

IU Percussion Department

Information regarding recitals

General guidelines:

1) RECITAL LENGTH

- junior recitals should be 40-50 minutes in length.
- senior, MM, PD, and DM recitals should be 50-60 minutes in length.
- recital length includes time between pieces and equipment moves.
- it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that the program is at the appropriate length.

2) SCHEDULING

- Monday – Thursday evenings are preferable for all recitals.
- Anytime between 5:00 – 7:00 pm are preferred start times for recitals. 8:30 pm is the latest acceptable start time. Any times after 8:30 pm must be cleared by a professor.
- Every effort should be made to avoid Friday evenings.
- Weekend recitals must take place in the afternoon with 4:00 pm being the latest start time.
- If a student wants a certain faculty member to be present at a recital, please check with them regarding their availability before scheduling. Don't assume that the faculty member is available.

3) ASSISTING MUSICIANS.

- The performer may enlist the help of other musicians to assist/accompany pieces on a recital. The number of additional performers should not exceed 13.
- The type of repertoire chosen should feature the recitalist.
 - student should be lead drummer on any world percussion piece.
 - student should take solos in jazz combo pieces.
 - student should be soloist in chamber pieces featuring a soloist.
 - repertoire should be of appropriate length and difficulty for chamber pieces that do not feature a soloist.
- While the faculty encourage ensemble works, please remember that **THIS IS YOUR RECITAL AND ALL PIECES MUST FEATURE YOU!**
- Please also remember that you, as the ensemble leader, are ultimately responsible for the quality of the entire group. Make sure you surround yourself with strong players.

4) RECITAL HEARING (undergraduate, MM, and PD students only).

- hearings take place approximately 2 weeks before the proposed recital date. The student's current professor can help schedule the hearing, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to make sure that it gets scheduled.
- hearings take place at noon on Wednesdays in MA 401 unless another time and/or room is agreed on.

- the student must be prepared to play all recital repertoire at the hearing. If there are pieces that require additional performers who are not able to attend the hearing, the student must have the pieces cleared by a professor no less than two weeks in advance. This can be done through video recording or a rehearsal where a professor is present.
- Please do not assume that you are going to pass your hearing! Your hearing is a representation of the quality of recital that you are going to play, meaning THE HEARING SHOULD BE AT THE SAME LEVEL AS YOUR RECITAL!!!

5) PERFORMER'S CERTIFICATE. (undergraduate, MM, and PD students only)

- If you wish to be considered for a JSOM Performer's Certificate, it would be best to schedule an early to mid-semester recital.
- There are three rounds that the student must pass to be awarded a PC.
 - the initial nomination takes place at the hearing.
 - the second round is the actual recital.
 - the final round takes place in front of the Performer's Certificate Committee.
- If a student makes it to the final round, all assisting musicians must also be present to play for the committee. Substitutes are not allowed.
- The final round can sometimes take place up to two weeks after the actual recital. If the student schedules the recital too late in the semester, they will have to present the final round at the beginning of the following semester. If the recital is presented too late in the graduating semester, the student may be unable to perform the final round.
- Speak with your professor if you have questions regarding the performer's certificate.

Tips for recital preparation:

- 1) Recitals are a lot of work. You must allow plenty of time to prepare.
- 2) REPERTOIRE
 - repertoire should be finalized four months before the event.
 - please keep in mind that some repertoire will require even more than four months of preparation time.
 - take advantage of winter breaks and summer months to work on recital repertoire. The academic year is always busy and you will have other material to practice (large ensemble, percussion ensemble, etc.) in addition to your recital repertoire.
 - repertoire should be appropriate to your current skill level. There is nothing impressive about playing a difficult piece poorly. Please speak with the appropriate professor regarding difficulty of repertoire choices.
 - original compositions, arrangements, and commissioned works need to be **completed** four months before the recital so that you can begin working on them and have adequate time to make changes if necessary.
 - if you intend to perform with other musicians:

- select assisting performers well in advance because they will need to commit to rehearsals, rehearsals with appropriate faculty, a hearing, a dress rehearsal, and the actual recital. Make sure you are very clear with them about the commitment and allow plenty of time for all of these events to take place prior to the recital.
- Your first rehearsal with your group should take place no less than one month before the hearing date.
- Your rehearsal with the appropriate faculty member should take place no less than two weeks before the hearing to allow time to make necessary changes.

3) DRESS REHEARSALS AND RUN THROUGHGS

- students should plan on scheduling a dress rehearsal and no less than two full run-throughs of the program (run-throughs can exclude ensemble pieces), prior to the recital.
- one month prior to the hearing, the student should begin playing individual pieces for fellow students to get used to performing in front of an audience. Immediately following each of these mini-performances, the student should make a list of all passages that need attention and deal with them in the practice room before the next attempt in front of a fellow student. This will allow plenty of time to uncover any/all mistakes that could potentially occur during the recital.

A word about jazz-related recital pieces...

For those of you who wish to perform a jazz-related selection(s) on your recital on drumset or vibes, please touch base with me (Professor Houghton) regarding personnel.

It is critical that surround yourself with the right players for the selection. Many of you don't know that jazz players and I may be able to help guide you to those players. Also, your parts need to be very clear and concise, as these players aren't expected to come in and "arrange" your piece for you. There needs to be parts for each instrument (piano, bass, guitar, horns, etc.) .

In addition, providing a demo recording or download would help your cause and save much time.

Finally, understand that the jazz players are on a different schedule than percussion students and rehearsals will be a challenge as they're all involved in jazz recitals and concerts. Be sensitive to that and know that they can most likely give you two rehearsals – maximum.

Hearing – If you are unable to assemble your group for the hearing, we (I) will need to hear/see your video or recording 2 weeks prior to your actual hearing. That will give you a chance to fix anything that needs fixing. I will then need to hear a "final" version at some point prior to your hearing.

NOTE: If you bring a jazz or world group into the live hearing without making the effort to meet with myself or Professor Spiro, you run the risk of it not being ready and failing your hearing.

Performer's Certificate – The same challenge exists with regard to gathering your jazz players. In addition, make certain that they will still be around and available for the PC hearing – especially if it happens the following semester.

I hope this helps.

- Professor Houghton

**PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACULTY'S EXPERTISE
AND PLEASE SCHEDULE TIME WITH US EARLY IN THE
PREPARATION PROCESS! WE ARE HERE TO HELP
YOU GIVE GREAT RECITALS!**