

Talent Review for Music

Submitting a special talent for review at Binghamton University is simply an opportunity to showcase your talents; **it does not affect your intended major at Binghamton.**

Submission Deadlines:

- **If you apply via Early Action, your portfolio must be received by January 15, 2012. (Note: You will be reviewed academically first; if deferred, your file will be reviewed for Special Talent.)**
- **If you apply via Regular Admission, your portfolio must be received by January 15, 2012.**

Requirements:

- 1) The Music Talent Review Form (included in this document). Please do not submit your Talent Review materials to the Music Department until you have sent your application to Admissions.
- 2) A current resume that summarizes your musical experience, including:
 - a. your instrument(s), voice part, or composition, including years studied
 - b. names of your private teacher(s)
 - c. ensembles in which you've performed
 - d. awards and honors (including all-state ensembles, etc.)
 - e. major repertoire studied
- 3) A letter of recommendation from a teacher who knows your musical abilities well (a request form is included in this document). This should be your private-lesson teacher if you have one, or an ensemble director who has worked with you individually. If your teacher has already written a recommendation for your general application, please request another letter specifically in support of your Talent Review for Music. Your recommender should place the letter in a sealed envelope, sign it across the seal, and return it to you for inclusion with your other materials.
- 4) A good-quality recording (CD or DVD) of your performing or compositional work, between 5 and 12 minutes in length (see guidelines below).*

Submit all requirements, in one mailing, to:

Professor Paul Schleuse
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Music Department
Binghamton University
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

*Audition CD/DVD guidelines for specific performance areas:

These guidelines are intended to convey the level of proficiency expected for the Talent Review process; they are not strict requirements. We encourage you to demonstrate your abilities as fully as possible within the 12-minute limit.

Voice: A minimum of two pieces in contrasting styles from the classical repertoire (e.g. an early Italian or English art song and a song from the Romantic period). You may also add a selection from American musical theater. Choose lyrical selections that show your range, your musicianship and phrasing, and your diction. Performances with piano accompaniment are preferred.

Piano: A minimum of two pieces in contrasting styles (for example, Baroque and Romantic) at NYSSMA level 5 or 6 (or equivalent), demonstrating technical and expressive playing, memorized if possible. One major and one minor scale and arpeggio, four octaves in quarters, eighths, and sixteenths.

Brass/Woodwind: A level 5 or 6 NYSSMA solo (or equivalent) demonstrating your musicality (phrasing), technical level, and control of intonation, articulation, and rhythm. One étude, study, or other contrasting work. Two major scales over the standard range of the instrument (1–3 octaves).

Percussion: Two solo pieces on different instruments that demonstrate musicality, technique and varied dynamics and articulation.

Violin/Viola: 2–3 octave major and minor scale (one of each); bowings and/or accelerations are encouraged, but not required. Solo of applicant’s choice (NYSSMA level 5 or 6, or equivalent) which demonstrates musicality and variety of techniques OR 2 contrasting works. Performances with piano accompaniment are encouraged, but not required. Video, if used, should be shot showing the front of the candidate, with both hands visible.

Cello: C major and D minor scale and arpeggio, 3 octaves plus two contrasting pieces.

Bass: G major and D minor scale and arpeggio, 2 octaves, plus two contrasting pieces.

Organ: An organ work by J.S. Bach and a piece from either the Romantic or Modern repertoire for organ solo. For incoming pianists wishing to study organ, either a two or three-part invention by Bach or a prelude and fugue from the “Well-Tempered Clavier,” plus one piece in contrasting style to the Bach. One major scale and one minor scale (four octaves) at the piano.

Jazz: Pianists, guitarists, percussionists, vocalists and wind instrument players who wish to demonstrate ability in the jazz idiom should improvise a blues melody or a standard tune of their choice with a live or recorded background, then improvise at least two choruses, and complete the performance by playing the melody of the tune again. Vocalists should sing the melody, then “scat sing” a chorus or two, then sing the melody of the tune again.

World Music Tradition: Your audition should demonstrate your technique and expressivity as appropriate to the instrument(s), styles, and traditions represented. Ensemble performances are acceptable if you are featured in a solo or other prominent role.

Composition: Submit at least two scores of works written for different performing forces or media. If possible, send audio or video recordings, preferably of live performances rather than electronic realizations. Purely electronic works for which no score exists should be accompanied by a brief statement describing the specific technologies (hardware and software) used, and the compositional techniques applied.

Questions?

For questions about the music requirements, contact Paul Schleuse at schleuse@binghamton.edu.

For questions about the admissions process, contact Ashley Thompson at athomps@binghamton.edu

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY: Talent Review for Music

Please complete this form and return it, along with your résumé, letter of recommendation, and recording to:
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Music Department, Binghamton University, PO Box 6000, Binghamton NY
13902-6000.

NAME: _____
Last First Middle, Jr., etc. B-Number (*required*)

BIRTH DATE: _____ CURRENT SCHOOL: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

BINGHAMTON INTENDED MAJOR: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Number & Street Apt. #

City/Town State/Province ZIP/Postal code Country

EMAIL: _____ Phone (w/ area code): _____

AREA(S) OF INTEREST: Please identify the area that you wish to have considered as part of your application. If you indicate more than one area, indicate which is your primary specialization.

- Instrument(s): _____ Voice (indicate part): _____
 Composition or Songwriting World Music Tradition: _____

Contents of CD/DVD recording: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

For Binghamton University use only: Faculty Evaluator: _____ Date sent: _____
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT, WITH ALL MATERIALS, TO THE MUSIC OFFICE.

CIRCLE ONE: Below Average Average Above Average Outstanding

COMMENTS: _____

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY: Talent Review for Music—Request for Recommendation

To the Applicant: Please complete the top section of this form and give it to a teacher who knows your musical abilities well. Your recommender should place the letter in an envelope, seal it, sign it across the seal, and return to you. This sealed envelope should be included with your other materials.

NAME: _____
 Last First Middle Jr., etc.

BIRTH DATE: _____ CURRENT SCHOOL: _____
 mm/dd/yyyy

Please check one: I waive ___ / I do not waive ___ my right to read this recommendation.

To the Recommender: Thank you for agreeing to write in support of your student’s application to Binghamton University. This recommendation will be reviewed by Music Department faculty as part of the applicant’s Talent Review for Music. Please discuss the student’s musical abilities and progress as specifically as possible. Please return your letter to the applicant in a sealed, signed envelope in time to meet the Talent Review deadline of **January 15, 2012.**

NAME: _____ TITLE/POSITION: _____

IN WHAT CAPACITY HAVE YOU TAUGHT THE APPLICANT, AND FOR HOW LONG?

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

In the space below or on a separate page, please describe your work with the applicant, addressing strengths and weaknesses in technique and expression, ability to respond to a teacher’s advice, and growth as a musician over time. If possible, please note specific accomplishments that might not appear on the student’s résumé. Also, please evaluate your opinion of the student’s potential for musical success at the university and professional levels.

