

Letter to Music BA/BM Entrants for Fall 2009

Dear Music Major,

Welcome to the Department of Music at the University of California, Santa Barbara. My colleagues and I look forward to meeting you at the New Majors Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 1:00 PM in Music room 1145. At the meeting you will learn much that is important to your degree program and will be introduced to many members of the faculty.

I encourage you to look through the topics that are covered in the two-year musicianship

<http://www.music.ucsb.edu/PDF/M5guide.pdf> -- and music theory

<http://www.music.ucsb.edu/PDF/m4guide.pdf> -- sequences of core courses.

For music theory, incoming freshmen should at least be familiar with treble and bass clefs as well as the basics of written music notation (pitches, key signatures, beat, meter, rhythm). Junior-level students should be able to demonstrate competency for all of the first-year theory topics.

During the next few weeks, you may wish to refresh yourself on certain topics.

There are several music theory websites that I can recommend:

<http://www.musictheory.net/>

<http://www.teoria.com/>

For musicianship/aural skills, there are a number of commercial software products, which may be available at your local library. An example would be Practica Musica (Ars Nova Software), which we have here at UCSB.

You will find the dates and times of auditions and placement exams that occur during pre-instructional activities week at: <http://www.music.ucsb.edu/PDF/PlaceExamAudSched.pdf>. Please review it carefully. I will highlight a few placement exams that apply to all or most of you:

- 1) All majors, without exception, must take the Theory and Musicianship Placement Tests at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 22nd, immediately following the New Majors Meeting.
- 2) All Music majors must sign up for a Piano Proficiency Placement Test (Class Piano Audition), unless (a) you have already passed the UCSB piano audition, or (b) you cannot play piano at all. Sign up on Wednesday, September 23rd, beginning at 9:00 AM. Be prepared to play one short piece and a few scales. Anyone planning to take an individual study (private lesson) piano audition should also audition for intermediate and advanced piano: you will later be informed in which class to register.
- 3) All majors who wish to be admitted to individual performance instruction (private lessons) on an instrument or in voice must audition for the corresponding class. Those who auditioned last winter will have previously been sent a letter by the Department telling them whether they have passed. If so, you should inquire after the New Majors Meeting from the appropriate faculty member (as directed at the meeting) about space availability and instructor assignments. BA Music majors may be asked to re-audition so that faculty can re-acquaint themselves with you, and to help determine prioritization if availability of spaces is limited. Individual performance instruction and performance auditions are optional for BA Music majors: Class Piano or Class Voice can fulfill

performance requirements. Those who wish to audition for individual instruction should sign up for audition times on sign-up sheets which will be posted on the doors of the assigned rooms.

Note to freshmen: MUS 12 is a freshman music history course that is **only offered Fall Quarter**. Be sure to register for MUS 12 when you sign up for classes. (Transferring juniors who have not had a music history course yet should also sign up for this class.) Download and keep for future reference your requirement sheet: <http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/majors-09-10.htm>. **An initial consultation with the departmental undergraduate staff advisor is mandatory.**

Please do not hesitate to contact the Music Undergraduate Advisor at 805.893.5672, for further information. Most of your questions will be answered at the New Majors Meeting on September 22nd. I look forward to meeting you then.

Sincerely,

John Hajda, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor and
Director of Undergraduate Studies