



Hello Extension Division Music Students and Parents,

I hope this email finds you well!

I am writing to share information about our Fall 2017 Honors Recital and Honors Recital Practice Challenge! A special 'thank you' to the music faculty of the Mason Gross Extension Division for their invaluable feedback which shaped the information I share with you today. Also, thanks to the students and family members who participated in last spring's first-ever Honors Recital and Honors Recital Practice Challenge!

Our goal is to present an end-of-semester Honors Recital which aims to acknowledge and reward students for their dedication to consistent, daily practice and strong performance throughout the semester. Students of all ages and levels of advancement are invited to participate in this challenge. It is by no means limited to the most advanced students.

Next steps:

- Please review the information below. If you are a parent, please review this information with your child.
- If you wish to take on this challenge, please discuss your participation with your instructor. For children under the age of 18, this discussion must include a parent or guardian.
- Your instructor will be provided with an *Honors Recital Practice Challenge Commitment Form* that you will sign during your lesson time (it's short and easy). Opt-in deadline: Saturday, October 7, 2017.
- Working with you teacher during lesson time, agree upon duration, and content of daily practice.
- Begin tracking your daily practice time using the supplied *Practice Log* (attached)
- Bring your Practice Log to your weekly lesson. You (the adult student or the student's parent), and the instructor must initial the Practice Log each week to certify the past week's practice records.
- Young students may come to the office to present their Practice Logs and to select a small prize *only* when they have successfully completed a week of practice.
- Teachers will select and submit names of student or ensemble performers and alternates by Saturday, December 9, 2017.
- **Questions?** Please direct questions to me (Christopher Kenniff, ckenniff@mgsa.rutgers.edu).

Please do review the information below which provides greater detail about this opportunity.

Thank you,

Christopher Kenniff

EXTENSION DIVISION HONORS RECITAL PRACTICE CHALLENGE

Honors Recital Date: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 1 p.m.

Honors Recital location: Lower Dodge Gallery, Zimmerli Art Museum

CRITERIA

- **Purpose:** Honors Recital selection criteria aim to acknowledge and reward students for their dedication to consistent, daily practice and strong performance throughout the semester. Students of all ages and levels of advancement are invited to participate in this challenge. It is by no means limited to the most advanced students.
- **Honors Recital Practice Challenge:** **Students wishing to participate in the Honors Recital *must* opt-in to the Honors Recital Practice Challenge by October 7, 2017. Latecomers to the practice challenge will be considered on case-by-case basis.** Students must commit to practicing six days per week, and to documenting practice using a supplied Practice Log initialed by you, and the student's parent (or, if an adult, the student herself), on a weekly basis.
- Teachers will decide how many minutes/hours per day their students will be required to practice based on their age, lesson length, and ability.
- 'Makeup' practice options may be provided for times when daily practice is not possible due to illness, family emergency, or travel. Consideration is also provided for prolonged illness or injury. Please see 'special considerations' below for more information.
- Teachers will decide upon the content and organization of practice sessions.
- Other arrangements to take the place of regular practice are not allowed.
- Practice logs (see attached) must be submitted to instructors for review on a weekly basis during lesson time.
- 90% completion of the practice log over course of the semester is required for teachers to select students for the Honors Recital.

ELIGIBILITY

- Private lesson students in all instruments and voice
- All ages of students
- All levels of students (beginners – advanced)
- *Chamber Music at Mason Gross* ensembles (including both *Young Artist Program* and *Adult Chamber Music Program*). Ensemble members must commit to six-days-per-week individual practice and to maintaining an ensemble rehearsal schedule as agreed upon with their coach.
- Other ensembles such as the *Rutgers Children's Choir & Scarlet Singers*, the *Rutgers Youth Jazz Ensemble*, and the *Rutgers Youth Percussion Ensemble* will not be included in this challenge as they have their own feature performance events.

STUDENT AND ENSEMBLE OPT-IN DEADLINE

- Instructors and students should discuss this opportunity together before formally committing to this challenge.
- Students and ensembles must 'opt-in' by Saturday, October 7, 2017.
- Opt-In Form: The Extension Division will supply a form for teachers and students to sign indicating their participation in this program.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SELECTED PER STUDIO

- Studios with 1-9 students enrolled may select one student to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and one student as an alternate performer*.
- Studios with 10-19 students enrolled may select two students to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and one student as an alternate performer.
- Studios with 20+ students enrolled may select three students to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and two students as alternate performers.
- Two chamber ensembles from the Chamber Music at Mason Gross program (including both Young Artist Program and Adult Chamber Music Program) may be selected to be featured in performance at the Honors Recital; and one ensemble may be selected as an alternate ensemble.

**Alternates will take the place of students selected to perform, should selected students not be able to perform for any reason.*

STUDENT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Teachers will select students to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and alternate performers based upon ¹⁾ Practice Log completion, and ²⁾ the student's level of consistent effort and performance throughout the semester.
- The director of the Chamber Music at Mason Gross program will review participating ensembles' Practice Logs and select ensembles to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and an alternate ensemble based upon ¹⁾ Practice Log completion, and ²⁾ the ensemble's level of consistent effort and performance throughout the semester.
- Students selected as performers or alternate performers in the Honors Recital may also perform in other end-of-semester recitals.

STUDENT SELECTION DEADLINE

- Teachers must select and submit students as performers or alternate performers by Saturday, December 9, 2017. The Extension Division will supply a form for this purpose.
- The Mason Gross Extension Division will notify students of their selection.

AWARDS

- Performers in the Honors Recital will receive certificates acknowledging their completion of a semester of instruction at the Mason Gross Extension Division with Honors, and their participation in the Honors Recital.
- Students selected as Alternate Performers and students who complete their Practice Logs but who were not selected as performers will receive a certificate acknowledging their completion of the Honors Recital Practice Challenge.

WEEKLY PRIZES FOR YOUNG STUDENTS

- Young students who have met all practice requirements for a week and have obtained their instructor's and parent's initials may present their practice chart in the Extension Division office and select a prize.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Students are required to maintain their Practice Logs over the course of the semester. There will be no opportunities to replace lost practice records. It is recommended that students copy their practice records periodically creating a 'backup' in the event the hard copy is lost.
- Vacation assignments may be provided by the instructor. These might include completing assignments in a music theory workbook, listening to specific repertoire selections, and visualizing repertoire.
- All students selected to perform and their families **MUST** attend the Honors Recital for the full duration of the event.
- The hiring of accompanists for the Honors Recital is the responsibility of the performer.
- Prolonged illness or injury: students will be exempted from the requirement for daily practice for periods of extended illness or injury. A letter from a doctor confirming the illness or injury is required. This documentation should be presented to your instructor. Students may write 'SICK' or 'INJURED' in the practice chart in place of practice minutes or hours on these days.

We look forward to a terrific event and hope that this entire experience proves to be a positive one for students, families, and faculty!

Thank you,

Christopher Kenniff

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