

Certificate Program for Performance Achievement – **Audition Information**

The audition has three parts:

Performance, Ear Training and a Written Theory Test

The Performance portion has 4 parts:

- Perform a piece of your choice – (no longer than 8 minutes). The selection committee listens for tone, technique, phrasing and dynamics, intonation, rhythm and stage presence and poise. *You are not required to perform with an accompanist. However, if you wish to be accompanied, please make your own arrangements for an accompanist.*
- Sight read (or sight sing if a vocalist). The selection committee listens for note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, phrasing and dynamics, and steady pulse.
- Scales. You are quizzed on major and minor key signatures and asked to say all the notes in either a harmonic minor or melodic minor scale (your choice). You are also asked to play two-octave major scales and either harmonic or melodic minor scales from memory (your choice of harmonic or melodic minor), or one-octave if a vocalist. The committee listens for note accuracy and over-all steadiness of pulse.
- Participate in a creativity and musical imagination exercise. You are asked to briefly discuss a portion of your performance piece in terms of visual images, colors or emotions. Then, you are asked to improvise or play a 4-bar phrase from your performance piece, phrasing it 3 different ways (your choice of improvising or phrasing).

The Ear Training portion has two parts:

- You are asked to identify melodic intervals by ear (examples: major 3rd, perfect 4th, minor 6th).
- You are asked to identify major triads, minor triads, major 7, minor 7 and dominant 7 chord types by ear.

The Written Theory portion has four parts:

- You are asked to write intervals.
- Write major and harmonic minor scales.
- Identify major and minor triads with chord symbols (examples: C, Am).
- Write the counting of rhythmic passages.

The Performance portion of the audition takes approximately 20 minutes.

The Ear Training and Written Theory portion of the audition takes an additional 10 to 30 minutes.

The Certificate Program is for intermediate to advanced level students, ages 14 to adult, who already have performing experience. (However, students don't have to be deep in *all* areas of the audition to be accepted into the Certificate Program.)

Criteria for Acceptance:

The selection committee considers a composite of the entire application process, including the teacher recommendation, past performance history and educational experiences, performance at the audition and the theory/ear training test results.

Following the audition, you will receive an evaluation page identifying areas of strength and weakness. A letter and / or follow-up meeting with the coordinator, to discuss the selection committee's evaluation and/or to begin planning a course of study, will be scheduled.

If you haven't already submitted a letter of recommendation from your teacher, please do so at the audition.

Note: If you are not currently studying with a teacher it is recommended that you take a consultation lesson(s) to prepare for the audition. A teacher can provide information and insights that will help you do well at an audition.