

Department of Music Fall juries - Dec 2020.

The Dept of Music has determined that fall juries will take place this semester. Given that, by university CoVid-19 Health & Safety-related restrictions, in-person instruction and testing is heavily restricted on campus this fall, we are requiring that all Fall 2020 Dept. of Music juries be submitted remotely **by video recording** as follows:

Jury submissions:

1) **All B.Mus. & M.Mus. students taking applied lessons in the fall semester of 2020 are *required* to complete a December 2020 jury. This is not an optional component of applied lessons.**

2) ALL students of Bachelor of Music programs, and Master of Music (Performance) programs will submit a video-recorded jury by the end of day (11:59 p.m.), **Dec. 4th, 2020**. The recording links will then be shared with jury members who will then grade the juries by the end of the next week (Dec 11th). The resulting jury grades and comments will then be forwarded individually by each committee member to the Dept of Music Main Office (i.e. Rohanna Wheatley <rohanna.wheatley@usask.ca>). The Department of Music Main Office will then (A) calculate all jury grades and (B) forward all jury comments to individual students. All B.Mus. juried grades will be blended into each student's fall 2020 applied lessons grade as per standard Dept of Music policy.

3) Data Transfer: Providing only the (private or unlisted) YouTube link(s) to www mounted videos is a much easier way to manage these video submission compared to students sending actual video files to jury chairs. As such the department is requiring that all jury video jury recordings be posted on a private or unlisted YouTube link and that the related links be forwarded to the following jury chairs:

Brass/Percussion – Prof. Dean McNeill dean.mcneill@usask.ca

Piano – Prof. Kathleen Solose kathleen.solose@usask.ca

Strings – Dr. Véronique Mathieu veronique.mathieu@usask.ca

Voice – Dr. Garry Gable i.sing@usask.ca

Winds – Dr. Glen Gillis glen.gillis@usask.ca

We strongly encourage a review of the information below to help clarify how to consider your jury this fall.

Jury Content.

Each jury will follow previously established rules for content within each instrument or instrument area, but will generally consist of two-three contrasting works, of approximately 10-minutes length in total. To avoid confusion, students **and** their Applied instrument instructor will together confirm jury content well in advance of the recording being made.

Accompaniment.

Accompaniment is encouraged for juries, however restrictions due to Covid-19 require that we acknowledge that it will not be required for fall 2020 juries. Students can work with a recorded accompaniment, live accompaniment, or they can perform the repertoire with no accompaniment. Piano and percussion majors can record *solo* juries on campus however our campus remains closed to all other Dept. of Music students. This means that non-piano and non-percussion applied students must record their fall 2020 juries off campus.

Preparation: It is imperative that students prepare in the coming weeks discussing their options with their Applied instructor so that they can plan and prepare accordingly for these term end juries.

Recording:

We encourage each student to practice the recording session for your jury performance in order to avoid technical issues, such as the volume gain, that can play a critical role in the overall recording quality. We **do not expect** professional level audio or video, however taking the time to record yourself, and in so doing adapting to the technical aspects of recording, is highly advisable. If you are struggling with the recording aspect, or with mounting the jury recording on YouTube, please refer to the instructional videos mounted on the YouTube channel UofS Music, and/or contact Wayne Giesbrecht at wayne.giesbrecht@usask.ca.

Dress code & performance space considerations:

In these unusual times we will not require you to record this jury performance in an aesthetically appropriate room. That said we also recognize that juries are performances and as such we encourage students to dress respectfully and appropriately. Please consult with your Applied Instructor if you have any related questions about this or any aspect of your term and jury.

We are here to support you all in this unusual, yet very important part of your fall semester.

Frequently asked questions:

- 1) *Can students do multiple recording attempts until they are happy with their video?* Yes! This is a great opportunity in fact to get feedback on your musicianship. Listening to yourself via the audio/video recording process and then recording is humbling but very educational and insightful.
- 2) *Do students have to do the entire jury in one unedited run-through?* No. Each piece needs to be performed in its entirety (i.e. unedited). However, students can do multiple 'takes' of each piece of repertoire and then splice all the pieces together.
- 3) *Do I need to record my jury in an actual off campus music performance space?* No. We realize that the CoVid-19 global pandemic has placed many restrictions on all of us. Feel free to record this jury in any space that is available to you.
- 4) *If I have the technical expertise can I add a bit of digital effects such as eq and/or reverb to my jury recording.* Check with your applied teacher on this issue and proceed as they advise you. In general however, if these digital effects help to simulate a realistic acoustic performance (e.g. in a space like Quance Theatre) then likely the answer to this question is 'yes' you can add digital effects. However if adding digital effects to your recording *obscures* the jury panel's ability to hear what you *actually* sound like then 'no' do not use any digital effects.

Please let me know if you have any related questions or concerns about this matter.

Respectfully, Dr. Garry Gable, Assoc Prof Recital Liaison for Dept of Music.