

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Honors Program

Glen Kirchoff, Coordinator

The program is for talented students who are motivated and working up to their potential. Students must be 12 years or older; exceptions are made on occasion for a very gifted child.

Students NEW to HB must be enrolled in the School's Comprehensive program for two semesters before being eligible for the program. This requirement is waived for students who have been recruited to HB by their private lesson instructor; these students may audition for the Honors Program without having been enrolled at HB for two semesters.

Auditions are held in June and September. The audition committee includes the Honors Program coordinator and two additional faculty adjudicators.

Audition requirements:

- Pianists: Four octaves of two major scales and two relative minor scales in harmonic and melodic forms; two contrasting selections from two different periods.
- String instruments (including classical guitar): Three octaves of two major scales and two relative minor scales in harmonic and melodic forms; two contrasting selections from two different periods.
- Other instruments: Two octaves of two major scales and two relative minor scales in harmonic and melodic forms; two contrasting selections from two different periods.
- Jazz students should play one prepared piece and one improvisation.
- Vocal students should prepare two contrasting selections from two different periods.

Participation requirements for the 2023-24 school year are as listed below. Questions about requirements for student participation should be directed to your private lesson instructor.

Jazz Piano:

- Large Ensemble – Jazz Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, Concerts for the Community
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – Five pieces total; Concert #1: one prepared, two improvisations of different styles; Concert #2: one prepared, one improvisation; music must be memorized.

Piano:

- Chamber Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, Concerts for the Community
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals–Five pieces total; each concert must feature pieces from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.); music must be memorized.

String:

- Chamber Ensemble
- Large Ensemble – Festival Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra or Jazz Ensemble (classical guitarists may satisfy this requirement by joining a jazz ensemble or a choir).
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, Concerts for the Community
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals—Five pieces total; each concert must feature pieces from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.)

Vocal:

- Large Ensemble – Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Workshop
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, Concerts for the Community
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – At least five pieces total; each concert should feature small group of contrasting songs or arias from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.); music must be memorized.

Woodwind:

- Chamber Ensemble
- Large Ensemble – Festival Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble or Flute Club.
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, Concerts for the Community
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – Five pieces total; each concert must feature pieces from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.)

Recital Requirements

Students in the Honors Program are required to perform in two special Honors Recitals per year, one at the conclusion of each semester. These recitals are adjudicated by a faculty panel comprised of the Honors Program Coordinator and two additional HBMS faculty members.

Honors students must also perform in at least two regular student recitals each year. These may be scheduled at any time during the year by the student's private lesson instructor.

Participation in Audition-Based Festivals: Baroque and Beyond or Spanning the Centuries (March) and Music of Our Time (May): Honors students are encouraged but not required to perform during our two audition-based festivals each year. Students' January Honors Recital performance may serve as their audition for the March Festival. For Music of Our Time, Honors students must schedule an audition in April.

Performance Evaluation

Evaluation forms are completed by the Honors Program coordinator, as well as two other faculty adjudicators, in response to each student's performance. These forms are given to the teacher to be shared with the student and family at the teacher's discretion. Students in the program who have achieved a record of good attendance at all activities, and have fulfilled all requirements, will receive an Honors certificate at the conclusion of the academic year, and a special Honors award upon graduation.

Students who receive an evaluation which indicates that the standard of playing is not up to that of the Honors Program will be placed on probation. If the faculty members present at the next recital feel that an adequate standard has still not been achieved, the student's teacher will be informed that the program is no longer appropriate for the child. If a child is not working and their teacher feels they should be withdrawn from the program, this can be done at any time.

Professional Performance Attendance

Honors students are expected to attend one professional performance each year. Afterwards, students must submit the concert program from that performance to Terry Wager, Student Services Manager at twager@hbms.org or in-person in the Business Office. Unless requested by the student, programs will not be returned. Note that H-B Artist Series recitals performed by HBMS faculty members are an ideal choice and there is no charge for Hoff-Barthelson students.

Attendance Requirements

Honors students may not have more than two absences per semester for Musicianship classes or ensemble rehearsals.