

**FROM:** The Music Division Jury Committee

**TO:** All Music faculty

**CC:** Stuart Benkert and Kenyon Wilson

**RE:** Spring 2021 Division Jury auditions

Dear Music colleagues,

In the interest of the health and safety of all music students and faculty, the Division Jury Committee has decided to continue the process of virtual registration and video auditions for Spring 2021. Below please find the guidelines. We will reconsider our procedures prior to the Fall 2021 semester.

1. **AY2020-21 AUDITION DATES:**

1. Friday Aug. 14, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
2. Thursday Sept. 24, 1:45-3:00 PM
3. Thursday Oct. 29, 1:45-3:00 PM
4. Tuesday Dec. 1, 3-5:00 PM
5. Friday Jan. 15, 1:45-3:00 PM
6. Thursday Feb. 4, 1:45-3:00 PM
7. Thursday March 4, 1:45-3:00 PM
8. Thursday March 25, 1:45-3:00 PM
9. Tuesday April 27, 3-5:00 PM

2. **STUDENT DJ AUDITION REGISTRATION:** Students wishing to audition for the Division Jury should email Dr. Erika Schafer, Division Jury Committee chair ([erika-schafer@UTC.edu](mailto:erika-schafer@UTC.edu)), to communicate their intention to audition ***at least one week*** prior to the requested audition date. These emails should include the following information:

- a. Audition date requested
- b. Name
- c. Instrument/voice type
- d. Degree program
- e. Instructor name
- f. Audition type (i.e. recital hearing or advancement to 4000-level study)
- g. Contact information (cell number)

We are reinstating the three-week rule regarding recitals (pre-recital hearings must occur no fewer than three weeks prior to the reserved recital date), but students are not required to complete a live recital. The Division Jury can serve as the recital.

3. **AUDITION SUBMISSION:** Students must submit the following materials (all documents should be typed):

- a. **Completed Division Jury assessment form** (digitally signed by the instructor)
- b. **Scans (PDFs) of sheet music:** please include scans of the solo parts (accompaniment parts not needed), or in the case of chamber music works, the scores
- c. **Recital hearings only:** a formatted recital program (required) and program notes (optional)

- d. **Advancement to 4000-level study only:** a comprehensive repertoire list and an audition repertoire list (the works being performed for the audition)
- e. **Audition performance recordings:** students should record videos of themselves performing all repertoire being submitted for evaluation. Students should dress professionally. For recital hearings students must submit recordings of their entire recital program. For advancement auditions students must submit recordings of the entire repertoire prepared for this audition (students should consult with their instructor if they have questions). Each piece/movement should be a separate track.

Students whose repertoire requires piano accompaniment have three options:

- 1) Record their jury without accompaniment
- 2) Record their jury with recorded accompaniment tracks
- 3) Record their jury with live accompaniment if they and their accompanist feel comfortable playing together live with social distancing

Student auditions will be assessed using the same criteria regardless of whether the student chooses to play with or without accompaniment. Ultimately, assessment will be made based solely on the student's performance. Here are some additional considerations:

- Students are strongly encouraged to perform some or all of their audition with accompaniment, as appropriate. Students who perform without accompaniment are at a disadvantage through the lack of rhythmic, harmonic, and expressive support. We suggest the use of some form of recorded accompaniment. Students should select repertoire with this in mind. This would necessitate regular practice with the accompaniment well in advance of the jury submission and some trial and error regarding technology to find a playback format that allows for the best performance for the student. The committee needs to be able to hear the accompaniment clearly, but the student can also use headphones if they can set up such a system. Please contact the Division Jury chair if you would like technology suggestions.
- In "normal" times, the Division Jury audition for a recital would be at least 3 weeks before the recital. Now, due to the pandemic, the Division Jury IS the recital. It will be archived for future reference and should have the quality of a live recital, both in performer demeanor and recording quality. Aesthetic and artistic effect are important, and students should give attention to how their work is perceived by the audience/viewer. Students should record themselves and listen/watch back frequently throughout their audition preparation, making adjustments to their performance (musically and visually) accordingly. Students should not submit their first "take"; they should record several "takes" and submit their best work. The video/audio recording quality should be as high as reasonably possible (we understand students may not have access to high quality equipment, but they should discuss and investigate various recording options with their applied instructor or the Division Jury chair), and students should exhibit stage presence appropriate for a live performance.

Performance video recordings can be made and shared on Canvas Studio or uploaded to a private YouTube channel or to a cloud drive (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.).

Students should email documents and performance video hyperlinks to the Division Jury Committee chair **in ONE email message at least 48 hours** prior to the audition date.

*Students are highly encouraged to prepare and submit their DJ audition materials well in advance of the due date/time. This gives the student time to address any technological difficulties that may arise in the recording and transmission of materials. Students should communicate with the DJ chair regarding technological difficulties before the audition due date in order for a due date extension to be considered. Extensions are at the discretion of the DJ committee.*

4. **VIRTUAL AUDITIONS:** Division Jury Committee members will assess the audition materials and meet to discuss as needed on the audition dates. Following these meetings, the chair will communicate to the students, their instructors, and the Associate Head the audition results.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns regarding these changes to our procedure.

Sincerely,

The Division Jury Committee

Erika Schafer, chair

Ronda Benson Ford

Lee Harris

Jonathan McNair

Perry Ward