

Performance Related Information

Performance Opportunities

The UMBC Music Department provides many opportunities for student performers to hone their performance skills. **MUSC191: Recital Preparation (Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.)** is required for all music majors and provides an informal atmosphere in **Forums** for students to “try out” works they are preparing for performance. **Departmental Recitals and Area Recitals** provide more formal opportunities for students to play a complete movement or piece in public. The **Honors Recital Auditions** provides a more competitive environment for those who find this beneficial to their development. All ensembles perform at least once per semester. **Junior and Senior Recitals** are the culmination of the undergraduate experience for Performance and Jazz studies majors. Composition majors present **Senior Recitals** and have works performed in Student Composer Recitals each semester. Submission procedures are explained fully in the MUSC 191 syllabus.

Music Forums / MUSC191

Music Forums are held on **Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** Music majors are required to attend a certain number of classes for MUSC191 each semester, but are encouraged to plan to attend all these weekly gatherings of the UMBC music community. Students may play excerpts, a movement of a longer work, or an entire work and then discuss the performance with the audience. There will be a weekly sign up sheet linked in the syllabus. If students need an accompanist, they must bring the music to the department office by Wednesday of the week prior to the forum. More information about MUSC191 can be found on the syllabus.

Departmental Recitals

A few times each semester, in place of the forum at 1:00 p.m., music majors are eligible to be nominated by their instructors to perform one piece in a formal recital. **Nominations for the Departmental Recitals must be approved by the applied faculty member.** Students must fill out [the form](#) to sign up. A pianist can be provided for one dress rehearsal and the performance for those who need one (see Collaborative Piano Guidelines).

Honors Recital Selection Process

Honors Preliminary Recitals are scheduled at the end of each semester and **begin at 12:00 noon** (note difference from Forum time). To enable more participation, we encourage works under 10 minutes in duration. **Nominations for the Honors Recitals must be submitted through [this form](#) with documentation of approval by the applied faculty member.** The deadline for submission of this nomination is **10 days prior to the first Preliminary Recital, the exact date of which will be posted each semester.** From these Preliminary recitals, some will be selected to perform on a Finals Audition Recital. Students should dress appropriately for these recitals. Students should report to the stage manager 10 minutes prior to recital time and should remain backstage throughout the program. A pianist can be provided for one dress rehearsal and the performance for those who need one (see Collaborative Piano Guidelines).

Honors Recital

Outstanding performers are selected for this event by the faculty from the Final Recitals. Concert attire is required. Faculty will determine the specific music (movement, etc.) for this recital. The event is recorded by the department and a reception honoring the performers follows. Students are notified the day following the last Finals Recital of their selection for the Honors Recital. The list is sent via email. Students and accompanists should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the recital time and they should check in with the stage manager. Please note that all music majors are required to attend the Honors Recital, a departmental celebration of all the semester’s accomplishments.

Guidelines for Performance Dress

Juries, recitals, hearings, masterclasses, auditions, chamber performances, and other concerts require a degree of professionalism that extends to clothing and outward appearance. You as a performer want the audience to be able to focus on your performance and the hard work you put into your preparation rather than be distracted by your clothing choices. As you select your outfit, think about the level of formality the occasion warrants and the climate of the performance space. You want to be appropriate for the occasion and also comfortable. Be mindful as well of your audience's sightlines for the entire performance, including your bow. In some cases audience members may be seated below or directly above you.

In all performances, you'll want to find a balance between professional and personal identity. Keep in mind that your clothing choices reflect to the public your professional "brand." Above all, you want to give the impression that you're taking your performance seriously.

Professionalism in concert dress is about more than appearance, too. Musical performance is inherently physical, and clothing that restricts your movement or breath forces you to perform below your capabilities. Always keep in mind how your outfit may affect your stance, posture, balance, breath, and tone production, and make wise choices. We highly recommend that you practice your program wearing your intended outfit and shoes in advance. Comfort and ease of motion on stage translate to performances that allow you to do your absolute best.

Guidelines for Student/Composer Collaborations

We are a collaborative department with a passion for new music, so student composers and performers are often eager to work together, a practice we all encourage. However, in the past, there have been issues when students make plans together either due to the difficulty level of the music composed or when young performers and composers suddenly realize they have over committed.

For this reason, we keep faculty as an important part of the communications. If a student performer asks a composer for a piece, the primary teachers of each student should communicate about level, duration, and a realistic timeline for the project. Similarly, if a student composer asks a performer to write a piece for him/her/them, faculty need to assess the viability of the project.

With ensemble directors, if a student approaches them about composing for their ensembles, the directors should talk with the composition teacher of the student (or direct the student to consult with their instructor) to ascertain whether the student is at a level to take on a larger ensemble project. Typically large student ensemble projects are reserved for composition major juniors and seniors.

As we work toward professionalism with our students, we encourage meaningful and educational collaborations that will prepare for your lives post-UMBC.