

University of Missouri-St. Louis
Department of Music Handbook
String Area 2021 – 2022

Guidelines for Applied Music
Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass
14XX, 34XX, 44XX

Your faculty

- *Arianna String Quartet*
Violin: John McGrosso and Julia Sakharova
Viola: Joanna Mendoza
Cello: Kurt Baldwin
- Bass: Adam Anello

The members of the Arianna String Quartet are full-time professors of applied music at UM-St. Louis. We perform and teach together locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Because we perform and teach together so often, the information you are receiving in your lessons is from our shared experiences. The only difference between us and you, the students, is that we have more experience (we're older than you think) and as a result more knowledge to share. We believe this is our greatest asset. We are a unified team, working together for each of you, fortified by each other.

What is applied music?

Applied music refers to the private lessons with your instructor. Through applied music, you will develop technique and musicianship, and apply knowledge from music theory, aural training, music history, and other disciplines. You will learn the physics of sound and the instrument, how you need to engage with the instrument, and how you need to move with the instrument.

Each semester of applied study includes one 50 minute lesson each week and a one final jury. Instructors are not obligated to reschedule lessons canceled by the student or that may land on a school-sanctioned holiday. Lessons canceled by the instructor will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Who may enroll?

Music majors, music minors, and non-music majors with consent of the instructor.

All music majors and minors are required to enroll in applied music lessons and are automatically enrolled in Seminar in Literature and Pedagogy, which meets on Fridays from 11:00 - 11:50 AM. Additionally, music majors enrolled in applied music must be enrolled in University Orchestra. Information about each level of applied music can be found in Appendix A.

How do I get started?

In many cases your instructor will contact you to arrange your lesson time, however, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to contact their instructor to arrange a lesson time. Contact your instructor prior to the first week of classes (this is preferable) to make lesson arrangements, or, at the latest, the beginning of the first week of classes.

Studio Classes: Your applied instructor may have a weekly studio class. Friday Seminar will also be an opportunity for the string area and individual studios to meet.

Will there be an exam?

Jury examinations are held during the final exam period of each semester. The jury is a concert examination for all levels of applied study and should be regarded as a performance, including appropriate attire. The jury is also an opportunity for the faculty to ask questions of the student and discuss their experience and progress over the semester. Juries are between 10-15 minutes in length.

It is the student's responsibility to sign up for a jury time when sign-up sheets are posted. The faculty members in attendance will complete a Jury Form that includes an assessment rubric and written comments from the faculty jury. The results from this form will serve as the written record of the student's progress. It will remain in the student's permanent file in the music office for review.

With the guidance of his/her applied instructor, students will prepare scales, etudes, and/or pieces to perform, or presentations, that show the student's work over the course of the semester. The student will introduce their name, degree of study, year in school, and the names of pieces prepared for the jury. They will then have the option to choose the first piece they wish to perform. The jury may choose to stop them before the end of the selection in order to hear the other repertoire. Other selections will be requested at the discretion of the faculty members of the jury.

The same parameters apply with virtual, recorded, or delayed juries. Video juries will be allowed under exceptional circumstances as recommended by the instructor, and agreed to by the other area faculty .

If a student performs a junior or senior recital, a jury may not be required for that semester, depending on the recommendation of your instructor.

What about transfer students?

Students wishing to transfer from another college or university must first meet the general requirements for admission to UM-St. Louis. In addition, the student may be asked to take proficiency exams in aural skills and rudiments of music and placement exams in music history and literature, music theory, and music education.

Students must take applied lessons and enroll in University Orchestra, even if they completed the requisite number of semesters at a previous institution. The applied music level (1000 or 3000/4000 level) for transferring students will be determined by the appropriate faculty based on their entrance audition.

Chamber Music

Student Chamber Music AP MUS 1544, 3544, 4544

Students enrolling in Chamber Music will be placed with other students to form small ensembles (from 2-6 people), and play music expressly written for that genre. Music will be chosen that is appropriate to the level of the students, and consist of music written from 1700 and the present day. Students enrolling in Chamber Music are expected to rehearse twice weekly in addition to a meeting time with the instructor, to be arranged at the beginning of each semester. Students are expected to prioritize these rehearsal times and not to schedule work or other activities within these times. Students may receive additional instruction on their chamber music parts in their applied lessons. Students may perform their chamber music pieces on Seminar Student Recitals, as well as in the Student Chamber Music Concert held at the conclusion of each semester.

What additional performance opportunities are available to me?

In addition to the semester jury, we recommend taking advantage of the following performance opportunities:

- Seminar in Performance and Outreach
Led by Prof. Kurt Baldwin, this class gives you opportunities to perform for your peers

and in the community. You will find a new comfort in your relationship to music and your playing. This class emphasizes communicating verbally and musically with each other and with our audiences.

- **Young Artist Competition**

Every November, the Music Department hosts a competition that is open to all UMSL music majors. Winners perform as soloist on a concert in the spring semester with the appropriate large ensemble. More information can be found here:

<https://music.umsl.edu/Young%20Artist%20Competition/index.html>

- **Seminar in Literature and Pedagogy**

The Friday Seminar (11:00AM) is a great opportunity to perform. Three student recitals are scheduled each semester. Sign-up procedures can be found on the Seminar Canvas page.

Additional Orchestral Performance Opportunities

- **St. Louis Youth Symphony:** Rehearsing once weekly, the St. Louis Youth Symphony performs three concerts annually in Powell Symphony Hall, and receives instruction from St. Louis Symphony members and is led by an Assistant Conductor of the SLSO. Repertoire includes standard symphonic works such as Brahms or Tchaikovsky symphonies and overtures, as well as 20th and 21st century compositions. Acceptance is by audition.
- **Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis:** The Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis consists of area teachers and free-lance musicians, and presents three to four programs each season. Each program is preceded by several rehearsals, giving the students the feel of a professional orchestra. Students who audition and are accepted play side by side with area professionals, and network with future colleagues in music performance and education in the St. Louis region
- **Town and Country Symphony Orchestra** www.tcsomo.org
- **St. Charles Symphony Orchestra** www.stcsymphony.org

Care of your instrument.

Our string instruments need daily care.

- After each playing session, using a soft cloth, wipe off your strings and the area under the strings to remove rosin. Caked on rosin inhibits the vibration of our strings and the wood. Daily care will prevent the need for an eventual rigorous cleaning (by a professional repair person).
- Change your strings at least once or twice a year, depending on how much playing you do. Check the condition of your strings from time to time; unraveling strings are dangerous and must be changed immediately. Your instructor can recommend the type and brand of string suitable to your needs.
- Check your pegs and fine tuners. If they don't move easily, consult with your instructor. Sometimes there are quick remedies, and sometimes we need to see a professional repair person. Your instructor will advise you accordingly.
- Don't leave your instrument in the car! For safety and care of your instrument. String instruments are very susceptible to weather, especially humidity.
- Invest in some kind of humidity controller for your instrument (Dampits, case humidifier, etc.) From late fall to early spring, or when humidity is less than 50%, our instruments need a little extra help. Consult your instructor to find a good option. Excessive dryness can result in cracking, open seams, slipping of pegs, and a brittle tone. Excessive changes in humidity can also result in cracking and open seam.
- The surest way to keeping your instrument in good condition is to play it. Everyday.

What else should I know? Collegiate music majors are young professionals and should understand what constitutes professional behavior. This includes dressing appropriately for any and all performances and rehearsals, whether it is a student recital, concert, or jury examination. If there is any question about what might or might not be appropriate, the applied instructors will be happy to clarify.

Appendix A: Applied Music Course Levels and Descriptions

Applied Music 14XX: Undergraduate string majors and minors are required to take four or more semesters at the 1459 level. Credit from another institution may count toward this requirement at the discretion of the voice faculty in consultation with the Music Department Chair. It is primarily the student's responsibility to keep track of their course-level status in the Applied Music curriculum and to consult the applied instructor regarding the advancement jury. Each student's applied instructor will determine specific repertoire based on an assessment of the student's abilities and goals.

Advancing to upper level credit (Junior Standing Examination): After successfully completing four semesters of study at the 14XX level, a student must take a jury for, and pass a Junior Standing Examination in order to advance to the 34XX or 44XX level. To pass the Junior Standing Examination the student must demonstrate sufficient musical and technical excellence, appropriate styles in contrasting periods of the classical repertoire, and a quality and pace of work appropriate to the successful presentation of future required recitals. Criteria are listed on the jury exam form included in Appendix D.

In the event that a student does not successfully pass their Junior Standing Examination, they will be given one more opportunity to do so, after one more semester of applied lessons at the 14XX level. Failure to pass the second Junior Standing Examination will result in the student needing to enroll into a non-professional degree major, one with a non-string emphasis, or another degree outside of music.

Applied Music 34XX: For Music Education majors. To study at the 3459 level, students must have successfully completed all 1459 requirements and passed the Junior Standing Exam. Each student's applied instructor will determine specific repertoire based on an assessment of the student's abilities and goals.

Applied Music 44XX: For BM Performance majors. To study at the 44XX level, students must have successfully completed four semesters of study at the 14XX level and passed the Junior Standing Exam. Applied Music lessons at this level may be taken for 1 or 2 credits. Criteria are listed on the jury exam form included in Appendix D.

Performance majors are required to study for four semesters at the 44XX level. Performance candidates must demonstrate exceptional artistry, musicianship, and professional performance potential. This includes musical understanding of contrasting styles and periods, and the ability to learn appropriate literature with expediency. Students studying at the 44XX are required to present solo junior and senior recitals. Recital requirements can be found in Appendix B.

Appendix B Recital Requirements (all majors)

Junior Recital Requirements (Bachelor of Music - Performance)

Juniors in the music performance degree must present the equivalent of a solo recital (at least 30 minutes of music) that includes music from three major stylistic periods. Repertoire may be chosen from previous semesters of study and will also include additionally assigned new repertoire. The printing of programs and copying of any notes or translations will be the

student's responsibility. The program copy must be approved by the student's teacher and submitted through the Music Office four weeks prior to the date of the performance. Program dates should be reserved in consultation with your instructor and accompanist. Rehearsal times must be reserved and scheduled, in consultation with the student's instructor and accompanist.

A hearing must be scheduled at least five weeks in advance of the program, for programs held at the Touhill PAC and four weeks in advance, for programs held at other venues.

Senior Recital Requirements (Bachelor of Music - Performance)

Seniors in the music performance degree must present a solo recital (at least 45 minutes of music) that includes music from at least three major stylistic periods. Some repertoire may be chosen and presented from previous semesters of study, upon the instructor's consent.

The printing of programs and copying of any notes or translations will be the student's responsibility. The program copy must be approved by the student's teacher and submitted through the Music Office at least five weeks prior to the date of the performance. Program dates should be reserved in consultation with your instructor and accompanist. Rehearsal times must also be reserved and scheduled, in consultation with the student's instructor and accompanist.

A hearing must be scheduled at least five weeks in advance of the program, for programs held at the Touhill PAC and four weeks in advance, for programs held at other venues.

Senior Recital Requirements (Bachelor of Arts in Music, Bachelor of Music Education, and Bachelor of Music w/Elective Studies in Business)

The recital requirements for these degree programs is the same as described in the paragraph on Junior Recitals (B.M. Performance). Upon recommendation of the instructor and agreement of the other area faculty, this requirement may also be fulfilled by performing on each of three Friday Student Recitals (Friday Seminars) within the same semester. The quantity and newness of the selections required to be performed on each of the student recitals, is left entirely to the teacher's discretion. The repertoire should represent different stylistic periods and can be chosen from repertoire studied during previous semesters of study, but must include new repertoire as well.