PERFORMANCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM
College of Music
Michigan State University

The Performance Diploma Program is an intensive four-semester (two year) course of study for musicians who have already achieved a high level of performance and wish to focus on developing their performing skills through further study. The program provides for concentrated study in appropriate literature with a master teacher, without being enrolled in a degree program at the time. There is no English language proficiency requirement. Admission to the program is by live audition only. Thirty-minute entrance auditions for the program will be held at the College of Music. The college-wide auditions committee will consist of five permanent members plus the primary teacher.

During their time of study, Performance Diploma students will concentrate almost exclusively on developing their performing skills. This program recognizes accomplishment but does not carry the privileges of a college degree. Instead, students would likely be preparing for auditions, competitions, or career-entry positions.

The program consists of private study as well as chamber music and ensemble experience within the College of Music. In addition, Diploma students are required to perform one recital per year for the two-year period.

Program Requirements:

A total of 16 semester credits are required for completion of the Performance Diploma. Students enroll for 3 credits of private lessons and 1 credit of chamber music for each of four semesters to complete the program. (Voice students substitute Opera Workshop for the chamber music requirement.) Two recitals are required, as well as one semester of participation in a major ensemble. (Jazz students will participate in four semesters of jazz ensembles.) Recitals must be approved in advance, according to the College of Music policy, which requires three faculty members of the area approve the recital before it can be publicly presented. Additional requirements will be determined in consultation with the major teacher. Courses may not be transferred into the Performance Diploma Program.

In addition to fees for the 4 credits per semester, students will be assessed a performance fee for each semester’s enrollment in the program. Students in the Performance Diploma Program will enroll through Lifelong Graduate Education. The total cost is $10,000 per
year. The College of Music does not offer financial assistance (scholarships, fellowships, or graduate assistantships) for participants in the Diploma Program.

Performance Diploma students are subject to all rules and regulations of the College of Music.

Admission Procedures:

Prospective students should contact the College of Music Admissions Office for information on admission procedures to the Diploma Program in Performance. Students must complete a graduate application to the College of Music and pass the audition before a decision can be made on acceptance into the program.

- The College of Music application is available at http://www.music.msu.edu/admissions/application.php#som.

- The College of Music application is also available in hardcopy: Send a request by e-mail to: admissions@music.msu.edu, or by letter to: Director of Admissions, College of Music, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1043, or call 517.355.2140.

- Audition requirements are posted on the admissions website www.music.msu.edu

The program is administered by the Graduate Office of the College of Music. All students in the program are required to sign up before each semester with the Music Graduate Office. You may contact the Graduate Office (207 Music Practice Building) concerning content of the program and for advising at musgrad@msu.edu or by calling 517.353.9122.