

Westmont Music Department

Jury Exams Fall 2006

We want our private lesson students to be equipped to perform well at their particular craft. They should make a solid presentation, have good intonation, effective articulation, convincing poise, well grounded technique, an accurate rhythmic precision, and responsive dynamic interpretation.

The Assessment Strategy for Jury Exams

All students taking private lessons are required to perform before the faculty jury. These jury exams are the equivalent of final examinations for private instruction and are conducted during finals each semester. The jury consists of five or more music faculty members. During the exam, the students are evaluated on their presentation, intonation, articulation, poise, technique, rhythmic precision, dynamic interpretation, etc., as pertaining to the instrument of study.

The Assessment

Over fifty students were evaluated during the Fall 2006 juries. The music faculty met to discuss the results of the process overall and to choose three students in three different areas at three different levels. These findings are documented in the accompanying DVD.

Student One: Beginning Voice

Student Two: Intermediate Piano

Student Three: Advanced Cello

The Next Steps

As the direct result of assessment dialogue among the music faculty about jury examinations, we have arrived at three important conclusions:

First, that we update the jury form to include more helpful information than before.

Second, that we insure that all private instructors are preparing students appropriately and thoroughly for jury examinations.

Third, that we restructure the jury schedule to include more participation by adjuncts and to prepare for the increased enrollment in private lessons.