

## **Table of contents**

### Program overview

- Areas of study
- Curriculum
- Graduation requirements
- Student Responsibilities

### Performances and Evaluations

- Chamber Concerts
- Solo Recitals
- Jazz Showcase
- Performance Classes
- Evaluations

### Policies

- Honors Music Program
- Westminster Conservatory and Rider University

## **Program Overview**

Founded in 1992, the Honors Music Program is the Pre-College division of Westminster Conservatory of Music for talented music students aged 8-19. This unique program is committed to nurturing musical artistry and scholarship through a comprehensive curriculum designed to develop the potential of each student on their individual musical journey.

The Honors Music Program offers majors in Instrumental Performance, Composition, and Vocal Performance studies. Our students range from those pursuing advanced study or degrees in music to students interested in supplementing their current musical studies all within a supportive and vibrant community. Students attend weekly private lessons with their choice of private teacher, either within or outside the Conservatory, and Saturday classes from September through early June under the tutelage of an exceptional faculty of performers, composers, and scholars. Honors Music Program alumni attend top universities and music conservatories and include international performers, award winning composers, successful music teachers, and dedicated amateurs.

## **Areas of study**

The Honors Program offers four overlapping curriculum paths

- Instrumental
- Voice
- Composition

All students (regardless of major) will take

- Theory through level 4
- History 1 and 2
- Jazz 1 and 2

## **Curriculum - General**

### Dalcroze

Dalcroze classes give students an understanding of music's fundamental concepts, expressive meanings, and deep connections to other arts and human activities in group classes that incorporate movement activities and hands-on materials to enhance ear training, rhythm, and the embodiment of musical performance.

## Music Theory

Students begin with four levels of theory fundamentals and use the theory method of the Royal Conservatory of Music. Students proceed with HMP's own Advanced Placement Curriculum, which includes two years of Harmony and Aural Skills. After completion of these four courses, students may register for the Advanced Placement Music Theory Exam through their local school district. Students advance to theory courses in Counterpoint, Composition, and Analysis.

## Music History

In Music History, we develop students' ears and minds through listening and lively discussions about music. Weekly classes explore the evolution of western music, and encourage critical thinking about the repertoire in musical and historical contexts. Classes include lectures, presentations, and performances. Assessments may include listening and brief written responses, quizzes and tests, and presentations.

Students take a two-year survey: I. Music of the Baroque and Classical Periods, and II. Music of the Romantic and Contemporary Periods. Advanced students attend electives: Musical Style and Analysis, Contemporary Music Seminar, Ethnomusicology, and 21st Century Music.

## Chamber Music

Students are placed in an ensemble and meet weekly with their instructor. Ensembles prepare repertoire for performance in the HMP Chamber Music Concerts at the end of each semester. Students' private instrument teachers will approve the chamber music repertoire as appropriate for the student and support the student's work on that repertoire.

## Jazz

Jazz study covers the basics of improvisation, beginning in Jazz 1 and 2, and advancing to work in Jazz Combos. The hands-on style of learning chord progressions, jazz forms, techniques, and styles includes playing with teachers and classmates each week. Through the study of jazz, students integrate their theory knowledge and enhance their total musicianship.

## **Classes for Vocalists**

The HMP Vocal program offers performance-oriented and academic classes geared to the needs of the serious young classical singer. The curriculum includes HMP courses in Music History and Music Theory, attended with other HMP students, as well as Vocal Skills, Vocal Diction, and Vocal Repertoire, attended only by vocalists.

## Vocal Skills

In the Vocal Skills class, voice students work on vocal technique, poise and stage deportment, and vocal independence. Class work will include some ensemble singing and the opportunity to work on solo repertoire with a pianist.

## Language and Diction for Singers

Vocal Diction presents students with the fundamentals of language and singing diction. IPA and pronunciation rules are studied for Italian, English, Latin, French, German, and Spanish, with Russian added later in their studies.

## Vocal Repertoire

Students work on repertoire in this class, addressing performance practice and stage presence as well as musical, textual, and dramatic considerations. The instructor works in conjunction with the student's private teacher to select appropriate solo repertoire. In class, students work with an accompanist and benefit from a hands-on approach to style and literature.

## Vocal Seminars

Four or five lecture/demonstration classes are presented during the year. Topics include Audition Skills, Monologues and Acting Basics, Vocal Health and Anatomy, Baroque Ornamentation, and Performance anxiety.

## **Classes for Composers**

### Composition

Composition students are grouped by experience. Beginning students will learn the basics of writing cadences and phrases, with an emphasis on motivic development, standard forms and common progressions. Advanced students will focus on large scale forms and more complex compositional techniques

### Orchestration

Students in the orchestration class will learn how to arrange and compose for a variety of instruments and ensembles. Assignments are done in MuseScore or a similar music notation program, and will be performed in class when possible.

## Electives (offered on a rotating basis)

- Counterpoint
- Conducting

- 20th Century Theory
- Form and Analysis

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Certificates**

The Honors Music Program offers degree certificates for students who satisfy certain requirements. Not all students will choose to work towards a degree.

There are three levels of certificate in the program:

- Graduate
- Graduate with Honors
- Graduate with High Honors

### **Graduation Requirements for Instrumental Performance Majors**

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 2 years of Music History
- 2 years of Music Theory, including Theory 4
- 1 Year of Jazz
- 2 years of Chamber Music
- 2 years of Aural Skills
- A half-hour recital

### **Graduate with Honors**

In addition to finishing the requirements for graduation, students must obtain a 2.5 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 21st Century Music
- Jazz 2
- 1 academic elective
- A forty-five minute recital

## **Graduate with High Honors**

In addition to finishing the requirements for graduation, students must obtain a 3.0 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 21st Century Music
- Jazz 2
- 2 academic electives
- 1 Jazz or Chamber Class
- A one-hour recital

## **Graduation Requirements for Composition Majors**

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 2 years of Music History, including 21st Century Music
- 2 years of Music Theory, including Theory 4
- 2 years of Composition
- Orchestration and Arranging
- 2 years of Aural Skills
- 1 academic elective
- A half-hour recital featuring at least 2 original compositions

## **Graduate with Honors**

In addition to finishing the requirements for graduation, students must obtain a 2.5 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 1 year of Jazz
- 20th Century Theory
- 2 academic electives
- A forty-five minute recital featuring at least 3 original compositions

## **Graduate with High Honors**

In addition to finishing the requirements for graduation, students must obtain a 3.0 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 1 year of Jazz
- 20th Century Theory
- Counterpoint
- 1 academic elective
- 1 performance class

- A one-hour recital featuring at least 3 original compositions

## **Graduation Requirements for Vocal Majors**

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 2 years of Music History
- 2 years of Music Theory, including Theory 4
- 2 years of Aural Skills
- 2 years of Diction
- 2 years of vocal repertoire
- A half-hour recital

## **Graduate with Honors**

In addition to finishing the requirements for graduation, students must obtain a 2.5 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 21st Century Music
- 1 academic elective
- A forty-five minute recital

## **Graduate with High Honors**

In addition to finishing the requirements for graduation, students must obtain a 3.0 GPA and complete a minimum of:

- 21st Century Music
- 2 academic electives
- A one-hour recital

## **Student responsibilities**

### **Course Materials**

All students need:

- A binder, a folder, pens, pencils, erasers, a metronome, and weekly access to the internet.
- Performance majors need a recording device for use in Performance Class or Vocal Repertoire Class.

- Music scores will be needed for chamber music or jazz classes and texts for vocal majors.
- Workbooks for theory levels 1-4 are provided, but AP students do need to purchase the Barron's AP textbook.

## **Class Attendance**

Students are allowed no more than three absences per semester per class. If a student is absent more than three times per class per semester, they will be dropped from that class, and must take it again the following year. There will be no financial reimbursement in such cases.

## **Reporting Absences**

All absences, including one from a single class, must be reported through the HMP website. In the case of Chamber Music and Jazz Combo, an absence must also be reported directly to the coach.

Unanticipated absences, as in the case of illness, should also be phoned into the Conservatory office first thing Saturday morning at (609) 921-7104. Please tell the person answering the phone that you are an HMP student.

How to report an absence online

- Log in to “MY HMP” on the HMP website
- In the drop-down menu click on “Report an Absence”
- Fill out the form and submit

For absences from Recitals or Performance Classes, *see* HMP Policies section.

## **Student Mailboxes**

Each student has a file folder in the main office, in their HMP Student Mailbox. Music, homework, or notes may be left here for the student to pick up. Students should check their mailboxes each Saturday.

## **Performances**

### **Chamber Concerts**

All students who are participating in chamber ensembles will participate in two chamber recitals each year, in January and June.



## Solo Recitals

All students in the HMP program will participate in two solo recitals, in February and May. Participants will be grouped by age and experience.

## Jazz Showcase

All students participating in the jazz program will perform in the jazz showcase in the spring semester.

## Performance Classes

Instrumental majors will perform in three performance classes each year. Students will be arranged in small groups by age and ability, and perform for a conservatory teacher or guest artist for immediate feedback. Parents may not attend Performance Classes.

## Evaluations

All HMP students participate in the evaluation process at the end of each academic year. Evaluations are a chance for each student to perform in front of a panel of conservatory faculty for written feedback. Students who study privately at the conservatory will have all the necessary forms completed by their private teacher. Students who take private lessons with an unaffiliated teacher must fill out an evaluation declaration form, indicating what works are to be performed. More information may be found in the evaluations handbook.

## Evaluations for Composition Majors

Two weeks prior to Composition majors' evaluations, each student submits his/her portfolio to the Director. A panel reviews the portfolio and the student attends a 15-minute Evaluation with that faculty. Portfolios must include three representative works composed within the last year and recordings of those works.

## POLICIES

### Honors Music Program Policies

### **Google Classroom**

The Honors Music Program utilizes Google Classroom and requires all families to join the Family HMP Google Classroom and individual Google Classrooms as required by the teacher.

Families will receive an invitation to join their classrooms at the beginning of each academic year.

On the HMP Family page you can easily access calendars, schedules, view announcements, and submit forms. Students over the age of 13 are also welcome to join all Honors Music Program Google Classrooms. Google Classroom contains no ads and never uses your content or student data for advertising purposes. Classroom is covered under the core G Suite for Education Terms of Service, which includes Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) compliance.

### **[www.honorsmusicprogram.com](http://www.honorsmusicprogram.com)**

The HMP website is the main source of HMP information. Students and families must create their own accounts on our website and remain informed. There will be a delay after you request access as the Webmaster confirms all student accounts.

Any website questions should be emailed to [HMPAssistant@Rider.edu](mailto:HMPAssistant@Rider.edu). Access to the secure section of the website (My HMP) requires a password and contains weekly announcements, forms, pictures, videos and program information.

### **Policy Regarding Unsatisfactory Work or Behavior**

HMP students are expected to take class assignments seriously, practice consistently, and be well-prepared for ensemble work. Please note the Westminster Conservatory discontinuance policy, reserving “the right to discontinue any student whose work or behavior is unsatisfactory; this includes frequent absences, tardiness, behavioral problems, lack of progress, or failure to abide by Conservatory policies.”

### **Contracts**

Families sign a program contract accepting HMP’s nine-month commitment, calendar, and policies. Contracts are due by the Monday after Labor Day. The contract consists of three Google Forms (student, parent, and private teacher).

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

The Conservatory office opens at 9:00 AM on Saturdays, and teachers begin classes on time. Buffer periods are provided to assist students moving from class to class and building to building. Students may eat snacks while passing between classes. Pickup is in front of Princeton Hall. Families should not meet in the main office at dismissal.

## **Office Hours**

The main Conservatory office hours are Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Conservatory Administrators are only in the office Monday–Friday. If you contact the office after 5:00 PM or on Saturday, you may have to wait until the next business day for a response.

## **Absences from Recitals or Performance Classes**

Students absent from any of the four annual Performance Classes must report the absence through the HMP website, and a make-up class must be scheduled directly with the teacher. Only one Performance Class may be made up each year.

Students absent from a Solo Recital performance must perform at the next available date in the Westminster Conservatory student recital series. They will be responsible for contacting the Conservatory office to perform on the recital and arranging a rehearsal with the Student Recitals accompanist. No absence is permitted from a Chamber Music Recital or Jazz Showcase performance.

## **Making Up Work**

Students are responsible for material covered in class and for making up assignments. Contact the teacher regarding missed work/assignments. Teachers may place homework in the student's mailbox/folder in the Conservatory's main office. Please check your mailbox regularly. If a quiz or test make-up is offered, it must be through mutual agreement between teacher and student regarding time and place.

## **Use of Cell Phones**

Cell phones should not be used in class, unless a teacher requires students to have internet access for the course.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are permitted to do research from all available resources, but all submitted work must be their own. Plagiarism is prohibited. The Conservatory faculty abides by Rider University's academic integrity code. Further information is available at <http://catalog.rider.edu/policies/code-academic-integrity>.

## **Withdrawal from HMP**

In cases of emergency withdrawal, notify the Director immediately. If a student must withdraw from the HMP, the request must be made in writing through the main office and follows the Conservatory's withdrawal policy listed on the Conservatory website. The student may be readmitted to HMP in the future. Should a student withdraw for reasons not considered an emergency (Early Withdrawal), it is unlikely that the student will be admitted back into the HMP

in the future. A portion of tuition is forfeited. All withdrawal requests must be made in writing and completed through the main office, following Conservatory policy.