

Covenant College Department of Music

Student Handbook
2018-2019

Mission Statement

Covenant's music department seeks to support the mission of the College in four ways:

- Equipping versatile musicians and scholars to cultivate a distinctly Christian understanding of music and to respond to their vocational and avocational callings in music, with a special emphasis on service to the Church and a diversity of communities
- Contributing to the liberal arts education of all students through exposure to a broad spectrum of music from different times and places, thereby encouraging the appreciation for a variety of musical styles and the capacity for critical thought about music that are necessary to engage musical cultures
- Serving the Church and the community by participation in the worship of congregations near and distant, and by presentation of outstanding concerts and recitals that draw a variety of people to our campus on a regular basis and intentionally cross cultural barriers
- Engaging in the ongoing international conversation of music through the established routines of public concerts, recitals, clinics, master classes, festivals, tours, collaborative concerts with sister institutions, publishing, and even occasional arenas of competition.

Goals

- Graduates of the music program in the Bachelor of Arts in Music will be able to discuss intelligently, and with a degree of thoroughness, historical style, theoretical structure, repertory, and performance criteria.
- Graduates of the music program in the Bachelor of Arts in Music will be able to perform confidently in public on their chosen instrument and ensemble with technical and musical competence and with correct performance style.
- Students (majors and minors) will develop academic community with peers and faculty, promote dialogue, and develop ownership through collaboration and interaction.
- The department will develop mentoring relationships between students and faculty.

Scholarship Guidelines

Music awards are determined by the faculty after reviewing applications and hearing auditions, to be completed prior to the initial enrollment as a Covenant student. Music department scholarships are awarded to music majors and minors and are based upon

demonstrated musical ability and potential for contributing to the Covenant community under the supervision of the Music Department. Ensemble grants are awarded to students who fulfill leadership roles within departmental ensembles without pursuing a music credential. Both department scholarships and ensemble grants require private study and participation in at least one ensemble; assignments for award fulfillment are made by the ensemble directors after the hearings held at the outset of each fall semester. Students must sign up for a hearing time prior to classes beginning in the fall otherwise the music department will put a hold on their account plus a \$100 processing fee. If a student has an emergency situation or prior commitment that keeps them from fulfilling their hearing obligation, he/she should make alternative arrangements to have a different hearing time either with the director of instrumental studies or choral activities. Students may be released from the obligations of their scholarship contracts by making request to the department chair; doing so constitutes forfeiture of the music award funds, so students are encouraged to consult the Financial Aid Office to determine the net effect upon their financial aid packages.

Students may request to take lessons and/or ensembles for 0 credit hours if the credit hour(s) are not needed for completion of a music major or minor, and if the added credit hours for lessons and/or ensembles will exceed the 18-credit hour maximum. Music award recipients should maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in music classes pertaining to their awards, i.e. lessons and ensembles for those receiving ensemble grants, and all music courses counting toward majors or minors for those receiving department scholarships. Music awards are renewable for the entirety of one's Covenant College career. Awards are reviewed at the end of each academic term and may be reduced or revoked for recipients who do not fulfill the requirements of their awards. Music awards will be suspended during study abroad.

Lessons – Applied Music

Lessons are required for all music majors and minors. The total number of semesters required depends on the degree or credential sought. Refer to Covenant's Academic Catalog for specific requirements.

Lessons are 25 minutes (0-1 credit) or 50 minutes (0-2 credits). Because lessons are given one-on-one, there are additional applied music fees. The appropriate fees are listed in the Academic Handbook and online. Some students may elect to study a secondary instrument as an elective. Students who are taking music lessons that are not required by their degree must also pay a \$100 surcharge. For a list of teachers who give private applied music lessons at Covenant, please check with Mrs. DeWaters.

Private lessons are given once weekly, twelve lessons per semester. Instructors will hand out a syllabus and studio policies at the first lesson. The syllabi and policies will also be posted online on Canvas. Students will have opportunity to complete evaluations for their applied instructors at the conclusion of each semester of study.

If for any reason, except emergencies, the student does not cancel prior to twenty-four hours before a scheduled lesson, a \$10 "reconciliation fee" will be paid in cash to the department, with a hold placed on the student's account until the fee is paid.

Performance Seminar (MUS 111, 0 credits) is not necessarily required for students enrolled in lessons, but students may find it beneficial to attend. This weekly meeting allows students to perform in a low-stress environment, acclimate themselves to the active performance side of their art, hear lectures on music and watch world-class performances. Based on individual studio expectations, applied lesson students will be given multiple opportunities to perform throughout the semester.

Practice: The amount of expected practice varies based on the level of lesson in which the student is enrolled. These expectations are set out in the course syllabus and individual studio policies. Any questions should be directed to the applied instructor. Ensemble rehearsal time does not count toward practice time, as practice time is intended to be attentive, focused time spent developing physical awareness and technical security, not simply running through repertoire.

Accompanist: Each student enrolled in applied voice lessons is, unless declined by their instructor by the second week of the semester, assigned an accompanist. This accompanist's time necessitates a fee that is automatically added to the student's bill. Students are required to give all repertoire assignments to their accompanist as a clean, readable copy, and in a timely manner.

In addition to coming to half of the student's lesson, the accompanist fee grants 30 minutes of weekly rehearsal time for the two musicians. This mutually agreed-upon time becomes a standing engagement.

If for any reason except emergencies the student does not cancel prior to twenty-four hours before a scheduled lesson or rehearsal time, a \$10 "reconciliation fee" will be paid in cash to the department for each affected faculty/staff member, with a hold placed on the student's account until the fee is paid.

Juries: It is the expectation of the department that all music majors enrolled in applied lessons complete a jury at the end of the semester. Although not expected of music minors or those taking elective lessons, applied instructors may require the completion of a jury by such students as well. This is an opportunity for the department to gauge development and celebrate with the student their growth and dedication to the instrument. The final decision of jury participation is left to the applied instructor.

Instrumentalists should be prepared to present two pieces (memorization is not necessary) and vocalists should have four pieces polished. The faculty will hear as many pieces as time allows.

All music majors will complete a sophomore platform at the end of the fourth semester of applied study. The purpose of the platform is to offer the faculty the opportunity to evaluate each student's progress in the major and assess the likelihood of successful completion of the music degree. The platform will consist of an extended applied jury that will feature selections from at least three different eras of music history. The faculty will also consider the student's performance in all music classes.

Practice Rooms

Practice rooms are regularly made available to students enrolled in private lessons. Available hours are posted for the weekdays and weekends outside of the Monitor's Station. Students should anticipate checking in with the room monitor on duty to gain access to their practice room.

Provided as a communal resource, each person must be diligent to care for the instruments, facilities and equipment housed in Covenant's practice facilities. For this reason, food and drinks, other than water, are not allowed in the practice rooms. Practice rooms are to be occupied by one person at a time unless other arrangements are made with the Music Department in advance. If you should notice something wrong or suspicious, please notify the Practice Room Monitor immediately.

Practice rooms may be used for teaching private lessons provided the student has received written approval from the department. Please keep windows closed at all times and turn humidifiers back on when leaving a practice room; humidity affects piano tuning quite negatively. Remember that we are stewards of the things graciously given to us on this earth.

Safety and Security

Proactivity is paramount and attentiveness is vital. Students and teachers should be aware of the surroundings at all times. If a door is open that should be locked please alert one of the faculty/staff. If equipment is missing or damaged please do the same. If someone looks suspicious please let someone in authority know.

Students should be aware of exits in case of an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building. In the case of tornado students should move quickly to basement under the stairwells.

If an intruder is detected students should quickly and quietly follow the instructor's guidance by locking doors, turning off lights, and moving to a place in the room out of view from the window (perhaps on the wall closest to an entry point).

Student Recitals

Any student pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in applied music is required to complete a Senior Recital during their final year. Through conversation with their applied instructor, students will choose a program of 50 minutes of repertoire that is representative of their study at Covenant. It is expected that at least one selection shall be performed from memory and that at least 30 minutes of the selected repertoire will feature the recitalist as a solo performer. Further details will be decided by the applied instructor. Students who wish to complete a senior recital should register for MUS 415 Senior Recital (1 credit) during the semester before or the semester of performance.

Any music student may choose to complete an Elective Recital during his or her junior and/or senior year. Details will be decided on by the applied instructor. Students who wish to complete an elective recital should register for MUS 315 Elective Recital (1 credit) during the semester before or the semester of performance.

Student recitals are given on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Dora Maclellan Brown Memorial Chapel and Fine Arts Center. A standard recital consists of the recitalist and an accompanist. Small chamber ensemble accompaniment is admissible, but any further change to the recital format, location or time must come in the form of a detailed, written request submitted to the faculty one month before the end of the semester preceding the recital.

A recital check must be submitted and/or performed at least two weeks prior to the scheduled program. At least 50% of the literature to be performed must be successfully presented in a live environment, e.g. jury, Performance Seminar, or studio recital. A video recording may be submitted for the remaining literature (up to 50%). Faculty will evaluate students' readiness to present the recital as well as drafts of program notes.

Program notes must accompany each student recital; details are provided as part of the seminar accompanying MUS 315/415. Guidelines for formatting are available online at www.covenant.edu/music/student_resources. Program notes are due, formatted and in their entirety, at least two weeks in advance of the recital at the recital check. A prospective recitalist who demonstrates insufficient preparation and/or does not submit program notes at the recital check will be required to reschedule the recital and present another check two weeks in advance of the new date.

Students are responsible for completing all steps of the recital planning process. A timeline and recital application has been developed to assist in keeping track of this progress. Both documents are available through the Music Department Office and online at www.covenant.edu/music/student_resources. The recital application is due on the last day of classes of the semester preceding the recital.

If applicable, recitalists requiring an accompanist will be assessed an appropriate fee to defray the cost of accompanying: \$250 for instrumentalists and \$150 for vocalists (who already pay a \$100 accompanying fee each semester). Students should determine the necessity of an accompanist in consultation with their applied instructor when completing the recital application.

Performance Seminar

Performance Seminar is a weekly seminar for music majors and minors; students in elective lessons are strongly encouraged to attend as they are able. The seminar is designed to facilitate performance opportunities for students in front of the audience. In order to successfully complete the course, students are required to perform at least once within the semester. Additional performances may be required by the student's applied instructor. As this is a public performance, performers are encouraged to invite their friends and family members.

The seminar also provides opportunities to meet guest artists and faculty, to observe their performances or lectures, and to watch valuable performances or documentaries by the greatest musicians of the world.

Attendance is the most important requirement to fulfill the course, and unless pre-approved, all class meetings are mandatory. Any absence must be pre-approved at least one week before the class or the event. If students are granted an absence, they should expect to make up the absence by attending other classical music events off campus and reporting the events. Students will be failed the course if students missed the class or the event more than twice. Major students should take eight (8) semesters and minors should take four (4) semesters.

Ensembles

Faculty directed ensembles are offered each semester in fulfillment of degree requirements as well as scholarship obligations. Students should anticipate being heard on their instrument during hearings at the beginning of the fall term and may be asked to be heard again at the start of the spring semester. Ensemble assignments are valid for one semester only, and students should not assume that their previous participation will necessarily continue in subsequent terms. Students with scholarships are assigned by the faculty to the ensemble where their gifts will be of greatest benefit to the Covenant community.

Ensemble etiquette includes regular attendance to rehearsals, timely arrivals, ample private practice, and appropriate attire according to the syllabus guidelines. Designated rehearsals and performances are not optional. If a student is unable to fulfill an obligation outlined in the syllabus, the student should expect to make-up the assignment in an alternative fashion as deemed appropriate by the instructor of record before the end of the term. If this is not possible the student may opt for an incomplete rather than taking a lower grade. Students typically should regard the ensemble as a year-long commitment (two semesters) unless scheduling does not allow. It also should be noted that our ensembles perform regularly both on and off campus as an intentional way of serving our community. Students should anticipate arranging their own transportation as part of the class requirements unless the trip encompasses a great distance.

Ensemble membership is not at odds with private study. Students are encouraged to request assistance on ensemble literature from their applied instructors. If there seems to be a perceived conflict either in terminology or practice the student should speak privately with both professors to reach a common understanding. Finally, since ensembles are for credit and part of the curriculum, they should take precedence over extra-curricular plans or weekend getaways.

Faculty and Instructors

The instructors and faculty members of the Music Department have dedicated their lives to cultivating musical ability in themselves and their students to the glory of God. Their goals are not reached with the accomplishment of a concert or jury, but ultimately in developing the fruit of the Spirit within their students.

The gifts and abilities given to the faculty and students necessitate thoughtful stewardship, both in life and practice. The faculty, through advanced study and rigorous practice continue to develop those attributes and, by the grace of God, model methods appropriate to such ends. Students should expect to be regularly called to an artistic lifestyle that responds to God with a delight in promoting others and a deep concern for communicating well.

Piano Proficiency

All music majors must demonstrate basic keyboard ability by successfully completing a piano proficiency exam, which is registered as MUS 200: Piano Proficiency (Pass/Fail, 0 credit hours). The components of this exam will include performing major and harmonic minor scales (up to four flats or sharps), a vocal warmup exercise, a hymn, the accompaniment of a vocal or instrumental soloist, a prepared piano solo, and an exercise performed at sight. All the components of the exam need not be completed at one time; for example, a student may complete scales and vocal warmups in one semester, and then the remaining components in a subsequent semester. However, the faculty expect that all students demonstrate their progress in conjunction with their sophomore platform by attempting at least three of the six required components. Students may choose the process of preparation, but all students are encouraged to take at least one semester of private lessons in their first two years to assess current level of piano ability and determine appropriate literature; subsequent semesters of private study are available.

Music Senior Integration Paper

The Senior Integration Paper (SIP) in music is a research paper of no less than eighteen and no more than twenty-three pages of text that explores a musical topic of limited scope which is chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. A successful SIP will demonstrate the ability to locate relevant sources, synthesize findings in support of a hypothesis, write clearly and coherently, follow documentation procedures,

and think deeply about the relationship between one's faith perspective, the research topic in question, and the academic discipline of music.

Preliminary artifacts produced during MUS 491: Research in Music, taken during the spring semester of the junior year, will include a literature review and an essay on the possible ways the author's faith will impact the research topic. The seminar will address issues such as formatting and documentation, the impact of a Christian worldview on music scholarship, and strategies for effective research and writing.

During the fall semester of the senior year, Music SIP students will participate in MUS 492: Senior Integration Paper in Music, which is designed to guide and facilitate their efforts through to the completion of their projects. Students in the seminar can expect to regularly read portions of their SIPs and to engage in critical yet supportive dialogue with their peers about their projects. The final draft will be reviewed by a committee which will include the instructor of the Senior Seminar and two additional faculty members selected by the student, at least one of whom must be another music professor. The student will then give an oral defense of his or her SIP to the committee, first briefly discussing issues related to the project and then fielding questions posed by committee members.