



Hello Extension Division Music Families,

Welcome to Spring 2019!

I am writing to share information about our Spring 2019 Honors Recital and Practice Challenge!

Our goal is to present an end-of-semester **Honors Recital** in the **Zimmerli Art Museum's** Lower Dodge Gallery on **Saturday, May 4, 2019** to acknowledge and reward students for their dedication to consistent, daily practice and purposeful performance throughout the semester. Students of all ages and levels of advancement are encouraged to participate in this challenge; it is by no means limited to the most advanced students.

Please review the information below:

- Participation in the Practice Challenge must be agreed upon by the instructor, student, and parent if applicable.
- You must fill out an *Honors Recital Practice Challenge Commitment Form*, available online or at the Extension Division Office.
 - Discuss your participation with your instructor.
 - **Submit completed form to the office no later than Saturday, March 1, 2019.**
- Track your daily practice using a Practice Sheet, available online or at The Office.
- Review recommended duration and content of daily practice during your lesson each week.
- Each week, have your parent (if applicable) and instructor sign your practice form.
- Bring your signed Practice Sheet to The Office to get a prize (WE GOT NEW PRIZES!)
- Teachers will select and submit names of student or ensemble performers and alternates by Friday April 5, 2019.
- Continue reading the remainder of this document for more details.

Questions? Please reach out to me either by email or using my direct phone line, listed below.

Thank you and happy practicing!

Dena Orkin, DMA

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SPRING 2019 EXTENSION DIVISION HONORS RECITAL PRACTICE CHALLENGE

IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, March 1, 2019: Opt-in deadline. Students must submit the *Honors Recital Practice Challenge Commitment Form*
- Friday, April 5, 2019: Teachers submit names of selected performers, alternates, and certificate recipients.
- Saturday, May 4, 2019, 1 p.m.: Honors Recital Date: 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 Friday, March 1, 2019. 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 determine the duration that their students will be required to practice each day 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 Friday March 1, 2019.
- Opt-In Form: The Extension Division will supply a form for teachers and students to sign indicating their participation in this program.
- Teachers will provide the completed form to the Extension Division office.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SELECTED PER STUDIO

- Studios with 1-10 students enrolled may nominate up to three students to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and one student as an alternate performer*.
- Studios with more than 10 students enrolled may nominate up to four students to feature in performance at the Honors Recital and one student as an alternate performer.
- 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 are also encouraged to perform in other end-of-semester recitals.

STUDENT SELECTION DEADLINE

- Teachers must select and submit students as performers or alternate performers by Friday, April 5, 2019. 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 student performers and their guests **MUST** attend the Honors Recital for the full duration of the event.
- Students are responsible for compensating accompanists for the Honors Recital.
- 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.

Have a wonderful semester of purposeful, incremental growth! We are all excited to support you on your practice journeys!

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