

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

CHORAL, VOCAL, AND OPERA MAJOR AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

AUDITIONS - REPERTOIRE - JURIES

AUDITIONS

An audition is required for admittance to all degree programs in the Department of Music. Department admission auditions take place in February, March, and November.

Students who cannot attend the official audition date may send a cd to be reviewed by the committee. Outstanding applicants may be granted provisional acceptance through taped auditions, or they may be offered an individual audition date. Prospective graduate students may be offered an alternate audition date at CSULB, but will not be granted admission without an in person audition.

Undergraduate Students: (all areas of voice concentration, including composition and history with voice as the principal instrument) are required to prepare two selections in contrasting styles. Transfer students should prepare three selections. If possible, one of the pieces should be in a language besides English. Applicants must bring sheet music **in the proper key**; we provide outstanding accompanists, but they will not transpose at sight. Boom boxes or 'trax' should not be used. There are no *a cappella* auditions. A rudimentary sight-reading examination will be given at the audition.

Graduate Students:

All graduate students are encouraged to bring a copy of their resume and head-shot to the audition.

A. Opera- Students should prepare a mini-recital of arias and songs in at least 3 languages. The audition should demonstrate a breadth of understanding of different styles, with emphasis on the operatic repertoire. The applicant will choose the first selection and the committee may elect to hear one or two additional selections.

B. Vocal Performance-Students should prepare a mini-recital of six songs. They may include one aria or one piece from the standard American musical theater repertoire. The applicant will choose the first selection and the committee may elect to hear one or two additional selections.

For additional questions, please contact Dr. Jonathan Talberg, Director of Choral, Vocal, and Opera Studies, at jtalberg@csulb.edu .

UNIVERSITY REPERTOIRE

Freshman Year (First and second semester of study)

First semester - six songs in English and Italian.

Second semester - six songs representing two or three languages (Italian and German are recommended)

Suggested Repertoire:

Italian - Peri, Caccini, Certi, Cavelli, Carissimi, etc. (16th - 18th Century Repertoire)

English - Britten *Folk Song Arrangements*, Copland, Quilter, Barber, Walton, Vaughan Williams, Rorem, Duke, Ives, Carpenter, Gershwin, Hoiby, Foster, Sullivan, Miles, Dowland, Byrd, etc. May include one appropriate selection of American musical theater. Russian or Slavic songs may be sung with English translation.

Performance Majors: add one appropriate oratorio each semester

Suggested - Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Telemann, Mendelssohn, etc.- all repertoire to be memorized

Non-Performance Majors: - (B.M. choral/vocal, B.A. students) two-thirds of required repertoire to be memorized (i.e. of the six pieces to be prepared, four must be memorized)

Sophomore Year (Third and fourth semester of study)

Third semester - eight pieces representing three languages

Fourth semester - eight pieces representing three languages

- Italian and English are required

- French OR German is required

Suggested Repertoire:

Italian - Handel, A. Scarlatti, Pergolesi, Monteverdi, Rossini, Mozart, Gluck songs and arias

English - same as for freshman year; oratorio aria, an appropriate Gilbert and Sullivan selection, one appropriate selection from American music theater

German - Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, etc.

French - Lully, Couperin, Faure, Debussy, Gounod, Rameau, etc.

Performance Majors: Third semester: add one appropriate aria

Fourth semester: add one opera or oratorio aria appropriate for an audition for performance major at the junior level - all repertoire to be memorized

Non-Performance Majors: eight pieces to be prepared, six from memory

Junior Year (Fifth and Sixth semester of study)

Fifth semester - eight pieces representing three languages, including the language NOT represented in the sophomore year

Sixth semester - eight pieces representing four languages

Suggested Repertoire:

Italian - Respighi, Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Monteverdi, a Baroque aria

English - Copland, Diamond, Hanson, Barber, Britten, Walton, Rorem, Argento, Ives, Herbert, Hoiby, Duke, DelloJoio, Lekberg, Persichetti, Floyd, Dowland, Schumann, Byrd, Purcell, Handel, etc.

German - Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Mahler, Wolf, Strauss, etc.

French - Bizet, Franck, Debussy, Ravel, Charpentier, Satie, Poulenc, Duparc, Chausson, etc.

Performance Majors: add one appropriate concert, oratorio, or opera aria for each semester
- all repertoire to be memorized

Non-performance Majors: eight pieces prepared, six from memory

Junior Recital

- 40 minutes of music representing three languages (twelve to fourteen pieces)
- Songs must be sung in the original language; Russian and Slavic songs may be sung in English translation
- The students may elect to include an oratorio or operatic aria when appropriate
- Every effort should be made to present a balanced, well-planned program. Translations of the texts are to be provided for the audience. Programming groups of songs by style or by the same composer can provide flow to your performance and is strongly encouraged.

Senior Year (Seventh and eighth semester of study)

Seventh semester - eight pieces representing four languages; should include operatic or oratorio arias

Eighth semester - eight pieces presenting four languages; should include operatic or oratorio arias

Suggested Repertoire:

Italian - 18th, 19th and 20th century operatic arias, songs by Respighi, Mascagni, Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini, Verdi, Mozart, etc.

English - as in junior year

German - Lieder, Mozart, Berg, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Mahler, R. Strauss, Hindemith, Schoenberg, etc.

French - Chausson, Faure, Debussy, Duparc, Boulanger, Ravel, Poulenc, Satie, Honneger, Milhaud, Messiaen, etc.

- Consideration should be given to a chamber piece in any of the above areas
- Except for Russian and Slavic repertoire, songs should be sung in the original language

Senior Recital

- 50 minutes of music (approximately sixteen pieces of music)
- A minimum of three languages should be represented
- Students should show a solid grasp of style with each language
- Programming of solo cantatas, concert arias, complete song cycles is encouraged

Graduate

- Ten pieces to be studied each semester
- Four major languages to be used each semester (Italian, English, French, German)
- Works studied should show a significant understanding of more advanced repertoire in each of these languages

- The inclusion of unusual repertoire is encouraged
- A thirty-page mini-thesis is required.

M.M. Voice Recital

- The four languages are required
- 75 minutes of music
- Should contain at least one major cycle - Special cycle projects would fulfill the Recital requirements, e.g. Schubert's *Die Schone Mullerin*, *Winterreise*, Hindemith's *MarianLeben*, etc.

JURY REQUIREMENTS (for all students)

Jury examination is waived during the semester a recital is given. The jury in the semester immediately preceding the recital will serve as the recital audition. At least half of the repertoire memorized. Typed copies of the recital program with appropriate program information should be presented at the audition. If the student is auditioning for a Junior Recital or a Senior Recital, an additional form must be filled out and signed by the student's private instructor. This form is available in the Music Office.

The jury will hear two or three selections at the undergraduate level and three to five selections at the graduate level. The first selection is the choice of the student, the jury will then choose from the remaining prepared repertoire. Required repertoire is to be memorized.