

# Music Department at Towson University

## Audition Dates, Application Procedures and Deadlines, Audition Process and General Information

(Please read and retain for future reference.)

### Audition Dates

Audition dates for 2010 are as follows:

**Saturday, January 9** (Students who wish to enter the major in the spring 2010 term MUST audition on this date.)

**Saturday, February 6**

**Saturday, March 27**

Please indicate your preference in the space provided on the Music Department Application. We MUST RECEIVE your completed application by the deadlines listed under **Application Procedures and Deadlines**. Please allow ample time when you send your application in the mail. We recommend that you send it at least three to five days before the due date so that it reaches us in time. After we receive your Music Department Application, you will receive a confirmation letter. Please contact Mary Ann Criss, assistant to the chairperson (**410-704-2836** or **mcriss@towson.edu**), if you have questions, concerns or need additional information.

Applicants who are interested in undergraduate music major scholarships MUST audition by **February 6, 2010**. (See additional information under the heading titled **Scholarships**.)

### Application Procedures and Deadlines

The music major is a screened major. Acceptance as a music major is granted only by the department, contingent upon a performance audition.

**Admission to the university does not guarantee acceptance as a music major or minor.**

Complete the Music Department Application, select the date you plan to audition (see dates listed above), and return the form directly to the music department. **In order to audition on your preferred date, the music department must receive your completed music application by the deadlines listed below:**

**For the January 9 audition:**

**Monday, December 21**

**For the February 6 audition:**

**Monday, January 25**

**For the March 27 audition:**

**Monday, March 15**

After we receive your Music Department Application, we will mail a confirmation letter to you (either by first-class mail or e-mail, depending on the date we receive your application). Unless you are notified otherwise, you will be registered to attend the audition on your selected date.

You may audition before being admitted to the university; however, passing an audition in the

music department does not guarantee admission to the university. Forward the completed university Application for Undergraduate Admission directly to the Office of Admissions. **It usually takes the university's admissions office four to six weeks to process applications, depending upon the volume of applications and receipt of transcripts and applicable test scores.**

If you have questions regarding the university's admission process, call 410-704-2113 or 1-888-4TOWSON. Music major applicants are urged to file their university application no later than February 1. It is also important that you indicate you are interested in music as your major on the university's application. Doing so decreases the possibility of missing important music department deadlines, and assists the department in tracking your admission status. However, the admissions office does NOT notify the Department of Music of a student's interest in the music major or minor. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Department of Music in order to receive the Music Department Application packet.

### Recommendations

Recommendations from two persons who can attest to your musical abilities must be on file prior to your audition. Use the recommendation forms provided in this packet. Complete the top portion of the forms before giving them to your recommenders. It is your responsibility to see that the recommendations are forwarded promptly.

### Audition Location and Times

Applicants report to the Center for the Arts lobby by 8:45 a.m. on their selected audition date. Please check in with Mary Ann Criss or one of her assistants when you arrive. Light refreshments will be available in the lobby.

An orientation session will begin at 9 a.m. (location to be announced on audition day) followed by the Advanced Measure of Music Audiation (AMMA) screening. Auditions generally begin at 10:30 a.m. Practice rooms will be available to all applicants for warm-up. **Unless prior arrangements have been made with Mary Ann Criss, specific audition times are assigned while applicants are taking the AMMA screening.** Parents or guardians are invited to attend a concurrent information session with the chair of the department, staff, faculty and current majors while screenings and auditions are conducted.

### Audition Process

To be accepted as music majors, or to be accepted for lessons as music minors, applicants must

demonstrate that they have reached a satisfactory performance level appropriate to their chosen degree/concentration either on an instrument or in voice. All auditions are conducted privately before a committee of music faculty. The length of each audition ranges from 10 to 25 minutes based on applicant's principal performance area.

The music department will provide an accompanist for voice applicants **ONLY**. **The cost for the accompanist is \$15, payable at the time of the audition.** Voice applicants must bring music for the accompanist. Instrumentalists are not required to perform with accompaniment, but may arrange for their own accompanist.

Incoming freshmen will find the audition requirements on the applicable sheet included in this packet. Transfer students should audition with their highest-level repertoire.

You will be notified of your audition results by letter within three weeks of the audition. If you have been recommended to receive a music department scholarship, a separate form will be included with that letter.

### Degree Programs

The music department offers two professional degree programs, the Bachelor of Music and the Bachelor of Science in music education; and one liberal arts degree program, the Bachelor of Science in music. The concentrations within the two professional degree programs are outlined in the current *Undergraduate Catalog*. Prospective music education majors please note: if your primary performance area is guitar or piano, you will only be considered for the vocal-general concentration. To be considered for the instrumental concentration, guitar and piano students MUST be proficient on a secondary instrument and MUST also audition on that instrument. **You must submit this information to Mary Ann Criss when you apply to the department and you must request that you be scheduled accordingly on your selected audition day.**

### Prospective Composition Majors

Students interested in the music composition concentration should call 410-704-2836 to obtain additional information, or visit <http://wkleinsasser.net/comp.studies.at.tu/Site>. In addition to an entrance audition, you will be required to submit a portfolio and other application materials. The deadline for receipt of materials required by the composition faculty is as follows: December 21 to be considered for work beginning in the fall term; October 1 to be considered for work beginning in the spring term.

## Music Minor

The music minor, available for students who desire to pursue music studies as a secondary field, requires 24-25 units of course work. Students can select either the Music Performance track or the Music Literature track. Acceptance to the Performance track is by prior application and audition only. Students interested in the Music Literature track must complete the music department application. For more information regarding the minor course requirements, please contact the department at 410-704-2836.

## Audition Day Screenings

The screenings listed below are for informational and/or placement purposes ONLY. Your performance on the screenings does not determine your acceptance into the department's programs.

### Advanced Measure of Music Audition

The AMMA screening will be given prior to auditions. It will take approximately 30 minutes to administer, and will become part of the student's admissions profile. The AMMA is a measure of musical aptitude. No prior preparation is necessary.

### Theory Screening

All students must take the online theory screening on their audition day, and it will become part of the student's admissions profile. It takes approximately 15 minutes (from reading the online directions to taking the actual screening). Procedures for taking this screening will be announced during orientation.

Generally, freshmen are placed in Theory I and Musicianship I. Transfer students are placed in the appropriate level of theory and musicianship after an evaluation of music transfer credits and a discussion of the course work taken at other institutions. Also, a "diagnostic" will be given to freshmen during their first week of classes. For transfers, the diagnostic will be administered on a scheduled day and time during the first week of classes. If the Theory and Musicianship instructors recommend a student for advanced placement, Mary Ann Criss will assist the student in changing his or her schedule during the first week of classes.

### Keyboard Advisory Screening

All music majors must reach the level of keyboard proficiency established for their specific degree and concentration.

For music education majors, piano classes are not required as part of the degree program; however, students must successfully complete the keyboard proficiency exam before they enroll in Methods of Teaching Instrumental Music in the Elementary School or Methods of Teaching Vocal-General Music in the Elementary School. Often, music education majors will enroll in group piano classes (Piano Class I, II, III) to assist them in passing the exam.

The Bachelor of Music degree allows students to satisfy the keyboard proficiency requirement by passing Piano Class I, Piano Class II and Piano Class III.

Keyboard performance majors are exempt from Piano Class I, II, and III. However, they must enroll in and pass Keyboard Harmony and Sight-Reading I and Keyboard Harmony and Sight-Reading II.

The Bachelor of Science in music degree requires students to enroll in Piano Class I.

To assist us with your placement, we administer a very brief (no longer than 10 minutes) keyboard screening during the audition days. You will be assigned to take the screening based on the information you supply on the Music Department Application. If you indicate that you have never taken piano lessons and don't play the piano, you will be advised to enroll in Piano Class I (no screening necessary). If you indicate that you have taken at least three years or more of piano lessons or have played for at least three years, we will request that you attend one of the screening sessions on your audition day. Transfer students please note that piano classes from other institutions may not automatically transfer for major credit. It is recommended that you attend one of the screening sessions to determine proper placement.

## Scholarships

The Department of Music at Towson University offers scholarships to applicants who qualify **based upon the talent demonstrated during their audition coupled with an assessment of applicants' academic profiles.** Scholarships are available only to students who major in music and who enter in the fall term. Those students wishing to be considered for departmental scholarships MUST audition by February 6, 2010. There is no separate application process. Only those applicants who have filed a university application, have paid the university application fee, and who have had their university applications processed by the TU Office of Admissions will be considered for music department scholarships. **REMINDER: It usually takes the university's admissions office four to six weeks to process applications, depending upon the volume of applications and receipt of transcripts and applicable test scores. Please plan accordingly.)**

Students who are recommended for a music department scholarship will receive a Scholarship Award Form within three weeks after the audition. If students are interested in the scholarship offer, they must complete and return the form by the designated deadline. The scholarship offer may be rescinded if confirmation is not received by the designated date. The intent to accept the scholarship will not be binding until May 1.

## University Financial Assistance

Many programs are available to help students obtain financial assistance. These programs include grants, loans and employment. Contact the Financial

Aid Office (410-704-4239) for more information. A financial aid representative will be present at all audition dates to answer questions and provide detailed information.

## Transfer Credit Policy

Transfer of major credits is based upon an audition, a review of transcripts and an interview with the department chair. Transfer students must meet with the department chair immediately after matriculating.

## Ensemble Auditions

All music majors are required to participate in ensembles. Each degree program and/or concentration has its own set of expectations. The requirements can be found in the *Undergraduate Catalog*, on checklists available from the department or on the department's Web site.

Information concerning times and requirements for ensemble auditions are posted in the music wing hallways and on the department's Web site. Most auditions are scheduled during the first week of classes.

## Visiting Towson University

### Open House

Towson University schedules several Open House days during the academic year. The fall 2009 Open House schedule is as follows:

**Friday, October 23, 2009**  
**Saturday, October 24, 2009**  
**Friday, November 6, 2009**  
**Saturday, November 7, 2009**  
**Friday, November 13, 2009**

Open Houses, primarily for high school juniors, are:

**Friday, April 23, 2010**  
**Friday, April 30, 2010**

Reservations are required for Open Houses. Go to [www.towson.edu/visitus](http://www.towson.edu/visitus).

### Campus Tours

Walking tours of Towson's campus are available weekdays and Saturdays when classes are in session. To make the required reservation, go to [www.towson.edu/visitus](http://www.towson.edu/visitus) or call 1-888-4TOWSON.

Students wishing to spend time in the music department are encouraged to schedule a visit. With advance notice, students will be able to attend actual classes, sit in on ensemble rehearsals and meet with members of the faculty and student body. Please contact Mary Ann Criss (410-704-2836 or [mcriss@towson.edu](mailto:mcriss@towson.edu)) to schedule an appointment.

*Towson University's policies, programs and activities comply with federal and state laws and University System of Maryland regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, disability and sexual orientation.*