LaGrange College Music Handbook Fall 2014

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WELCOME

The Music Faculty and Staff extend a warm welcome to you as you begin your education at LaGrange College. We are pleased that you have chosen to be a part of the Music Program of the Fine and Performing Arts Department. You are beginning one of the most exciting and fulfilling periods of your life. Our courses of study will be demanding upon your time and resources – many challenges await you. We will expect your best, but the rewards are great. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing you with a challenging and professional learning environment. Through rigorous academics, practical application, multiple performance opportunities, and internship experiences, our students develop the skills they need to become polished performers and creative contributors to the world of music.

ABOUT THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The Music Program is a member of the Fine and Performing Arts Department, which includes Music, Art and Theatre Arts. As a member of a private liberal arts institution, the Music Program offers two degrees: the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, a general course of study; and the Bachelor of Music degree, a professional degree, in one of the following three areas: Creative Music Technologies; Performance (voice, piano, organ, guitar, or percussion); or Church Music. In Fall 2014, we will officially launch the Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre degree.

Our Music Program is distinguished by its emphasis on practical training that also nurtures freedom of expression. We recognize that creativity is as individual as you are; it can’t be mass-produced. In a small-college setting, with small class sizes, you benefit from personalized guidance by active professionals as you develop your creativity and unique talents.

HISTORY OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Music has been a course of study at the college since 1847, the time that the college was first recognized as an institution of higher learning. According to the 1848 college bulletin, music was “taught as a science, as well as an art; and in every case, where there is natural capacity, the pupil is made thoroughly acquainted with the rudiments.” Around 55 young women who met these qualifications were enrolled in the department.

The leadership of the department changed frequently throughout the 1880s, but judging from the generous praise included in the college bulletins, each new head of the department seems to have been a distinguished professional noted for both excellent musicianship and refined character.

By the turn of the century, under the leadership of Mr. Alwyn M. Smith, the Music Department was well-established, offering instruction in music theory and history, piano, organ, violin, guitar, mandolin, banjo, sight-singing, and voice culture. Throughout the next half-century and beyond, the department flourished: it survived the transition to a co-educational institution, while continuing to offer a strong musical education. Its choral ensembles, at that time, performed locally.

In the fall of 1970, however, the Music Department experienced a disastrous fire that destroyed its facilities, leaving the department’s future in jeopardy. For the next ten years, basic music survey classes were offered, but no major in music was available. In 1984, a minor in music was reinstated, but not until 1994, under the leadership of Lee Johnson, was a major in music reestablished. The new degree, called Creative Music Technologies, attracted a small number of interested students, and thus began a new era in our history. Music was once again a degree-granting department.

Today, we offer the Bachelor of Arts in Music and the Bachelor of Music degrees. Music is a major contributor to the college’s public relations efforts and the source for many of the community’s finest musical experiences. The LaGrange Symphony Orchestra (LSO) is our resident orchestra.

PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK

This Handbook serves to acquaint the music major with various Music Program policies and procedures that are not specifically outlined in the college bulletin. The Handbook provides more
detailed information regarding those areas in which the music major often has many questions. A thorough understanding of the policies and guidelines contained in this Handbook will assist you in your academic work. Please familiarize yourself with all of the requirements contained in the college bulletin and in this Handbook and the C&MT Handbook.

COURSES OF STUDY

Bachelor of Arts in Music
Students seeking a broad, liberal arts based music education often choose to pursue the Bachelor of Arts in Music. This degree is suited for those who want to couple their music education with a minor in another area, desire to pursue graduate studies in a music-related field not included in the Bachelor of Music concentrations, or plan to pursue music as an avocation.

Bachelor of Music: Composition and Music Technologies
The Composition and Music Technologies degree program is for students with exceptional aptitude in the creative musical arts. While there is no stylistic emphasis the student must be highly engaged in all aspects of music creativity and production. Each student is required to produce a large body of original work that serves as both the outgoing recital content as well as the portfolio for professional life and for graduate school application.

C&MT students are expected to be engaged in the practice of music creation in and out of the classroom. Many large projects are routinely completed beyond the time limitations of a single semester, or in some cases even longer than an academic year. Further, C&MT students are to be comprehensive musicians who are actively involved in music composition, performance, analysis, production, criticism, and in the music business.

Bachelor of Music: Performance
Students who demonstrate exceptional talent on their instrument (voice, piano, organ, guitar, or percussion) may choose to become a Performance Major. This course of study is open only by audition and is especially designed for those students seeking to improve their skill level in either classical or contemporary commercial music performance styles. The degree also prepares students for graduate study in music.

Bachelor of Music: Church Music Majors
This course of study is designed for those students seeking a well-rounded musical education. Coupled with courses in Religion, the degree prepares students for musical leadership in the church setting. Church music majors are also required to complete internship hours in various local churches. The course of study affirms both the rich heritage of the classical sacred musical tradition and the contemporary worship styles practiced in many churches today.

ADVISEMENT
Seeking careful advisement and maintaining regular contact with your advisor is critical to your successful completion of a degree. Many classes in the music curriculum are sequential; therefore, failure to take a course as soon as you are eligible to do so may result in considerable postponement of your graduation date. Careful schedule planning and knowledge of all requirements and policies are extremely important. Upon entering LaGrange College, you are assigned an advisor whose primary responsibility is to help guide you in your course selection to ensure that you are taking the correct music courses in the proper sequence.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
Theory Placement Exam
All incoming freshman music majors must take the Theory Placement Exam to determine their level of theory competency. The exam is given during the spring auditions, summer orientation sessions and at registration. Results of the exam will help the academic advisor place the student in the correct level of
theory instruction.

**Piano Placement Exam**
During the first semester of study in the Department of Music, each student must take the “Piano Placement Exam” to determine his level of piano proficiency. Results of the exam will help the academic advisor place the student in the correct level of piano class instruction. Students who are exempt from the first level of class piano (MUSI 1103) will have the option of substituting MUSI 1103 with another one-hour course not required in their program of study.

**EXIT REQUIREMENTS**
A student who enters LaGrange College under a given Bulletin generally will be graduated under the general education requirements, required total of degree hours, tests requirements and grade point average requirements of that Bulletin. Major requirements are those deemed applicable at the time a student formally declares a major.

Students must also file a petition for graduation, which provides for an audit of their course credits. Please consult your Bulletin for specific details.

In addition to academic course requirements, music majors are required to complete the following prior to graduation:

**Music Theory Exam:**
All music majors are required to successfully complete the “Music Theory Exit Exam” prior to graduation. This exam tests:
- general theory skills (scales, key signatures, and part writing)
- music analysis (roman numerals, form and metric reduction)

The student must have completed Theory 3 to become eligible to take the exam and must score at least 80% on each section to pass the exam. A student who fails to pass upon the second attempt may be required to repeat music theory courses.

**Terminal Projects: Recitals / Senior Thesis**
*Bachelor of Arts in Music majors must present a Senior Thesis.*

*Music Majors pursuing the course of study in Performance or C&MT must participate in both Junior and Senior Recitals.*

- All requirements must be met as set by the Department:
  - 30 minutes for Junior Recitals
  - 50 minutes for Senior Recitals
  - All recital literature for both Performance majors must be approved by the student’s major professor prior to the recital and a copy of the program must be approved by that professor three days prior to the recital date
  - Performance majors' selections should consist of works of contrasting styles and periods
  - The department will print a stock program or the student may choose to provide his own program. Students who choose the latter route must incur any costs associated with the printing of the program.
Set-up of the concert hall is the student’s responsibility

All rehearsals for the recital must be scheduled with the music assistant.

It is customary, but not required, to have a reception following the recital, held either on or off campus. Please be reminded that alcoholic beverages may not be served on campus.

Junior and Senior recitals are considered to be peak events in the college music education and are intended to provide an opportunity for the student to experience the work and preparation comparable to that of the professional artist. The Bachelor of Music is a professional degree and students who hold this degree should demonstrate exceptional proficiency in their chosen specialty. It is expected, therefore, that the student will demonstrate in a public performance, the level of artistic achievement that should be attained through several years of dedicated hard work and devotion to the craft. Success in the project indicates a satisfactory culmination of the progress in the student’s technical skills, stylistic sensitivity, creativity, and artistic poise. While we maintain high standards for all public performances, none is more critical than that of the students who present Junior and Senior recitals. It is expected that these recitals will reflect the atmosphere of a professional concert and the serious dedication to the craft of both the student and the Music faculty of LaGrange College.

For information concerning the C&MT terminal projects, please refer to the C&MT Handbook.

Other Degree Requirements:
Each course of study in the Music Department has certain degree requirements in addition to the academic course work, such as internship requirements, etc. Please consult your college bulletin to ensure that you have completed all of the requirements for graduation. Some of these requirements are discussed in more detail below.

Concert Attendance
The most valuable experience a music student can have outside of the studio, rehearsal hall, and the classroom, is the exposure to live performances of music. The Music Program regularly features guest artists in recitals and master classes, as well as faculty and student recitals. Attendance at these concert events demonstrates your support of your professors and peers. In addition, the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, our orchestra-in-residence, provides free admission to all LC students for their concert season (with the exception of its Christmas concert).

Concert attendance is a major factor when we make music scholarship award decisions. Therefore, it is in your best interest, both in terms of your musical education and your financial package, to attend as many concerts as possible.

Applied Music: Performance Majors
Performance ability is a vital component of a college music education and critical to the professional development of the musician/scholar.

To achieve performing skill and knowledge, the music student engages in weekly applied lessons which provide individual instruction in a particular performance medium: i.e., Voice, Piano, Guitar, or Percussion.

• Performance and Church Music Majors are required to be enrolled in an applied music course each semester of study at LaGrange College
• C&MT majors are strongly encouraged to choose a major instrument and enroll for applied lessons each semester of study

Lessons afford opportunities for the student to:
• Continually develop technical mastery and performance proficiency
• Engage in technical and repertory studies
• Be involved in a variety of performance experiences both as an observer and as a participant
• To be, ultimately, able to perform with skill and poise in a public setting, selected works of college level ability

• **Expectations:**
  - Students will participate in weekly lessons involving technical and repertory studies. The time of the lesson is arranged individually with each applied instructor at the beginning of each semester. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the applied instructor to arrange for a lesson time.
  - It is acknowledged that students arrive with a diversity of technical proficiency and repertory knowledge. However, it is expected that all students taking lessons will work with their instructors to prepare at least two musical selections per semester. Additional requirements will vary from studio to studio.
  - Music majors in their first semester of applied study are not required to be on public recital. The applied teacher will decide if the student is ready to be on recital. All other music majors taking applied lessons will perform on a public recital at least once per semester.
  - All students enrolled in applied instruction must perform at the end of the semester on jury for faculty evaluation (see JURIES, page 13.)
  - Students are expected to come to lessons well rehearsed. The lesson is NOT the time to learn notes and pitches—that work is done outside the studio, by the student prior to the lesson. Lessons are intended to polish the repertoire, the technical ability and to sharpen artistic expression.
  - Students are expected to be well rehearsed and polished before performing on recitals or juries. Students should on all occasions, know the title, composer, opus number, key, musical history period, and/or translation of the selections studied.
  - If an accompanist is required for performance, students are expected to rehearse with the departmental accompanist prior to any public performance. Scheduling the rehearsal time is the student’s obligation.

• **Practice:**
  *In order to accomplish assignments in a thorough manner and to hone the artistic craft, practice is, of course, required.*
  - Students should expect to practice a minimum of five (5) hours per week on lesson assignments alone.
  - To excel in one’s craft, will require much more
For example: the voice major’s practice time might be spent in vocalizing, writing out translations, transcribing texts into IPA, listening to assigned recordings, playing melodies on the piano, and practicing the actual piece.

The skill required for musical performance is considerable, and like all other skills, can be achieved only over an extended period of time spent in consistent daily work. “Cramming” is never appropriate, especially in skill-development courses. Time missed in daily practice is forever lost and the skill quickly deteriorates. No amount of practice on the day before a lesson or in the week before juries in any way compensates for the damage done to the skill by irregular practice.

Applied Fees
Unless otherwise notified, an applied fee will be charged for each credit hour of applied instruction.

Attendance Policies for Applied Lessons:
Regular attendance is mandatory. Lessons should only be missed when students are too ill to be away from home or have a real emergency. It is always considerate and appropriate to inform an instructor when you anticipate being absent. Make sure to have the telephone number and email of the instructor. Only when you are unable to reach your instructor personally may you leave a message at the Music Office (880-8351).

Because our instructors are also active performers and scholars, there may be times when they will need to reschedule your lesson. All such lessons missed by the instructor will be made up before the end of the semester. Once a make-up lesson is scheduled, it is your responsibility to show up on time for the lesson. If you miss your make-up lesson, the lesson is forfeited.

An instructor is required to wait 10 minutes for a student to arrive for a scheduled lesson. After 10 minutes, the instructor has the right to cancel the lesson with no make-up.

It is the sole discretion of the instructor as to whether or not to make up lessons missed because of the student’s illness. Excessive absences, as defined by each instructor, will result in a reduction of the grade. A grade of “A” cannot be given to any student who has more than four absences per semester in their applied lessons.

Grades are determined by evaluating the student’s progress throughout the semester, his performance on the Jury, as well as his attendance. Three-fourths (3/4) of your grade will be determined by your instructor’s evaluation, and the remaining one-fourth (1/4) will be determined by your jury evaluation score.

Juries:
Juries for those students enrolled in applied lessons are similar to a final exam and are generally held during the Reading Period at the end of each semester. The schedule for Juries is posted several weeks prior to the event.

The purpose of the semestral jury is:
- To provide an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their performance skills
- To apprise the faculty of each student’s progress
- To assist the applied instructor in assigning the semester grade.

Absence from juries is considered failure to take a final exam, and will be treated with severity. The length and number of musical selections varies from studio to studio; each instructor will provide students with guidelines to adequately prepare for juries.

Student Recitals:
Student recitals are held each semester (see your calendar of events for dates). These recitals provide
an opportunity for students to gain performance experience and sharpen their critical listening abilities. All music majors taking applied lessons, with the exception of first semester students, are required to perform on student recital each semester.

**Internships**
A variety of internship opportunities are available to our students. A student desiring to enroll for an internship should explore this option with his/her advisor in the semester prior to the internship, as well as begin the internship enrollment process with the Career Planning & Placement Office. Please note that all paperwork (e.g., mid-term and final evaluations, journal, time log, etc.) is handled by the Career Planning & Placement Office.

**HONOR CODE**
As a way of demonstrating its commitment to the highest levels of academic and personal integrity, LaGrange College has adopted the following Honor Code:

“As a member of the student body of LaGrange College, I confirm my commitment to the ideals of civility, diversity, service, and excellence. Recognizing the significance of personal integrity in establishing these ideals within our community, I pledge that I will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate these unethical behaviors in others.”

We affirm and uphold the Honor Code in the Music Department at all times and expect our students to conduct themselves professionally and contribute to the positive image and reputation that our department enjoys.