

Case Western Reserve University
Department of Music

*Requirements for the PhD in Musicology with emphasis in
Historical Performance Practice*

This is a specialized program within the PhD degree in Musicology offered by the Case Music Department. Study in this program leads to a research degree that combines comprehensive knowledge of historical performance practice (up to 1850) and music history. A minimum of three years of full-time study in Cleveland should be expected, plus whatever time is needed to prepare for the comprehensive examination, present the lecture-recital, and complete the dissertation (see below).

Admission Information

Admission to the program is granted to those who demonstrate a high degree of skill in historical performance and excellent scholarly potential in music history and performance practice. Admission requirements include those for the PhD in Musicology plus an audition.

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 (based in part on a diagnostic examination taken upon entering the program) and require the consent of the graduate advisor. A minimum of 36 hours of course work, seminars and tutorials is required, which must include Bibliography and Research (MUHI 610), Introduction to Historical Performance Practice (MUHI 441), Medieval/Renaissance Notation (MUHI 443), Pre-Tonal Theory and Analysis (MUTH 416), Schenkerian Analysis (MUTH 424), two Seminars in Historical Performance Practice (MUHI 442), two Doctoral Seminars in Musicology (MUHI 590), and the PhD Lecture-Recital & Document (MUAP 751; see below). In addition, a minimum of three semesters of applied music lessons (MUAP 501, 502, etc.) is required for zero credit hours.

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

Prior to the comprehensive examination, students must demonstrate ability to read in two languages 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.) Each 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.

Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Examination is to be taken at the beginning of the third year of study, in September. It consists of two parts: written and oral. The orals are taken within two weeks of the written exam. Both the written and the oral examinations can be repeated, but no more than once. Students will be provided with a laptop for use in all sections of the written exam.

The **written examination** is in two parts, the first of which is a general test on historical performance practice and the history of music from the Middle Ages to the present, given in four sections as follows:

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| Day 1: 9 am - 12 pm | Historical Performance Practice (HPP) |
| Day 1: 2 pm - 4 pm | Medieval and Renaissance |
| Day 2: 9 am - 11 am | 17th and 18th Centuries |
| Day 2: 11 am - 1 pm | 19th and 20th Centuries |

Questions are drawn from the entire field of Western music and are not necessarily related to topics covered in seminars. The HPP section consists of two one-hour essays (chosen from four given topics) and four short questions (chosen from six). The other sections each consist of two one-hour essays (chosen from four given topics).

The second part of the written exam is an analysis test that requires a detailed critical commentary on compositional and contextual aspects of two works representative of different style periods. The analysis test is an open book examination, administered in Haydn Hall, which takes place on Day 3 from 9 am - 5 pm.

Students will be given copies of their written exams shortly after their completion, and will be responsible for preparing for the oral follow-up exam, which will be scheduled about two weeks following the written exams. This **oral examination**, which extends over one and a half hours, focuses on questions posed in the written examination and on issues related to these questions.

Lecture-Recital

One juried lecture-recital, relating to the topic of the student's dissertation, is required (MUAP 751 for zero credit hours). It is generally presented as the dissertation nears completion. The jury will consist of three full-time faculty members, including the dissertation 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. Generally, the lecture and performance components will be of approximately equal length, with the overall event not exceeding ninety minutes, including intermission(s). The successful completion of the lecture-recital will be certified by a majority of the jury. 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.

Dissertation

A minimum of 18 credit hours of registration is required for the dissertation. (See requirements for PhD in musicology.) These 18 credit hours are in addition to the required 36 credit hours of coursework. The dissertation itself must be a significant scholarly contribution in the fields of musicology and historical performance practice. (See the Case Western Reserve University [guidelines for doctoral dissertations](#).)