

WESTMONT COLLEGE

Department of Music

HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared to be of use to you, the music student. Please take the time to read it carefully, especially those sections which directly affect you.

You are responsible for being familiar with the departmental policies as stated in this handbook. The policies and procedures have been created for the benefit of all concerned, but will only be beneficial if they are understood and heeded by everyone.

Regardless of the extent of your involvement in music at Westmont College, you will find it to be extremely demanding, yet extremely rewarding. Together, we work to make music both an art and a science, and we offer it up as a gift to our Creator.

This handbook is intended to help you navigate your way through the academic study of music at Westmont College and will be a ready reference alongside a close working relationship with the music faculty and a careful study of the official College Catalogue.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The Music Department equips students for the serious study, composition and performance of great music within the scope of the liberal arts tradition and the context of the Christian faith and worship.

Vision Statement:

The primary objective of the Music Department is to develop skilled musicians with Christian insight into their art and craft at an advanced level. The Music

Department works toward that objective in many ways unique to the arts, and always as part of and in harmony with the total College community.

Faculty and students work together to:

Examine all music in the light of Christian principles and thereby better understand and appreciate this unique response of humanity to God and His creation.

Develop knowledge and understanding concerning the structure and history of music as it relates to creating, composing, interpreting, performing, listening to, evaluating, and teaching.

Provide an environment which promote meaningful aesthetic experiences, critical examination, creative self-expression and musical sensitivity.

Acquire technical skills necessary for creating, composing, interpreting, performing, listening to, evaluating, and teaching music.

Collaborate with each other and the broader arts and faith communities in performance and composition to share and multiply the gifts that are developed through our efforts.

The performance mission of the Music Department is:

Musical performances at Westmont are dedicated to the glory of God and in gratitude for the creative and expressive gifts that are shared with this community. Westmont musical ensembles present performances that are an expected outcome of curricular and collaborative activities.

Performances aspire to educate, entertain, and edify the spiritual development of both performers and audience members

ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

Ensembles are an important aspect of music at Westmont. All interested Westmont students are encouraged to audition for one or more of the music ensembles. Participation in the major performing ensembles is required of music majors and minors.

Major performing ensembles include College Choir and Orchestra. Other more specialized ensembles include Chamber Singers, Women's Chorale, Men's Chorale, New Sounds, Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Instrumental Ensembles.

For purposes of fulfilling the Music Major or Minor, the faculty may designate up to 2 semesters of a specialized ensemble to fulfill the Major Ensemble requirement. Students who need this consideration should file a petition with the music faculty.

Descriptions of the performing ensembles follow.

College Choir MUA 071/171

Westmont's principal choral ensemble, a large mixed chorus, is under the direction of Dr. Michael Shasberger. The choir performs the classic repertoire of the past five centuries, along with spirituals, folk song arrangements, and music of other cultures.

The ensemble presents local concerts including, each year, a major work with orchestra. The College Choir also appears at Westmont events, performs in chapel, ministers in local church services, and participates in regional choral festivals. Highlights of the year include the Christmas concert and the spring tour.

Chamber Singers MUA 072/172

This select ensemble, under the direction of Professor Grey Brothers, specializes in a cappella literature, including madrigals and motets of the Renaissance, contemporary sacred and secular music, folk song arrangements, and spirituals.

Outreach is an important function of the ensemble; in addition to joining the College Choir on the spring tour, the group performs locally and across southern and central California. Membership in the Chamber Singers is contingent upon membership in the College Choir

Men's Chorale
MUA 073/173

Men's Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Grey Brothers, specializes in a variety of accompanied and a cappella literature for men's voices.

The ensemble performs in concert with the College Choir, appears in chapel, performs locally in churches and at civic events, participates in regional choral festivals, and travels on tour.

Women's Chorale
MUA 074/174

Women's Chorale, under the direction of JoAnne Wasserman, specializes in a variety of accompanied and a cappella literature for women's voices.

The ensemble performs in concert with the College Choir, appears in chapel, performs locally in churches and at civic events, participates in regional choral festivals, and travels on tour.

New Sounds
MUA 076/176

This select ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Steve Hodson, **and is designed for first-year students who are seeking a select mixed ensemble experience. Membership in New Sounds is open to members in good standing of the Men's and Women's Chorales.**

Orchestra
MUA 083/183

The Westmont Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Michael Shasberger, studies and reads original literature, transcriptions, and arrangements. Included in this are works for full orchestra, string orchestra, and small ensembles. The study and practice includes various style periods and composers from the Renaissance through the Twentieth Century through sight-reading, rehearsing, discussion of history, theory, musical forms and structures, and public performance.

The orchestra performs two major concerts each semester and additionally participates annually in the Christmas Festival and frequently in the Masterworks concerts in conjunction with the Westmont choirs.

Wind Ensemble
MUA 081/181

Various Wind Ensembles, directed and coached by Dr. Paul Mori, are organized for brass, woodwind, and percussion players. The various chamber ensembles perform throughout the semester. Typical groups include a woodwind quintet,

brass sextet, brass choir, and flute ensemble. Other ensemble forms to meet student interest and abilities.

Jazz Groups MUA 082/182

The big band typically features traditional jazz instruments (rhythm section, trumpets, trombones, saxophones), and the music is intermediate to advance. The smaller ensembles feature repertoire of varying difficulty, and though the focus is jazz, other musical styles are explored, including Latin-jazz, jazz-rock fusion, gospel, R&B, and pop, particularly in vocal arrangements. Take-home copies of music, improvisation exercises, scales, theory, etc. are distributed in class. Students are welcome to participate in multiple ensembles. Performance opportunities include an end-of-semester concert, on-campus events such as faculty parties, and community outreach concerts. Singers and instrumentalists who play traditionally-non-jazz instruments (e.g., violin/viola/cello, woodwinds) are welcome to join the small jazz ensembles. Previous experience in jazz is not a prerequisite - classical players who want to expand their musical vocabulary and experience are welcome.

String Chamber Ensemble MUA 084/184

The string chamber ensemble offers instruction in mixed small chamber ensembles. While members are drawn mainly from the Westmont Orchestra, there are no prerequisites for membership in WCO. Students will be exposed to a wide array of repertoire. The choice of repertoire will be based on varying factors, such as student's interest in the suggested material and the technical capabilities and individual experience of the students involved in each ensemble. Performances of the studied repertoire will be presented at the end of the semester. Ensembles are expected to organize rehearsals outside of weekly coachings. Dr. Philip Ficsor is the primary coach and coordinator of these ensembles.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are available to all Westmont students. Specialists in each performance area are contracted to teach interested students. Music majors are required to take private lessons.

Thirteen forty-five minute lessons will be given each semester for one unit of credit. **Students must attend at least twelve lessons in a semester to receive a passing grade.** No refunds of lesson fees will be given if a student withdraws after the first scheduled lesson.

Students must notify the instructor 24 hours in advance if a lesson must be missed. Lessons missed for just cause (sickness, holidays, etc.) will be re-scheduled at the convenience of the instructor only upon the request of the student. Lessons missed without just cause will not be re-scheduled.

COLLOQUIA AND RECITALS

Recitals are an important way to develop performance and listening skills, gain exposure to a broad range of music and support each other as Christian musicians. Colloquia provide opportunities for music faculty and students to meet on a regular basis to explore issues of common interest.

Colloquia/Recitals

1. Scheduled Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m. throughout the semester.
2. All private students are expected to attend at least seven colloquia/recitals. All music majors and minors are expected to attend all the colloquia/recitals.
3. All private students are expected to perform periodically in the colloquia/recitals. (See individual teachers for specific requirements).
4. Students should dress appropriately and observe proper decorum when performing in recitals.
5. Use of printed music in colloquia/recitals is at the discretion of the student's private instructor.
6. Program information for the colloquia/recitals is due in the department office by noon on the Monday preceding the colloquium/recital. It is the student's responsibility to furnish the appropriate information to the department secretary (forms for this purpose are available online). The order of the recital program will be determined by the department secretary in consultation with music faculty. In the event that the program for the recital appears too long, performances may be rescheduled to the following week.

Junior and Senior Recitals

1. Students in the performance track are required to perform a junior and a senior recital. Other music majors may petition to perform a junior or senior recital. The senior recital requires registration for MU 193 (2 units credit).
2. Normally, a junior will perform a half recital assigned by faculty with another student. The length of a joint recital should be approximately 75 minutes. A senior will perform a full-length recital, approximately 60-70 minutes in length.
3. Students required to or wishing to perform a junior or senior recital must

apply and audition for the privilege in the previous semester by filling out a recital request and scheduling application (which should include all repertoire to be performed), and performing at least two fully prepared selections on a music department colloquium. At least two full time music faculty must approve the recital request form indicating they will attend the program. The grade for recitals will be assigned by consensus of the attending faculty members.

4. Junior or senior recitals are normally held in the evening and are scheduled by the music faculty a semester in advance following a successful completion of the application and audition. Senior and junior recitals cannot be scheduled during the last two weeks of school.

5. Junior and senior recitals are held in Deane Chapel. Requests to perform the recitals elsewhere will be considered by the music faculty. Any extra expense involving a change in location is the student's responsibility. Venue changes must be confirmed before program copy is submitted to the music office.

6. The music department will provide programs. Copy must be submitted to the department for approval and proofreading at least one month prior to the performance.

7. Reception expenses are the student's responsibility.

8. The student must provide publicity information to the secretary at least one month prior to the recital. The music department will handle publicity for the recital, including listing the event on campus calendar and placing notices in campus news publications.

JURY EXAMS

Private lesson jury exams will be conducted during finals week each semester. These jury exams are the equivalent of final examinations for private instruction. The jury will consist of three or more music faculty members. The exam will last from seven to ten minutes.

All students taking private lessons will be required to perform before the faculty jury. Beginning students who are not (or not intending to become) music majors or music minors may be excused from performing before the jury with permission (in writing) of their instructor (forms for this purpose will be available in the music department office). Students who have performed a junior or senior recital will be exempt from the jury for that semester.

1. The jury schedule and forms are posted online at the music department website.
2. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for an accompanist for the jury, if needed.
3. Students should dress appropriately and observe proper decorum when performing for the jury.
4. Use of printed music in (jury exams) recitals is at the discretion of the student's private instructor.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Music students should take advantage of every opportunity to hear performances of live music. Concert attendance requirements are a part of the requirements for private lessons and many music classes.

The Santa Barbara community is privileged to hear some of the world's finest musicians. The Department of Music faculty and staff will make every effort to make students aware of events by way of announcements and the department bulletin board. At times, free or reduced rate tickets are available to Westmont students, and these will be made known to you.

PIANO PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

All music majors are required to exhibit a basic proficiency at the piano by completing the following requirements:

1. Play two-octave scales and arpeggios in the major and minor keys (including three forms of the minor scales), both hands together, with correct fingering, at the tempo quarter note = 60.
2. Play a prepared, approved composition at the level of the following:

Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook (intermediate to advanced selections)
Clementi - Sonatinas
Beethoven - Dances
Schumann - Album for the Young, Op. 68 (nos. 12 ff.)
Scenes from Childhood, Op. 15
Kabalevsky - 15 Children's Pieces, Op. 27 (nos. 7-15)
3. Harmonize a simple melody in a major key, and one in a minor key using tonic, dominant and sub-dominant triads.
4. Transpose a melody up or down a major second and a minor second.
5. Sight-read a four-part chorale or hymn, and a piano piece at the level of the following:

Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook (beginning level selections)
Schumann - Album for the Young, Op. 68 (nos. 1-11)
Bartok - For Children (beginning level selections)
Kabalevsky - 15 Children's Pieces, Op. 27 (beginning level selections)
Kodaly - Children's Dances

The proficiency exam may be taken during juries at the end of each semester or at another time agreed upon by the student and the examining professor. The exam may be taken in sections until successfully completed, and should be started as soon as possible by all students. Dr. Hodson and all piano instructors may grade the exam and its sections, and will report the results of all examinations to the Music Department Chair. If no piano instructor is available, other members of the full-time faculty may be requested to grade the exam if needed.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of music scholarships are available to current and incoming Westmont students. Students need not major or minor in music to be eligible for a music scholarship, however music majors will be given preference.

Application must be made by March 1 of the preceding year. Details and application forms are available from the music secretary **and on the Music Department website.**

ACCOMPANISTS

Competent keyboard accompanists are encouraged to develop their skills through accompanying ensembles and private lessons. Funds are available to pay accompanists and all accompanists must be registered with the music office. Interested students should inquire for more information from the music secretary.

Accompanists will be paid for two hours per week: the lesson plus additional practice time to total two hours.

FACILITIES

Music Building

Building Access

Buildings will be opened at 6am and will be locked at midnight by Public Safety officers. Practice rooms will be unlocked during the day for use. No keys will be issued to students.

Room

1. Water is allowed in practice rooms. Please do not set water bottles on pianos.
2. No food or drinks allowed in any practice rooms or teaching studios, but you are welcome to eat on the front deck or by the table and chairs on the lawn.
3. Windows may be opened but must be shut before you leave the room. Windows left open over night could cause severe damage to the pianos.
4. Cellists must use their rock-stop at all times at all times to prevent damage to the floor.
5. Please turn off the lights before you leave the practice rooms.
6. If you remove a chair or stand from a room, please return it to the room from which you borrowed it.
7. For reasons of safety and liability, students may not block practice room windows.

8. Please do not lean on the cloth-covered, sound-absorbing boards in the rehearsal and practice rooms. The fiberglass boards will crack if undue pressure is placed on them. Each panel cost an extraordinary amount and will be very expensive to replace if damaged.

Piano Care

1. Bookshelves are located in each room. Please set music, backpacks, and book here and not on the pianos.
2. Keep the lid clear and clean at all times. Food, drink, coats, instrument cases, etc. cause damage and do not belong on the pianos.
3. Never remove the piano or bench from this room. You could hurt yourself as well as do damage to the pianos.
4. Pen and pencil marks can scratch the finish. Never write on paper that has direct contact with the piano. Certainly, never write on the surface of the pianos!
5. Always keep the key cover up, even when the piano is not in use. This allows the air to circulate and helps to prevent sticking keys.
6. While cleaning, use a soft, clean cloth that is dry or slightly damp with water only. No cleaning solutions or polishing compounds.

Kitchen

Kitchen use is available to faculty and staff use only.

Instrument Storage

Instruments may be stored under the stairs in the workroom. Space is extremely limited and that we can only accommodate large instruments when absolutely necessary on a regular basis. Students may leave other instruments carefully and neatly in this space on occasion. The Music Department takes no responsibility for the security or safety of instruments left in the work room

Practice Room

1. Students may reserve a practice room for 1 hour per day per credit of lesson time.
1-unit Private Lesson = 7 hours per week
2-unit Private Lesson = 14 hours per week
2. Students may "stack" hours on certain days. So, a student taking a 1-credit lesson may reserve 2 hours on a Sunday night and 5 hours on Thursday.
3. Use of the practice rooms are prioritized as follows:

1. Adjunct Instructors teaching Westmont students

2. Westmont students with room reservations
3. Westmont students who are enrolled for private instruction practicing without a room reservation
4. Adjunct instructors teaching non-Westmont students
5. Westmont students teaching their own private students
6. Westmont students who are not enrolled for private instruction
7. All others

Please defer the use of a room graciously when asked by someone higher up on the priority list when asked.

Deane Chapel

1. Deane Chapel is used for classes, ensemble rehearsals and recitals.
2. Organ and piano students, as well as students who are preparing for a recital may make arrangements to rehearse in Deane Chapel. Permission must be given by a member of the music faculty and practice time must be scheduled in conjunction with the Deane Chapel schedule.

Instruments

1. The school owns several instruments, which are available for student use.
2. Students wishing to use any of the school instruments must make arrangements with the Music Department Secretary.
3. Students who borrow music department instruments will be held responsible for their damage or loss.