

# HOFF-BARTHELSON

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## MUSIC SCHOOL

### Honors Program Overview

The Honors Program is a selective community of dedicated students committed to achieving a high level of musical performance and musicianship. It provides a structured framework that supports, challenges, and formally recognizes sustained artistic growth over time.

Students progress through the program by earning credits across performance, study, and engagement areas. In addition to completing the Honors Diploma, students may pursue elective pathways—such as composition, musicianship, or collaborative performance—and earn graduation distinctions that recognize exceptional achievement beyond the program’s core requirements.

Students currently enrolled in the Honors Program will be grandfathered, as needed, allowing them to complete the program under the requirements in place at the time of their entry.

Students enrolling in the Honors Program with fewer than four years remaining until graduation may receive credit for prior comparable experience.

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### Credit-Based Structure

The Honors Program operates on a flexible, credit-based model that ensures both consistency and rigor.

- Credits are earned annually through lessons, ensembles, performances, coursework, concert attendance, and community service
- Graduation requires a minimum number of total credits, typically completed over four years
- Students who exceed minimum requirements may earn graduation distinctions and pathway recognition

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### Areas of Credit

Students earn Honors credits in the following areas:

- **Private Lessons (Required Annually)**  
Weekly 60-minute lessons on the primary instrument, three performances on HBMS student recitals per year, and an adjudicated end-of-year Honors recital
- **Ensembles**  
Participation in appropriate ensembles as determined by department; minimum credits required for graduation
- **Music Theory & History**  
Coursework aligned with the student’s level; minimum credits required for graduation
- **Electives**  
Student-selected courses from HBMS offerings; minimum credits required for graduation
- **Performance Activities**  
Recitals, juries, masterclasses, and approved special events; some required annually, others applied toward credit minimums

- **Professional Concert & Masterclass Attendance (Required Annually)**  
Attendance at two professional concerts and one masterclass per year
- **Community Service**  
Approved service supporting the HBMS community or broader public; minimum credits required for graduation

## Elective Pathways & Distinction

Students may pursue Elective Pathways that support focused, advanced study. By completing additional credits and defined projects, students may earn pathway distinction upon graduation.

Current pathways include:

- Composition
- Musicianship
- Collaborative Piano
- Additional pathways may be introduced over time

Students may also graduate with honors: Cum laude, Magna cum laude, Summa cum laude

Additional awards may recognize exceptional performance or sustained excellence.

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## Advising & Support

All Honors students participate in annual spring advising to plan their course of study and ensure steady progress toward graduation.

Two advising formats are available:

- **Team Meeting:** Student and family meet with the Honors Program Coordinator, Dean, primary teacher, and relevant program directors
- **Coordinator–Dean Meeting:** The Coordinator gathers faculty input in advance and meets with the family alongside the Dean

This process ensures clear expectations, balanced programming, and individualized guidance.

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## Honors Program Participation Requirements

All students must meet a combination of annual and cumulative requirements. Each activity carries credit value toward both category-specific and overall graduation requirements.

### **Annual Requirements**

Students must participate in the following each year:

#### **Private Lessons and Solo Performance**

- Weekly 60-minute lesson
- Minimum of three solo performances on HBMS recitals
- Adjudicated end-of-year Honors recital  
(5 credits per year; 20 credits required for graduation)

### Professional Attendance

- Two professional concerts and one masterclass  
(1 credit per year; 4 credits required for graduation)

### Non-Annual Requirements

- **Music Theory & History:** (3 credits per course; 12 credits required)
- **Ensembles:** (2–3 credits per course; 15 credits required)
- **Electives:** (2–3 credits per course; 4 credits required)
- **Elective Performance:** Additional performances beyond annual requirements (1 credit per performance; 8 credits required)
- **Community Service:** (1 credit per activity; 5 credits required)

## Instrument-Specific Requirements

Instrument Group	Ensemble Participation	Years / Credits	End-of-Year Honors Recital
<b>Keyboard (Piano)</b>	Chamber Ensemble: Piano Ensemble, Chamber Music, Jazz Ensemble, or Large Ensemble	4 years / 12 credits	Two or three pieces from contrasting periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary); memorization required
	Large Ensemble: Junior Voices or Chamber Choir	1 year / 3 credits	
<b>Keyboard (Jazz Piano)</b>	Chamber Ensemble: Jazz Ensemble, Piano Ensemble, Chamber Music, or Large Ensemble	3 years / 9 credits	One prepared selection, one improvisation, and one free selection; memorization required
	Large Ensemble: Junior Voices or Chamber Choir	1 year / 3 credits	
<b>Voice</b>	Large Ensemble: Chamber Choir or Junior Voices	3 years / 9 credits	Repertoire from contrasting periods; memorization required
	Small Ensemble: Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Performance Class, or Chamber Music	2 years / 6 credits	
<b>Strings, Woodwinds, Brass</b>	Large Ensemble: Festival Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, or Jazz Ensemble (as appropriate)	3 years / 9 credits	Two or three selections from contrasting periods; memorization required as appropriate
	Chamber Ensemble: Chamber Music	2 years / 6 credits	
<b>Classical Guitar</b>	Chamber Ensemble: Guitar Ensemble, Chamber Music, Jazz Ensemble, or Large Ensemble	3 years / 9 credits	Two or three pieces from contrasting periods; memorization required
	Large Ensemble: Junior Voices or Chamber Choir	2 years / 6 credits	
<b>Composition</b>	To be finalized	—	To be finalized

## Credit Requirements for Graduation

Area	Credits
Private Lessons	20
Ensembles	15
Music Theory & History	12
Electives	4
Performance	8
Concert & Masterclass Attendance	4
Community Service	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>

## Credit for External Experience

Credits are assigned for high-level musical experiences gained at other music Schools, youth orchestras, or recognized performing arts organizations.

## Credit Requirements to Graduate with Distinction

- Cum laude: 80–89 credits
- Magna cum laude: 90–104 credits
- Summa cum laude: 105+ credits

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## Credit Assignments

Credits are tracked through the ASAP Registration System, creating a comprehensive transcript of each student's activities that can be shared with college admission counselors.

Class / Activity	Credit Value	Category
Private Instruction (Primary instrument, 60-minute lesson; includes jury and 3 recitals)	5	Private Lesson
Private Instruction (Secondary instrument or composition)	1–3	Private Lesson
Jazz Ensemble	2	Ensemble
Advanced Jazz Ensemble	3	Ensemble
Chamber Orchestra	2	Ensemble
Festival Orchestra	3	Ensemble
Junior Voices	2	Ensemble
Chamber Choir	3	Ensemble
Vocal Performance Class	3	Ensemble
Flute Club	3	Ensemble
Junior Flutes / Junior Flute Club	2	Ensemble
Viola Club	2-3	Ensemble
Chamber Music	3	Ensemble

Class / Activity	Credit Value	Category
Musicianship Lab Classes	3	Music Theory /History
AP Music Theory	3	Music Theory/History
AP Music Theory Prep (Levels 1 & 2)	3	Music Theory/History
Aural Skills	3	Music Theory/History
Music Through the Ages	3	Music Theory/History
Chopin to Ligeti	3	Music Theory/History
Composition (all levels)	2	Elective
Film Scoring	2	Elective
Digital Music Production	2	Elective
Music Technology	2	Elective
Class Piano	2	Elective
Diction for Singers	2	Elective
Additional Recital / Workshop Performance (beyond required performances)	1	Performance
Masterclass or Approved Special Event Performance	1	Performance
Summer Program / Intensive (2+ weeks, pending review)	2-4	Performance
Attendance: 2 Professional Concerts + 1 Masterclass (Annually)	1	Professional Attendance
Community Service Activity	1	Community Service

## Audition Requirements

- **Voice:** Two contrasting selections from different periods. Accompaniment required.
- **Piano:** Two scales (major and relative minor, four octaves) and two selections representing contrasting style periods; **jazz pianists:** one prepared piece and one improvisation.
- **Strings (including classical guitar):** Two scales (major and relative minor, two octaves) and two selections representing contrasting style periods. Accompaniment preferred.
- **Woodwinds & Brass:** Two scales (major and relative minor, two octaves) and two selections representing contrasting style periods. Accompaniment preferred.
- **Composition:** [Please contact Dr. Cooper](#), Chair of Musicianship and Composition.