

## **Undergraduate Audition Requirements**

### **Applied Area Auditions**

All music students will select an applied performance area, such as voice, piano, organ, guitar, or orchestral instrument. Typically students should have had previous experience in these areas through private lessons, especially in the instrumental area, or ensemble participation. All students who take applied studies will audition for their respective applied area. Students are encouraged to schedule auditions prior to the fall semester. For students who cannot travel to campus for an audition, a video recording may be submitted to Dr. Ben Caston, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Music Studies, at [bcaston@swbts.edu](mailto:bcaston@swbts.edu) through a variety of means, such as a DVD, direct file download, or streaming video.

### **Voice Auditions**

For voice concentration students, please prepare two songs including an English and a foreign language piece (if foreign language pieces were studied). One of them should be classical and both songs should be memorized.

For suggestions of suitable songs consider the following resources: *First Book of Soprano Solos*, *First Book of Mezzo-Soprano/Alto Solos*, *First Book of Tenor Solos*, and *First Book of Baritone/Bass Solos*.

For non-voice concentrations and BAHBS music concentration students, sing one song or hymn arrangement. For those auditioning to pass the voice proficiency, sing two songs from memory.

### **Piano Auditions**

For piano concentration auditions: be prepared to play two contrasting Classical pieces from memory. For non-piano major auditions, if you are attempting to complete the Piano Proficiency, read the proficiency requirements listed below. Be sure that you have the five memory items ready to play for us. If you are not ready to complete the proficiency, at the time of your audition you will be asked to sight-read either a hymn or an open score of four parts. You will also be asked to demonstrate the correct fingering for two major scales, and one minor scale.

### **Organ Auditions**

Organ concentration students will need to prepare two contrasting works from different musical periods. Memory is not required.

### **Guitar Auditions**

BM in Performance students will need to play two contrasting pieces which may include an etude by Fernando Sor or Leo Brouwer (or equivalent). BM in Worship Studies students will play a solo guitar piece or accompany yourself while singing. Students will need to sight read a basic chord chart for a modern worship song.

### **Instrumental Auditions**

Instrumental concentration students will need to prepare two contrasting works in contrasting styles. Scales and etudes may also be heard in the audition.

## Undergraduate Orientation Requirements

Each new student in the School of Church Music will attend orientation prior to their first semester at Southwestern. During this time, students will perform auditions for voice and piano proficiencies and ensembles, take a theory diagnostic exam (transfer students only), complete advising and registration, learn more about their program, meet fellow classmates, and be introduced to the music faculty.

### Music Theory Diagnostic

All incoming freshmen will take Theory and Musicianship I. Transfer students who have taken one, two, or three semesters of the Theory sequence will take the Theory Diagnostic Exam to check their theory background. The Theory faculty will then make recommendations about deficiencies that need to be addressed. The written diagnostic includes such information as key signatures, scales, chords, and part-writing. The musicianship diagnostic includes sight-singing and dictation. See p. 8 of this document (*Manual for Undergraduate Students*) for more information on transfer credit. Incoming freshmen who have taken the AP Music Theory Exam and scored a minimum of 4 out of 5 will receive credit for the first semester theory course, THY 1104: Theory & Musicianship I (four credit hours). Students will be required to provide official documentation for the AP Music Theory Exam.

### Voice Proficiency

The voice proficiency must be met by all undergraduate non-voice concentrations before graduation. Satisfaction of the voice proficiency can be demonstrated by an audition before the voice department during orientation. Non-voice concentration students will sing one song, preferably a classical piece, a hymn arrangement, or a hymn. Voice concentration students will satisfy the Voice Proficiency at the Mid-Qualifying Exam or Sophomore Upper Level Exam.

Singers should demonstrate the following qualities accuracy of pitch and rhythm, acceptable tone quality, clear diction, and variety of dynamics.

BM voice concentration students who do not pass the voice audition must complete VOI 2401 and VOI 1501 simultaneously, then take four semesters of applied voice for 2 units each. The voice proficiency is then satisfied by the Sophomore Upper Level Exam.

BA Students not passing the audition or choosing not to audition can satisfy the voice proficiency by completing VOI 2401: Class Voice I and VOI 2501: Class Voice II, then take four semesters of applied voice for 1 unit each. The voice proficiency is then satisfied by the Mid-Qualifying exam.

All non-voice concentration students not passing the audition or choosing not to audition must take VOI 2042 and VOI 2502 to satisfy the voice proficiency.

### Piano Proficiency

The Piano Proficiency must be met by all students in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees before graduation. If prepared, students with a piano background can audition to satisfy the Piano Proficiency during orientation. Students who do not pass the Piano Proficiency at that

time will be placed in the appropriate level of Piano Foundations I-IV (PIA 1301, 1311, 2301, and 2311) based on their performance. Students will remain enrolled in Piano Foundations until the Piano Proficiency is satisfied or until the satisfactory completion of Piano Foundations IV.

The requirements for the Piano Proficiency are as follows:

- Major scales in 2 octaves, hands separate (quarter note = 92, played in eighth notes).
- Harmonic minor scales in 2 octaves, hands separate (quarter note = 92, played in eighth notes).
- Major and minor 3-note blocked and broken chords with inversions, one octave, hands together, ascending and descending.
- Cadence chords in major and minor keys, hands together.
  - Major: I, IV6/4, I V6, V6/5, I
  - Minor: i, iv6/4, i, V6, V6/5, i
- One prepared piece of an intermediate level, played from memory.
- One hymn 16 measures in length, with music.
- Preparation of 6 simple melodies harmonized with I, IV, and V7 chords. The melody may be in a major or minor key.
- Transposition of the soprano line of a hymn, up or down a half step or a whole step.