

## **The Voice Department Mission and Philosophy**

The Voice Department of Lawrence University Conservatory of Music is committed to the serious pre-professional training of the undergraduate singer. Students receive individualized attention in a demanding yet close-knit, collegial learning environment. An excellent faculty carefully manages the vocal health and progress of each singer in a performance-centered program that is musically rich and diverse.

## **Voice Study at Lawrence**

This Voice Department Handbook provides you with essential information regarding voice studies at Lawrence University. Please consult the Voice Department Study Guide for important supplementary information.

### Degrees with a Voice Major

- Bachelor of Music in Performance,
- Bachelor of Music in Education,
- Bachelor of Arts

### Other degrees that include voice study

- Bachelor of Music in Education with voice as the secondary instrument
- Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition (with voice as the primary instrument)
- Bachelor of Arts (with a music major and voice as the primary instrument)
- Bachelor of Arts (with a music minor and voice as the primary instrument)
- See “Voice Lessons as an Elective” below

Students are not permitted to complete requirements for two music degrees in a normal four-year period. Completion of two music degrees constitutes a five-year program.

Individual performance study (private instruction in voice) consists of a minimum of nine lessons per term and studio classes at the discretion of the instructor. Missed lessons can be made up when caused by illness and with ample advanced notice. Consult your studio policy for more specifics.

The Department also offers elective study of voice, depending on studio availability (see below “Voice Lessons as an Elective”).

## **Courses of Study**

The general course requirements for the various degrees involving vocal studies are in the on-line Lawrence University Course Catalog. Voice department-specific requirements are in the Conservatory Handbook and this Voice Department Handbook.

### **Admission to a Voice Major**

- An audition is required of all applicants for admission to the Bachelor of Music degree and applicants for a Bachelor of Arts degree with a voice major.
- These auditions are typically before matriculation and consist of two songs of contrasting style and language, sung from memory.
- After matriculation, students wishing to audition for admission to a degree with a voice major must submit an audition request to the chair of the voice department and should consult their academic advisor.
- Official admission to a Voice Major requires successful completion of the qualifying examination (see “Performance Assessment” below) after no more than six terms of study.

### **Voice Lessons as an Elective**

Private voice instruction is available by permission of the instructor, based on an audition and faculty schedules. A fee for private lessons is charged to non-music majors as outlined in the Course Catalogue.

### **Changing Degrees**

- Bachelor of Arts students who wish to become Bachelor of Music students must first arrange for an admission audition with the voice faculty. If the voice faculty recommends acceptance to the degree, the student may then file for a change of degree with the registrar.
- Bachelor of Music students who wish to become Bachelor of Arts students must consult with their academic advisor and file for the change with the registrar.
- Such changes are not normally allowed before the end of the freshman year and no later than the beginning of the junior year.

### **Studio Placement**

- The voice faculty determines studio assignments for students after the studio-placement audition, which takes place during welcome week. This audition consists of one selection sung by memory.
- Students may also request placement in any given studio by writing to the voice department chair and the studio teacher. Placement will be granted based on the availability of studio space. Students must submit studio placement requests prior to the studio-placement audition.

- Though it is typical for students to remain in the same studio through completion of the degree, it is possible to change studios after consultation with the current studio teacher, the studio teacher to which the change is desired, and the chair of the voice department.

### **Performance Assessment (Examinations, Juries, Recitals)**

All voice majors (BM-performance, BM-theory/composition, BME, BAM) must sing once each year of study for representatives of the voice faculty. The assessment instruments are the first-year performance review, the sophomore qualifying examination, the junior or senior recital, and the year-end jury. Music education majors with voice as a secondary instrument must pass a music education vocal competency exam.

#### **Examinations and Juries**

*First-year Performance Review:* At the end of the freshman year all students with voice as their major instrument will sing a first-year performance review. This examination provides an opportunity for the voice faculty to formally assess the student's progress and to make recommendations regarding strengths and weaknesses. See "Repertoire Requirements" below.

*Qualifying Examination:* By the end of the sophomore year all students with voice as the major instrument must pass the qualifying examination appropriate to their intended major, in order to officially be admitted to the voice major and to continue with a voice major at Lawrence. See "Repertoire Requirements" below.

*Year-end Jury:* Any student who has not been heard in either a qualifying examination or a recital during a given year must give a jury at the end of that year. A jury consists of two to four selections. See "Repertoire Requirements" below.

*Vocal Competency Exam:* Before completion of the degree, music education majors with voice as a secondary instrument must pass a music education vocal competency exam. See "Repertoire Requirements" below.

### **Voice Examination/Jury Repertoire Requirements**

- First-year Performance Review
  - [BM-Performance](#)
  - [BM-Education Voice](#)
  - [BM-Theory/Composition](#)
  - [BA-Voice Major](#)
  - [BA-Voice Minor](#)

- Qualifying Examination
  - [BM-Performance](#)
  - [BM-Education](#)
  - [BM-Theory/Composition](#)
  - [BA-Voice Major](#)
  - [BA-Voice Minor](#)
  
- Year-end Jury
  - [Proficiency Exam BM-Education \(voice secondary instrument\)](#)

## Recitals

**Recitals:** Any degree recital must be preceded by the successful completion of the appropriate qualifying examination and a recital hearing. See the Conservatory Handbook for “Preparation Guidelines for Recital Programs.”

**Recital Hearings:** The studio teacher and at least one other member of the voice faculty hear all recitals approximately thirty days prior to the date of their public presentation. The singer and accompanist will exhibit competence in all musical and linguistic matters. Sections to be presented from memory will be secure by this hearing. If preparation is insufficient, the faculty may require a postponement of the recital, a reduction of the program, or a re-hearing of part or all of the material. Timely scheduling of the recital hearing is the joint responsibility of the student and the studio teacher. Hearings are also required for non-required recitals.

**Vocal Performance** majors give a half recital in the junior year and a full recital in the senior year. These programs should contain approximately 25 but no more than 30, and approximately 50 minutes of music, respectively. Only full recitals may have a brief intermission.

**Music Education** majors with voice as primary instrument present a half recital of approximately 25 but no more than 30 minutes of music, usually in the senior year. If a music education major would like to do a full recital, the guidelines for non-required recitals would apply.

**Bachelor of Arts in Music** majors with voice as primary instrument may use a recital format as stipulated in the conservatory handbook as their senior project.

**Non-Required Recitals:** Any student desiring to present a non-required recital must enlist the support of the studio teacher and petition the department. Non-required recitals may not be given during third term.

### Harper Hall: Rehearsal Guidelines for Student Recitals

- Full recital: 3 hours total

- Half recital: 1.5 hours
- Consult Conservatory handbook for use of historical keyboard instruments.

### **Public Performance Protocol**

The students must consult the studio teacher in regard to all public performances, including appearances not scheduled by Lawrence University. Conservatory rehearsals and performances take precedence in the case of a conflict with external activities. (CC. p.446). For further clarification, see Voice Department Study Guide.

### **Ensemble Requirements**

Students are required to participate in an ensemble every term in which they are attending classes on the Appleton campus.

### **Performance Attendance**

All music majors are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the Conservatory as performers and as listeners and, at a minimum, to attend twelve concerts or recitals in each term of the academic year. Ten of these performances must be voice events. Compliance with this requirement is deemed a Lawrence University Honor Code obligation.

### **Senior Experience in Music Performance (CC, 451)**

The required senior recital is considered the standard Senior Experience for students in the performance major. Students have the option of proposing enhancements to the senior recital or alternative performance projects as their Senior Experience with the approval of the applied teacher, advisor, and department chair. Alternative Senior Experience projects do not replace the senior recital requirement.

### **Recital as Honors Project**

See Course Catalogue.