

**North Central College, Department of Music****Bachelor of Arts: Music Performance Track Information, Academic Year 2016-2017****Table of Contents**

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*Questions and requests for appropriate forms can be directed to the area head coordinators listed on page 7*

**BACHELOR of ARTS, MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRACK: INTRODUCTION**

The North Central College Department of Music offers the Bachelor of Arts degree, with a separate track in Music Performance in the following areas of specialty: vocal, instrumental, piano, and composition. Students who choose this degree track within the music major will be subject to an entrance audition for voice, piano, or instrumental performance. Those seeking entrance to the composition track must submit a score portfolio for review. Once admitted, performance track students will give at least two recitals at any of the performance venues on campus, allowing them to showcase a growing expertise. Majors accepted into the performance track will also continue to gain expertise by participating in a wide range of ensembles, having weekly private lessons with a faculty member, and taking additional repertoire classes and advanced coursework in the student's primary area or specialization. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the performance track will be encouraged to continue their studies at the graduate level or pursue professional opportunities in the fine arts.

The following information outlines the process for students who wish to gain entry to the performance track.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRACK: AUDITION INFORMATION**

Getting started during the first year:

- Begin appropriate coursework in consultation with your academic advisor, applied faculty, and area coordinator.

- Declare the Bachelor of Arts: Music, Liberal Arts Track.
- Work with applied faculty to gain experience in public performance.
- Prepare to submit an unofficial transcript and 750-word reflective essay
- Schedule a date for the performance track audition in consultation with applied faculty and the area coordinator.
- Remember that the scheduling of the audition or composition portfolio review should happen at end of the first year, but prior to the submission of all written materials (transcript and essay)

An unofficial transcript and a reflective essay should be submitted to the area coordinator 10 academic weeks prior to the scheduled audition date. Preparations for the performance audition or composition portfolio review involve the following shared responsibilities between the student and faculty:

Responsibility of the Applied Area Coordinator or Private Applied Teacher:

- Monitor progress in coursework
- Monitor progress in performance (applied lessons, ensembles, etc.)

Responsibility of the Student:

- Submit an unofficial transcript as part of the application to audition. (The transcript should demonstrate a required 2.75 minimum GPA, with no grade below C in the music major.)
- Submit a 750-word reflective essay. Students should explain their reasons for pursuing the performance degree track, as well as their professional and creative goals.

### **Audition Details**

The student's performance audition committee will consist of 3 faculty members chosen by the student with the advice of the student's applied teacher. The committee should include:

- The student's applied instrumental, voice, piano, or composition teacher
- Any full-time or half-time faculty member in the student's applied area
- An additional full-time faculty member

Most performance entrance auditions and composition portfolio reviews will take place no later than spring term of the first year. In rare occasions, a student may be permitted to audition by the spring term of the student's second year. If this is the case, then the student is responsible for communicating this special circumstance

with the applied teacher, the area coordinator, and the music department chair. The length of the audition will be about 20 minutes in duration.

All members of the committee will attend the performance audition or composition portfolio review and render a yes/no vote. A simple majority is needed for acceptance into the Bachelor of Arts: Music Performance Track . The committee will meet with the student after the audition to provide feedback, regardless of the outcome of the vote. The decision of the committee is final. The student must declare **Bachelor of Arts: Music Performance Track** upon completion of a successful audition.

### **Composition Portfolio Review Details**

A student who applies for the performance track in composition will submit a portfolio of single copies of at least two compositions created during their study at North Central College. format of the be decided If applicable, students may submit at most one composition created before matriculation to NCC.

The student's composition portfolio review committee will consist of 3 faculty members chosen by the student with the advice of the student's applied teacher. The committee should include:

- The student's applied composition teacher
- Any full-time or half-time faculty member in the student's applied area
- An additional full-time faculty member

During the scheduled composition portfolio review the student will be present, though the committee will also meet privately. The student should be prepared to discuss and answer questions about the portfolio compositions and/or recordings. Written comments from each faculty member in attendance will be forwarded to the student's composition instructor. The determination of the composition portfolio review committee will be conveyed to the student in letter form. The student must declare the **Bachelor of Arts: Music Performance Track** upon completion of a successful review.

### **Second Year Continuation Review**

Once a student has been admitted to the music performance track, a second-year barrier examination will be given to determine if the student can successfully continue on the performance track. The continuation barrier examination will be scheduled with guidance from the student's applied teacher and will be in the form of a performance jury or a second composition portfolio review.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS: MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRACK**

*Circle one:*

**Performance track audition**

**Performance track: composition portfolio review**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Material Review Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Performance Audition or Portfolio Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide brief comments summarizing information shared with the candidate in the following areas:

Strengths

Areas for Consideration

Committee's Recommendation (check one):  pass  does not pass

Committee Member Names:

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**BACHELOR OF ARTS: MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRACK AUDITION REPORT**

This will attest that \_\_\_\_\_ has satisfactorily completed the entrance process for the Bachelor of Arts, Music Performance Track in \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applied Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_

Applied Area Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Committee Signatures:

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To complete the process, the student must submit a major declaration form to the Office of the Registrar.

## MUSIC PERFORMANCE TRACK: OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Instrumental Performance

Study in the instrumental area is a multifaceted process that involves the development of technical ability, as well as aesthetic concepts through weekly lessons and performance experiences. Correct technical performance is the foundation for the development highly skilled interpretation, phrasing, and style. Students pursuing the performance track will master the musical and technical fundamentals required to be successful performing musicians in a variety of contexts and at the highest levels of the music profession.

### Voice Performance

The vocal performance track is designed for students who wish to pursue a career or graduate-level study in vocal music. Vocal performance majors are required to take a rigorous music core curriculum, concentrated applied study, as well as coursework in vocal literature, diction, and pedagogy. While a wide variety of vocal literature will be explored, the primary focus will be art song, opera literature, chamber music, and oratorio. Focus on language and diction will place emphasis on accurate pronunciation and inflection of song texts, primarily in English, Italian, German, French, Spanish, and Russian. Other facets of the degree will highlight the importance of stage presence and effective collaboration with accompanists.

### Piano Performance

The piano performance track at North Central College is rooted in the Western art music tradition. The individualized instruction will place primary focus on technical development and the study of advanced keyboard repertoire. Students will have the opportunity to study piano literature and pedagogy within a broad-based liberal arts program. Degree requirements include both solo and chamber music performances. This degree track is designed to prepare the student for graduate study or the ability use advanced keyboard skills as a collaborative pianist and chamber musician.

### Composition

For students intending to pursue composition within the performance track, the objectives are to emphasize the practices of composition within the context of contemporary compositional techniques. Those who focus on composition within the performance track will most likely pursue careers in concert music, higher education, and certain commercial avenues.

**List of applied area coordinators**

Jonathon Kirk, composition area coordinator; jkirk@noctrl.edu

Linda Ogden Hagen, voice area coordinator; logdenhagen@noctrl.edu

Kimberly Richter, instrumental area coordinator; kjviscontirichter@noctrl.edu

Barbara Vanderwall, piano area coordinator; bsvanderwall@noctrl.edu