Department of Music – Performance/Research 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 Performance/Research 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. A combined honors project MUST meet all the requirements and deadlines of both areas. The student then secures two faculty honors advisors. One advisor should be a full-time faculty member in the performance area. If the student’s applied instructor is a full-time faculty member, this professor will serve as the main honors advisor. If the student’s applied instructor is an Artist affiliate, student should identify a full-time faculty advisor to serve in this capacity. The second advisor should be a full-time theory, history, or ethnomusicology faculty member. The primary advisors will provide regular guidance and input to the student. The primary advisor and Artist affiliate will work together in advising the student and assuring that appropriate deadlines are met and if the applied instructor is an Artist Affiliate, he/she will be the fourth member of the committee.

2. Under the guidance of the applied instructor/performance advisor and research advisor, student should submit proposed half-recital program (30 minutes) and research prospectus, signed by both honors advisors, by March 1 of the junior year. The prospectus should describe and outline the research portion of the honors project (25-40 pages). Repertoire for Honors recitals should have a minimum of 70% solo repertoire. Solo repertoire is defined as works for no more than two players. Student should include a timeline for learning and solidifying or memorizing (if required) the repertoire, and a short written paragraph on each piece that details why the work was chosen and its significance within the repertoire for the instrument or voice, and the piece’s relationship to the thesis document. Student should secure an accompanist and list the name on the proposal. Fees for pianists and other performing musicians are the responsibility of the student. Student may apply for funding assistance through other sources,
such as the Friends of Music or the SIRE Research Program. Consult your advisor or the departmental honors coordinator for more information.

3. The final product of the Performance/Research Honors Project will be a Recital/Presentation presented in public in PAS. The actual format of the recital/presentation will be determined by the student in consultation with the advisors. A handout for the audience that gives salient information about the recital/presentation is required. The Oral Defense of the Performance/Research Honors Project will follow the Recital/Presentation either immediately or within a few days. The entire Honors Committee MUST be present for the Recital/Presentation and the Oral Defense.

4. Faculty consideration of an honors proposal will be based on student eligibility, the merit of the proposed recital program, and the faculty advisors’ assessments 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 personnel, including primary faculty advisor or applied music instructor, will void approval of the proposed project.

**Honors Committee**

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

**Presentation Handout**

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 can 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/presentation may be cancelled. 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 Performance/Research honors students will enroll in Mus495A for 3 credit hours. In the second semester of the performance honors project students will enroll in Half recital for 1 credit hour and applied music for 2 credit hours and may also enroll in Mus495B for 1-3 credit hours or Mus495BW to fulfill the College continuing writing requirement. Mus495A, Mus495B and Half 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**

The oral examination of the honors project will be scheduled immediately or as soon after the recital/presentation as possible, 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 Performance Honors Recitals**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan/Feb, junior year</td>
<td>Meet with prospective advisors to define project</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, junior year</td>
<td>Proposal due to Music Department, include proposed half recital program and description and outline of research thesis project, signed by instructor/faculty advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, junior year</td>
<td>Proposal approval or denial, student may secure recital date/oral defense date (because the recital and thesis are interrelated the two should be on the same date)</td>
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<td>Sept 30, senior year</td>
<td>Honors committee selection completed</td>
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<td>One month prior to recital/oral defense</td>
<td>Recital Hearing attended by ALL committee members must be completed.</td>
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<td>4 weeks prior to recital/oral</td>
<td>Recital/presentation Handout draft given to committee members</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 weeks prior to recital/oral</td>
<td>Final Handout for recital/presentation made available to all committee members; all committee members must receive final draft of research paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, senior year</td>
<td>Recital and oral defense completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, senior year</td>
<td>College deadline for submission of honors project. All submissions will be made electronically.</td>
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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.