, and a budget. The faculty member must agree to attend the meeting for honors proposals.

3. Faculty consideration of an honors proposal will be based on student eligibility, the merit of the proposed composition project, and the faculty advisor’s assessment of the student’s work at that juncture. The music faculty will approve or deny the project by May 1. Approval is given based on the vote of the music faculty. Any changes of committee members, including the faculty advisor, will void approval of the proposed project.

Honors Committee

In consultation with the honors advisor, an Honors Committee will be chosen by the student. The committee shall be comprised of the full-time faculty honors advisor, one other regular faculty member from Music, and one faculty member from another department. An Artist affiliate can serve on the honors committee and vote as a fourth faculty member.
**Program Notes**

General guidelines are 300-500 words for each grouping or piece, including biographical, formal, and subjective information. Guidelines for writing program notes are posted on the Honors Blackboard site. The Schwartz Center staff will provide detailed instructions and deadlines for submission as well. It is the responsibility of the student to meet all program deadlines – if deadlines are not met the recital may be cancelled. Program notes should be printed in two formats, one for insertion in the recital program to be passed out at the honors recital (responsibility of the student); and one in electronic format to be submitted to the Honors Program ETC system. Text translations for vocal or choral works may need to be dealt with in a different manner – consult with the Honors Coordinator.

**Coursework**

1. All Composition honors students will enroll in Mus495A for 3 credit hours. In the second semester of the composition honors project students will enroll in Full recital for 2 credit hours and Composition for 2 credit hours and may also enroll in Mus495B for 1-3 credit hours. Mus495A, Mus495B and Full Recital do not count toward the general requirements for the music major. All college rules for drop/add apply to these two courses.

2. In addition, the student must enroll in one graduate course or Category C course offered within the Music Department during the junior or senior year. This course must be chosen under the guidance of the student’s honors advisor and the Honors Coordinator.

**Oral Examination**

An oral examination of the honors project will be given at the end of the senior year, no later than April 11. All committee members must be present. The committee will recommend the following to the College Honors Committee:

- **Highest Honors (summa cum laude):** completion of the program with exceptional performance, together with an overall average of 3.50.
- **High Honors (magna cum laude):** completion of the program with outstanding performance, together with an overall average of 3.50.
- **Honors (cum laude):** satisfactory completion of the honors program, together with an overall average of 3.50.
- **No Honors:** any part of the program is incomplete or unsatisfactory.

**Satisfactory Progress**

The student’s honors committee retains the right to withdraw honors eligibility and/or cancel an honors project or recital at any time if the work is not progressing at a rate that insures successful completion of the program.
Deadlines for Composition Honors Projects

- **February, junior year**: Ask faculty member to be potential advisor, meet to discuss other possible committee members and to define the project, plan prospectus.
- **March 1, junior year**: Proposal due to Music Department, include description of project, outline, timeline. Must have advisor signature.
- **May 1, junior year**: Proposal approval or denial, set date and location for project.
- **Sept 30, senior year**: Honors committee selection completed. Specific dates for committee meeting with student will be assigned.
- **Oct 15, senior year**: First meeting with full committee to review progress with score, selection of musicians and other personnel, budget plan.
- **Jan 20, senior year**: Third meeting with full committee to review the final score, parts for musicians, needs of other personnel, budget plan, rehearsal schedule and program notes.
- **6 weeks prior to recital**: Program notes due to selected faculty readers.
- **One month prior to recital**: Recital Hearing attended by ALL committee members must be completed. Complete run through of project. Final draft of program notes. For projects with musicians from outside Emory, the recital hearing will be scheduled earlier.
- **4 weeks prior to recital**: Program notes submitted to Schwartz Center staff (Lisa Baron).
- **2 weeks prior to recital**: Program draft made available to all committee members.
- **March/April, senior year**: Performance complete. Committee to meet and assess project.
- **April 11, senior year**: Recital and oral examination completed.
- **April 15, senior year**: College deadline for submission of honors project. All submissions will be made electronically.

Instructions for Electronic Submission of audio/video materials

The performance will be recorded and the student will receive a CD, DVD, and an upload-ready electronic file of the recital. The conversion to an upload-ready electronic file is done by the Schwartz Center staff. In the event that the audio/video materials cannot be converted to an electronic format by the deadline, turn in a copy of the CD and DVD along with your exam report with their signatures of your committee members. The library staff will then make the electronic files later.

Recording

The recital must be professionally recorded. The honors student will arrange for the recording through the Schwartz Center staff. The student will receive one DVD and four CDs of the performance. Additional copies needed must be made by the student.

Publicity

All publicity for the performance must be reviewed and approved by your honors advisor.