

Senior Project in Music

Information Sheet

Senior Project Requirement

A Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music requires seven units of core courses beyond Music 150, three units of Applied Music, and one unit of Senior Project. Senior Project (MUSC 420, 421, 422) is as an independent study. In consultation with a project advisor, students must complete an Independent Study Form, which includes a proposal that clearly and fully states how this self-designed course of study fulfills the requirement of senior project. Students are asked to consult with the music faculty for input during Music Juries on Reading Day, no later than the semester before they intend to begin their project, typically spring semester of the junior year.

Proposing Senior Project

By the middle of their junior year, students, in consultation with the music faculty, declare their area of concentration (composition, performance, research). By the end of their junior year at semester juries, students propose a senior project based on these guidelines:

1. **Performance:** A public recital of no less than 60 minutes in length, with at least three style periods represented (including 20th century). Students will typically enroll in the appropriate applied music instruction course (one-quarter unit) during Fall of their senior year; and, in the Spring of their senior year, enroll in two courses, a second one-quarter unit of applied music instruction and MUSC 420 (one-half unit). The one-half unit of applied instruction earned for Senior Project is above and beyond the five one-quarter units required for graduation in the major.
2. **Composition:** Creation of an original work or works presented to the public and introduced by the composer. Students will typically enroll in MUSA 104 (one-quarter unit) during Fall of their senior year; and, in the Spring of their senior year, enroll in two courses, a second one-quarter unit of MUSA 104 and MUSC 420 (one-half unit). The one-half unit of applied instruction earned for Senior Project is above and beyond the five one-quarter units required for graduation in the major.
3. **Research:** An original thesis tailored to the student's special interests, pursued in consultation with a member of the music faculty, and culminating in a public lecture. Students will enroll in either MUSC 420 and 422 (two one-half unit courses) or MUSC 421 (a one unit course) during their senior year.

Students may, in consultation with the faculty, propose a senior project combining more than one area of concentration (e.g., performance and composition, performance and research, composition and research).

Steps for Application and Registration:

1. Students and Advisor(s) need to identify one of the following two ways of completing the senior project. These course numbers should be included in the proposal to be submitted to the Chairperson of Fine Arts before the first day of final exams in the semester prior to the start of proposed coursework.

To complete 1 unit of a research-format senior project the student will typically enroll in the following course sequence:

For a yearlong, two-semester independent study:

Fall MUSC 420 Senior Project (1/2 unit)
Spring MUSC 422 Senior Project (1/2 unit)

In special cases, a student may complete a research-format senior project in one semester. The student would therefore enroll in MUSC 421 Senior Project (1 unit), typically the spring of their senior year.

To complete 1 unit of performance- or composition-format senior projects, the student will typically enroll in the following course sequence:

Fall MUSA XXX (1/4 unit of applied music instruction*)
Spring MUSA XXX (1/4 unit of applied music instruction*)
 MUSC 420 Senior Project (1/2 unit)

*These units of applied music instruction are to be above and beyond the required minimum 5 units of applied music instruction required for the major.

The student and the professor must complete an Independent Study Application, available from Olin administration or online at:

http://www.roanoke.edu/inside/a-z_index/fine_arts/music/music_major_forms_and_guidelines

In addition to following the Independent Study Application guidelines, it is critical that these four key pieces of information be included:

- ✓ Course number(s) for the senior project (outlined above)
- ✓ Supervising Instructor's name (see item 4 below for clarification)
- ✓ A proposal outlining the content of the senior project (please see form for further instructions)
- ✓ Signatures of the student and the supervising instructor, with an additional blank signature line for the chairperson's signature

The completed application is approved by the Fine Arts Department Chair who will forward registration information to Academic Affairs.

2. Once the approval process is complete, the Registrar's Office is notified by Academic Affairs to create the MUSC course for the student. Only after the application process is complete will the

course appear on the student's schedule. Failure to submit the completed application on time may delay registration for the course.

3. Under some circumstances (e.g., a hybrid project focusing on lecture with the addition of performance), a student's senior project will consist of a public lecture during which they will also perform (or premiere original creative work). In this case, while the actual senior project is a yearlong 1-unit research-format project (MUSC 420, 422) supervised by a senior project instructor, additional enrollment with an applied music instructor (other than the senior project supervising professor) may also be utilized to support student preparation.

Students in the Honors Program

As outlined in the "The Honors Distinction Project: Guidelines and Examples," students majoring in music may use their Senior Project in music as their Honors Program Distinction Project. Note that students must enroll in one (1) additional unit of independent study—MUSC 405/406/407 (½, 1, ½) or HONORS 405/406/407 (½, 1, ½)—above and beyond the one (1) unit required for the Senior Project in Music (described above). This additional unit of course work will be tailored to the project designed by the student, in consultation with his or her supervising committee, with the goal of deepening and strengthening the student's exploration of a field. For example, this additional course work might include independent study with a faculty member in Literary Studies, History, or Modern Languages; or a student might need to pursue data collection, develop a survey, etc., as part of research in music therapy or ethnomusicology. A Summer Scholar project would also fulfill the additional one unit requirement. Each student's course of study will be different, but interdisciplinary work is strongly encouraged.

Scheduling Event/Space Reservations/Media Technology

An online reservation must be completed for the project event date and all rehearsal dates (including dress rehearsal and performance) in Olin Recital Hall: <https://forms.roanoke.edu/finder/dept/49>. In addition, the site of a reception must be scheduled and reserved. Desired dates must be cleared first through Ms. Ronda Philips (Olin Hall Administration in the Fine Arts office) before any reservations can be made. Information needed: date and time the room is needed, set-up of chairs, if reception is desired in that chosen space, etc. Reservation for the event and hearing (see below) must be approved by the supervising professor (Senior Project instructor) in consultation with the music faculty well in advance of the desired dates. For PowerPoint presentations, etc., students can request to use the department's projector and projection screen (we recommend scheduling assistance with Mr. Scott Smith of Media Services in IT (ssmith@roanoke.edu)).

Publicity

Invitations, posters or flyers and /or e-mail announcements are important methods of advertising the performance or lecture. The student is responsible for creation and distribution of these materials.

Senior Project Hearing (Required)

Must be scheduled no later than two weeks before the program takes place. The Music Faculty must be contacted, through the supervising professor, in advance, for availability. Hearings are expected to be fully realized presentations if research-format projects; for performance-format projects, all music must be memorized; and for composition-format projects, students may include recorded performances if performers are unavailable for the hearing.

Financial Assistance

The Fine Arts Department has allotted \$50.00 for each senior project, which can be used in any way the student desires. One can apply this to a reception or program/publicity costs; students are responsible for all costs over this amount. The department support will not exceed \$50.00 per student. Prior to any reception purchases or ordering of programs through the print shop, please consult with Ms. Kathy King, Department Secretary for approval and procedures.

The Eleanor G. Jones Marion College Scholarship

The Eleanor G. Jones Marion College Scholarship funds the enhancement of experiential learning opportunities of students majoring in the Department of Fine Arts via research, internships, service-learning, study away, creative/artistic works. Complete and submit (in consultation with the project advisor) the Jones Scholarship/Music Area form to the Fine Arts department chair. These funds may not be applied to catering or printing costs. Form can be found online at: http://www.roanoke.edu/inside/a-z_index/fine_arts/music/eleanor_g_jones_marion_college_scholarship

Reception

If desired, the student may arrange for a reception after the public event. Refreshments are the responsibility of the student, but may be arranged through RC Catering. Information, including menu with prices available at http://www.roanoke.edu/inside/a-z_index/dining_services/rc_catering). Students are responsible for the cost of the reception. Do **not** send the bill to faculty or staff of the Fine Arts Department! Receptions can be scheduled in the informal green room area outside Olin Recital Hall; or, with special approval from Olin Hall Administration, receptions may be held in Lower Smoyer Gallery. Gallery receptions must be scheduled for after 4:00 p.m. in order to avoid public gallery hours. The gallery may require the student hosting a reception to cover the cost of a gallery assistant to monitor an art installation. Depending on the art installation exhibited at the time of the reception, the gallery may require the student hosting a reception to cover the cost of a gallery assistant to monitor the gallery. The student and/or associates (family, Mu Beta Psi, etc.) is responsible for set-up and tear-down as well as clean up after the reception.

Printed Program

All events must include a program of some sort. Students should consult with their project advisor to determine what is appropriate for the event (recital, lecture, etc.). Please give completed program, including any and all translations, program notes, etc., to supervising instructor at least two weeks before the performance. Once approved (revised, corrected, etc.), attach a PDF of the program to a

Print Shop Request form (online) no later than 7 business days before the event date. This will give time for any questions to be answered, or, if a special cover image is desired, and/or multiple colors, and thus needing extra time. Please keep in mind that color copies, multiple pages, or large format programs have additional costs—for example, color printing is \$.40 per one sided copy versus \$.04 for black and white. Prior to approving the order, please make sure that you have obtained an estimate of the total cost.

Video Recording and Piano Tuning

Arrange for Mu Beta Psi to record the program (video camera courtesy of Mrs. Sandborg). Contact Dr. Bachelder at **least** two weeks prior to the project's event date. One tuning, either before dress rehearsal or actual concert, will be provided. The music program will cover one tuning only.

Assessment of Senior Project

Students are required to submit a critical reflection essay that describes their senior project experience, examining what they learned from that experience and articulate this learning in a 1000-word paper due to their instructor before final grades are due. **Supervising professors** should complete the Advisor Evaluation of Senior Project in Music, and submit this form along with the student's critical reflection essay to the music program's assessment coordinator.

Stage Managing for Olin Recital Hall Events

The following information should be shared with students (e.g., Mu Beta Psi or others) assisting the senior with the project presentation.

- Someone should be stationed at each of the **three hall entrances**:
 - 1) Artist's entrance (stage left) remains closed, except when opened for an entrance/exit;
 - 2) Rear staircase door (audience left) remains open, but please monitor for noise from the third floor access door;
 - 3) Rear double door (audience right) should be closed once an event has begun, but please permit entrances until a musical performance has actually begun.
- Please **seat latecomers** during applause or during a break between movements or sections or between songs. **No seating once a performance has begun.**
- Please **assist in moving** the piano, music stands, etc., if and when needed. Please assist with the **piano lid**, which will need the short or long stick, depending upon the performance. (You will be informed about needs before the concert.)
- Please **be in the hall 45 minutes before** the event start time. We need everyone there, in order to make sure the hall is ready for use, and to receive any specific instructions from the performer(s) regarding the event.
- In the event of an **overflow audience**, extra chairs on stage right should be added to the floor. There are 130 chairs; however, the Fire Marshall's capacity for the hall is 125, and this maximum number must be observed.
- Please assist with the **lights**. Access (see music faculty) via third-floor Olin and/or the covered light box (next to the side artist's door). Before the performance begins, **audience lights** are lowered; then raised during intermission.