

Case Western Reserve University Department of Music

Requirements for the MA in Historical Performance Practice

This is a specialized program within the MA degree in musicology offered by the Case Music Department. It deals with repertoires and performance practice from the earliest notated music up to 1850. Students should expect to spend a minimum of two years in full-time study in Cleveland.

Admission Information

Admission to the program is granted to those who demonstrate a high level of historical performance skill and good scholarly potential. A Diagnostic Examination in Music History and Music Theory will be administered to entering students to determine if there are deficiencies in any of these areas. If deficiencies are found, remedial courses will be required with the consequent extension of the hours required beyond the minimum.

Students in this program who demonstrate exceptional accomplishment may petition to enter either the DMA or the PhD in Historical Performance Practice degree program before the completion of the MA degree. On this possibility, see the Degree Overlap section below.

Audition Information

Three pieces are required, of differing style and character, with a total length of approximately 20 minutes. We are interested to observe the candidate's command of various national idioms, ornamentation styles, and other aspects of historical performance as well as the overall level of artistry.

Along with the application, candidates should submit an unedited digital audio or video recording for consideration by the admissions committee. From these, the committee will select those who will be invited to travel to Cleveland for a live audition and interview. For these on-campus auditions, it is expected that the candidate will provide an accompanist where applicable, unless arrangements have been made in advance to provide one through the Case Music Department. It is also possible to use the recording in lieu of the live audition, although a campus visit is strongly recommended as part of the audition process.

Coursework and Applied Music

All programs are formulated to suit the needs of the individual student and require the consent of the graduate advisor. A minimum of 21 hours of coursework, seminars and tutorials is required, including Bibliography and Research (MUHI 610), Introduction to Historical Performance Practice (MUHI 441), Medieval/Renaissance Notation (MUHI 443), Pre-Tonal Theory and Analysis (MUTH 416), and a minimum of one Seminar in Historical Performance Practice (MUHI 442). Students intending to proceed to doctoral work are strongly advised to take Schenkerian Analysis (MUTH 424). In addition, a minimum of two semesters of applied music (MUAP) is required for zero credit, along with 6 credit hours of registration for the lecture-recital and document (MUAP 651). On this, see below.

Ensemble Participation

All students in this program will participate in one or more of the Case historical performance ensembles during each semester in which they are on campus. This is in order to benefit from working with the faculty, to learn repertory, and to contribute to the success of the ensembles.

Foreign Languages

Students must demonstrate ability to read one language approved by the graduate advisor as relevant to the student's research. (These are generally drawn from German, French, Italian, and Latin, though exceptions can be made.) The examination consists of two excerpts on subjects related to the student's area of specialty (each excerpt ca. 200-300 words in length), one to be translated with the aid of a dictionary, one to be translated without dictionary. Two hours are permitted for the examination—one hour for each excerpt.

The minimum required level of reading ability is usually attained by the equivalent of two years of college-level study of the language plus further reading in musical and musicological writings in the language.

Lecture-Recital and Document

One juried lecture-recital is required, accompanied by a written document (MUAP 651). The 6 credit hours of registration for this are in addition to the required 21 hours of coursework. The jury will consist of three full-time faculty members who have agreed to act in that capacity, one of whom will serve as the advisor. After securing a date acceptable to the jury and available on the Department calendar, the student will work with the advisor to prepare a lecture draft which will be distributed to the entire jury no less than one month before the performance. The final version of the lecture will incorporate changes mandated by the jury. In addition, the advisor, along with the applied teacher, will monitor the preparation of the recital portion, and this will be previewed for the jury approximately one month before the public presentation. Inadequate preparation may result in postponement of the lecture-recital. The successful completion of the lecture-recital will be certified by a majority of the jury.

Generally, the lecture and performance components will be of approximately equal length, with the overall event not exceeding ninety minutes, including intermission(s). The accompanying document will be finished after the lecture-recital with the further advice and ultimate approval of the advisor. The student will also have a debriefing session with the jury following the presentation to discuss ways for future improvement, as necessary.

Students are expected to publicize the lecture-recital by all appropriate means, in addition to its listing on the Department concert calendar. Lecture-recitals should be scheduled by November 1 or April 1 during the semester before the event.

Degree Overlap

Students in the Case HPP MA program who wish to continue on to the DMA or the PhD may formally petition to do so after three semesters of study. If the petition is granted, any coursework already taken will count towards the doctoral requirements, and DMA students will be exempt from the first lecture-recital (MUAP 751 for 3 hours), completing instead the MA lecture-recital (MUAP 651 for 6 hours). The doctoral comprehensive examinations will then be taken in early Fall of the fourth year at Case, rather than the third year as is normally required for doctoral students.

Students who graduate from the Case HPP MA program, then later apply to enter the DMA or PhD program, will be required to complete 24 hours of coursework, instead of the 36 normally required for the doctoral degree. **For DMA students, the 24 required hours of coursework will include 3 hours of registration for the second DMA lecture-recital (MUAP 752).**