

AUDITIONS FOR MINOR IN MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Spring 2025

Overview

The following outlines the schedule, audition requirements, and assessment process for admittance to the Certificate in Performance Program in the Instrumental/Vocal Areas. For more information on the Minor in Musical Performance, please visit the Music Department Website at <https://music.princeton.edu/undergraduate/certificate-programs/>

Eligibility for the Program in Performance (Instrumental/Vocal)

All undergraduate students who will be juniors as of the Fall 2025 semester are eligible to audition for this Minor in Spring, 2025. Affiliation with the Department of Music prior to auditioning is encouraged, but not required, to be considered for admittance.

Audition Schedule

Auditions for Fall 2025 admittance will be held on **April 3, 2025 between 11:30am-6:00pm in the Lee Jazz Studio in the Efron Music Building.**

How to Apply & Sign Up for Auditions

Please click this link to submit application materials and sign-up for an audition date and time:
<https://music.princeton.edu/mpp-minor-auditions/>

Audition Requirements – Classical Piano & Orchestral Instruments

When signing-up for an audition slot, students will be asked to provide the following electronically:

- A brief music CV
- A repertoire list, signed by your primary Princeton studio instructor or outside music teacher, outlining your work for the prior two (2) years.
- Electronic copy of the part(s)/score(s) you intend to play in the audition.

In the audition, students will be asked to play:

- **One (1) movement from a standard sonata or concerto, or its equivalent of another period, showing an element of contrast.** Depending on the length of your chosen movement, you may not necessarily get to play the selection in its entirety.
- Music does not need to be memorized.

Audition Requirements – Classical Voice

When signing-up for an audition slot, students will be asked to provide the following electronically:

- A brief music CV
- A repertoire list, signed by your primary Princeton studio instructor or outside music teacher, outlining your work for the prior two (2) years.
- Electronic copy of the part(s)/score(s) you intend to sing in the audition.

In the audition, students will be asked to sing:

- **Two (2) selections from classical song or opera aria repertoire.**
- The music offered must be in at least two (2) different languages, at least one of which is Italian, French, or German.
- Music **MUST BE MEMORIZED.**

Audition Requirements – Jazz Instruments & Voice

When signing-up for an audition slot, students will be asked to provide the following electronically:

- A brief music CV
- Electronic copy of the part(s)/score(s) you intend to play or sing in the audition.

In the audition, students will be asked to perform:

- **Two (2) selections of contrasting style that demonstrate awareness of the jazz tradition and the ability to improvise.**
- Repertoire selection is open across jazz genres, including Afro-Latin and Brazilian pieces.
- **Musicians should be prepared to improvise** over several choruses with their own ensemble accompaniment that students provide live or play along to, such as Aebersold or iReal Pro.
- Music does not need to be memorized.

Audition Requirements – Vocal Consort

Students interested in Vocal Consort should contact faculty Program Director, Gabriel Crouch prior to Spring Break to express their interest and, potentially, set up a meeting to discuss the program.

Additionally, students interested in Vocal Consort will be asked to audition for Gabriel Crouch and any other faculty whom he may designate. Auditions will be in the week of March 31-April 6, 2025 and will be scheduled by mutual agreement between applicants and Gabriel Crouch.

When signing-up for an audition slot, students will be asked to provide the following electronically:

- A brief music CV
- A repertoire list, signed by your primary Princeton studio instructor or outside music teacher, outlining your work for the prior two (2) years.
- Electronic copy of the part(s)/score(s) you intend to sing in the audition.

In the audition, students will be asked to:

- Sing one prepared solo work
- Sing one unseen work, provided by the audition panel. Students will be expected to sight-sing this work.
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Audition Requirements – Choral Conducting

Students interested in Choral Conducting should contact the faculty Program Director, Gabriel Crouch prior to Spring Break to express their interest and, potentially, set up a meeting to discuss the program. This should be prior to submitting an application.

When applying for the program, students will be asked to provide the following electronically:

- A brief music CV
- A letter of recommendation from the faculty leader of a music department ensemble and/or musical director of an outside group you have worked with.
- A repertoire list of your work in your main instrument, signed by your primary Princeton studio instructor or outside music teacher, outlining your work for the prior two (2) years.

The audition will consist of being invited into an appropriate Princeton Glee Club rehearsal in early April (exact date/time coordinated individually) to lead the ensemble in a work the ensemble is already familiar with. In that setting, the candidate will be asked to demonstrate the ability to use gesture to clearly communicate beat patterns, musical phrasing, and dynamic/stylistic cues in a multipart score. In some cases, it may be more informative to the faculty to see a conducting candidate work with another campus ensemble with whom they more regularly rehearse. If that is of interest to the student and/or the faculty, then such a session will be arranged for that same early April period.

Audition Requirements –Orchestral Conducting

Students interested in Orchestral Conducting should both:

- Contact the faculty Program Director, Michael Pratt prior to Spring Break to express their interest and, potentially, set up a meeting to discuss the program. This should be prior to submitting an application.
- Seriously consider enrolling in MPP 216 (Conducting) for Spring 2025.

When applying for the program, students will be asked to provide the following electronically:

- A brief music CV
- A repertoire list of your work in your main instrument, signed by your primary Princeton studio instructor or outside music teacher, outlining your work for the prior two (2) years.

In the audition, students will be asked to lead a small chamber group or piano four-hands pairing through a movement of a work assigned by Michael Pratt. The score for the selected work will be provided prior to the audition to facilitate preparation. Examples of possible works may include a movement of a symphonic work by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, or similar period/composer.

Assessment & Admission Process

Solo instrumental and vocal auditions will be heard by all three of the following faculty members:

- Michael J. Pratt - *Conductor, Princeton University Orchestra; Director, Program in Performance*
- Gabriel Crouch – *Director of Choral Activities*
- Rudresh Mahanthappa – *Anthony H.P. Lee '79 Director of Jazz*

Vocal Consort auditions will be heard by:

- Professor Gabriel Crouch – *Director of Choral Activities*
- An additional faculty member of the Director's choosing

Conducting auditions will be evaluated by

- Orchestral: Professor Michael J. Pratt - *Conductor, Princeton University Orchestra; Director, Program in Performance*
- Choral: Professor Gabriel Crouch – *Director of Choral Activities*
- Possibly additional faculty member of the appropriate Director's choosing

Together, the faculty Program Directors assess auditions and application materials. They, in consultation with the Music Department Chair, will determine which applicants will be admitted to the Program in Performance.

Students will be notified whether or not they are admitted in writing from Department of Music Staff in the days following the final audition. Those who are admitted will be provided information for official enrollment in the program, course registration guidance, and more following their admission confirmation.
