

Herberger College School of Music – Honors Program

Introduction

The Herberger Institute School of Music (SOM) ranks as one of the top music schools in the United States and offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees in music.

Barrett, The Honors College (BHC) students can choose among a Bachelor of Arts in Music, a Bachelor of Music in Performance with concentrations in solo performance (instrumental, keyboard, or voice), BM in Collaborative Piano, BM in Jazz Studies, BM in Music Theatre, BM in Music Education (with concentrations in choral/general music, instrumental music or strings), BM in Music Therapy or a BM in Theory and Composition (with concentrations in theory or composition). For more details please go to: <http://music.asu.edu/about/degrees.php>

Benefits of enrollment in both the Herberger Institute SOM & BHC

Priority Registration for Classes

Honors students are eligible to register for classes each semester on the first day of registration.

SOM Honors Events

Events such as brown bag lunch meetings, pizza parties, and receptions at the beginning and during the fall and spring semesters offer BHC students the opportunity to meet SOM Faculty and fellow honors students

Honors Contracts

Honors contracts offer BHC students the opportunity to work closely with a School of Music faculty member. Honors credit can be earned by performing above and beyond the normal expectations of a course, which might entail expanding a research paper from 7 to 15 pages, creating a new edition of a musical work, creating a lesson plan or intervention plan for a class or music therapy client, or other modified or supplementary assignments. Honors credit in performance courses can be construed as performing more visibly, adding an extra recital, or preparing more repertoire than normally required in a given semester. The honors component of any music course should have a research component.

Honors contracts between SOM faculty members and Barrett Honors students occur at the discretion of each faculty member. BHC students must make inquiries at the beginning of the semester. They may receive further advice on Honors Contracts from the SOM Honors Advisor. Many courses in the undergraduate music curriculum are potential candidates for Footnote 18 contracts. Possibilities include:

- Music history (MHL, upper-division)
- Music theory (MTC)
- Performance courses (MUP, e.g., applied lessons, chamber courses, conducting, ensembles)
- Music Education and Music Therapy courses (MUE)

For more courses, check the course catalog or consult the SOM Honors Advisor

Graduate courses--Senior-level BHC students are sometimes allowed to enroll in selected graduate courses. Special permission must be acquired from the Professor.

Honors Theses

The honors thesis project, wherein a student complies with BHC and SOM requirements, is the high point of study for a BHC student majoring in music. Successful completion of this experience helps prepare and qualify BHC students for prestigious graduate programs, international study opportunities, and post-graduate professional activities. BHC students should meet with the Honors Advisor or potential SOM thesis advisor to discuss project ideas in accordance with BHC guidelines. Honors thesis committees should only include regularly appointed faculty members.

The SOM grants considerable leeway in the forms these projects can take. The thesis must focus on music, but also may intersect with other disciplines such as visual art, theater, history, architecture, women's studies, or religious studies. The student develops his/her own thesis topic which should entail original scholarship.

The format of the thesis might be a written research project in the style of a Master's-type thesis that reflects original research and comprises 25 or more pages. Likewise, the project might combine artists across disciplines to collaborate on performing a new work and creating a performance venue for such work. Innovation and well-grounded research should be the starting points for all honors thesis proposals.

NOTE: Because an honors thesis must go well beyond normal degree requirements, the Senior Recital itself or added components such as program notes are not suitable substitutions for thesis work.

Samples of successful honors thesis projects include:

- Marina Sophia Anne Beckwith (music therapy), "The Body as Life," 2005. Prof. Robin Rio, chair.
- Kimberlee Headlee (voice), "Takin' a Chance: A Vocal Jazz Recital," 2009. Prof. Michael Kocour, chair.
- Tom Peterson (composition), "Thanatopsis," 18-minute composition for voice and chamber ensemble and organization of a full-length concert, 2007. Prof. Jody Rockmaker, chair.
- Ryan Sandell (BA with music history concentration), "Signs and Contents of Song: A Commentary on the Relationship between Language and Music through the Wilhelm Meister Songs of Schubert, Schumann, and Wolf," 2007. Prof. Kay Norton, chair.
- Ellen Tollefson (music education), "Repertoire Selection for the Elementary and Middle School Orchestra Classroom," 2007. Prof. Margaret Schmidt, chair.

SOM Honors Advisor Contact Information

For assistance in choosing appropriate courses and establishing an honors thesis committee, BHC students in the SOM programs may contact the SOM Honors Advisor:

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