

Preucil School of Music Certificate Program

Introduction

The Certificate Program challenges each student to read, write, and hear the language of music with a high level of literacy. This tuition-free program for high school students includes intensive study in theory and musicianship, keyboard, and chamber music in addition to regular lessons and orchestra membership. Students successfully completing the two-year course receive certificates of their accomplishment at graduation recognized by leading music schools. Participation in the program is encouraged for students planning a musical career as well as those who want a deeper understanding of music to enhance their adult life.

Eligibility and Cost

All students in grades 9 through 11 who have completed the Intermediate Level on their primary instrument may apply for admission. The two-year courses begin in each odd-numbered year, with a maximum enrollment of twenty four students. Beginning the program at freshman or sophomore year is recommended.

Tuition is covered by the Certificate Program Fund, a gift from Alexandra Velay of Philadelphia. Students pay a registration fee of \$60 each year of the program and purchase their own materials.

Students who wish to register for single courses within the Certificate Program are assessed the regular tuition costs.

Required Courses for the Two Year Program

- 1) Private Instrumental Lessons *
- 2) Preucil School String Orchestra or Piano Master Class *
- 3) Literature and Materials of Music (26 weeks per year)
- 4) Class Piano for non-pianists (26 weeks per year)
- 5) Chamber Music (14 week second semester)
- 6) Performance of a solo or partner recital and/or paper, before March of senior year.

* tuition not included in grant

Necessary Student Commitment

Since students are recipients of a substantial scholarship, good intent to finish the two-year program to the best of their ability is expected.

- 1) **Regular class attendance** - More than 4 absences in any class (each year) result in being dropped from the program. Two times tardy equal one absence. Assignments must be completed for missed classes. Attendance and assignments are carefully monitored. Concert attendance and other activities may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

- 2) **Preparation** - Homework of up to 2 hours and daily practice for Piano Class is expected to be carefully completed each week. Students may remain in the program with minimum grades of 75%, but an 88% average is required to receive the Certificate.
- 3) **Instrumental Practice** - Students should challenge themselves to practice 10 hours per week, and not less than 8 hours. This amount of practice should make it possible to fill the repertoire requirements for the Certificate. Students who wish to graduate with performance honors should practice 2-3 hours daily.

Evaluation

A progress report will be mailed each December and May.

Presentation of Certificates

Certificates will be presented at the Senior Graduation Recital according to the following levels of accomplishment:

- 1) **Certificate of Participation in Musical Studies.**
 - a) Completion of courses with minimum grades of 88%
 - b) Performance on a partner recital or submission of 750-1000 word essay on an assigned subject
- 2) **Certificate of Excellence in Musicianship.**
 - a) See 1a above
 - b) Completion of Advanced Level instrumental requirements by March 1 of Senior Year
 - c) Performance on a solo or partner recital
- 3) **Certificate of Excellence with Performance Honors**
 - a) See 1a above
 - b) Completion of pre-professional instrumental requirements before Senior year. Playing must show refinement of tone, intonation, technique and communicate sensitivity and expression
 - c) Performance of a solo recital before graduation
 - d) Submission of 750-1000 word essay on an assigned subject.

*Students may request a “certificate of completion” to be included in any college application portfolio.

How to Apply for the Certificate Program

- 1) Application forms are available at the office.
- 2) Write a 200 word essay expressing your interest in the program and what you foresee, at this time, as the importance of music in your life.
- 3) Submit application, essay, and \$60 annual registration fee no later than Fall registration. Fee is non-refundable.
- 4) Classes are held on Thursday late afternoons - evenings and begin in September.