



## **Bachelor of Science in Music Senior Project (MST 496) Guidelines and Recommendations for Students and Advisors**

The Senior Project is an opportunity for graduating seniors to work on a large-scale independent project or musical collaboration that demonstrates readiness, in terms of skills and habits of mind, for the music profession or further studies in music.

Students should:

- a) Demonstrate leadership in rehearsal and performance contexts appropriate to the instrument or ensemble.

*or*

- b) Pursue an independent project in composition, theory, history, or performance and present the results in a formal and professional manner.

*and*

- c) Evaluate and assess personal musical achievement; develop personal goals for future musical endeavors.

All senior projects are juried, that is, they are presented formally to a faculty committee consisting of the student's advisor plus at least two members of the full-time instructional faculty invited with the consultation of the student's faculty advisor. In the case of research papers and compositions that cannot be performed, students will present their work in a public forum to be held once per semester on the reading day immediately following the end of classes. Students will present their work in a formal talk which may be accompanied by slides, handouts, or short musical demonstrations. Presentations should be no longer than twenty minutes. All recitals and presentations are open to the public.

### **Recitals**

Working with a faculty advisor, students should prepare a recital of solo or small ensemble music of roughly 45 minutes in length. Students should start planning their recital as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. Students should coordinate with both of the College Lab Technicians as soon as possible by booking the Recital Hall with Darina Qafleshi no fewer than six weeks prior to their event AND at the same time talk to Karl Watson in order to book equipment and arrange publicity material. Students are responsible for advertising and promoting their event. Please follow the attached checklist to ensure a successful event.

### **Research Papers**

Working with a faculty advisor, students should prepare a research paper on a topic related to music (musicology, theory, ethnomusicology, education, therapy) or a collection of serious music criticism (journalism). Papers should follow the conventions of citation appropriate for the discipline (in most cases, Chicago Style), employ musical examples as necessary in a professional manner, and present at least fifteen pages of original prose.



## Compositions

Working with a faculty advisor, students should prepare a portfolio of pieces (either a major composition or a series of smaller pieces) and either a) schedule a lecture-recital to present these pieces to the Department of Music, Multimedia, Theater and Dance and Community or, if live performance is not feasible, b) present their work in a formal talk as outlined above.

The lecture-recital should be roughly 30 minutes in length and feature primarily live performances of the compositions, with the exception of works of computer music or large ensemble pieces which are impractical to perform. Pieces of computer music may be presented using loudspeakers. Students should start planning their lecture-recital as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. Students should coordinate with both of the College Lab Technicians as soon as possible by booking the Recital Hall with Darina Qafleshi **no fewer than six weeks** prior to their event AND at the same time talk to Karl Watson in order to book equipment and arrange publicity material. Students are responsible for advertising and promoting their event, and for selecting and rehearsing the participating musicians. Please follow the attached checklist to ensure a successful event.