Recital Preparation

Choral Music Education Majors/Vocal Performance Majors

The following requirements must be met prior to giving a junior recital:

• Passing of the upper division proficiency
• Theory courses at the freshman and first semester sophomore level (C or better)
• Diction (MUS 161 and MUS 162)
• Class piano (2 semesters)
• Two semesters of a foreign language (vocal performance majors only)
• Movement and acting for singers (vocal performance majors only)

Junior Recital

Repertoire requirement: English, Italian, German, French, minimum (other languages may be represented at the teacher's discretion)

Stylistic requirement: Music from at least three periods of music history (renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary, or twentieth-century) must be presented.

Length requirement: There must be at least 25 minutes of music.

Programming requirement: The recital format should consist of unified groups of songs. This unity can be achieved by grouping together at least two or more songs in the same language by a singular composer, or closely related composers (such as Schumann/Schubert; Wolf/Brahms; Strauss/Wolf; Beethoven/Mozart/Haydn. Grouping together songs by composers such as Strauss/Beethoven, however, might be considered stylistically disjunct. If, however, reasoning for including them within a set relates to text similarities, the grouping could stand.) Oratorio and operatic arias may stand alone. Students need not memorize oratorio arias and songs that include obbligato instruments. If the recital is shared, an effort should be made to coordinate repertoire groups so that there is unity throughout the entire program. Translations of texts must also be included with the program. The focus of the recital is to be on standard (classical) recital repertoire. One musical theater selection may be included in the program, but may not take the place of the required classical repertoire.
VOCAL PERFORMANCE MAJORS

Senior Recital

Repertoire and stylistic requirements are the same as for the junior recital.

Length requirement: There must be at least 40 minutes of music.

Programming: See programming under junior recital.

Program notes and translations must be included.

Graduate Recital

Repertoire requirement: English, Italian, German, French, minimum (other languages may be represented at the teacher's discretion)

Stylistic requirement: Music from at least three periods of music history (renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary, or twentieth-century) must be presented.

Length requirement: There must be at least 45–50 minutes of music.

Programming requirement: The recital format must allow for unity (see programming requirements for junior recital.) More flexibility and creativity can be used when putting together a masters level program. Program notes and translations must be included.

(Suggestions on recital programming can be found in the The Art of the Solo Recital by Shirley Emmons and Stanley Sonntag.)

TIMELINE FOR PLANNING THE RECITAL

SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE RECITAL DATE:

• Select a date, time, place and dress rehearsal for the recital. Recital date request forms for Ardrey Auditorium and Ashurst auditorium are located in the School of Music office. The Ashurst/Ardrey staff will assist you in securing a date and place for the recital.

• Secure an accompanist for the recital. Agree to terms for rehearsal times, fees for the recital, etc.
• Select repertoire. Start putting sample groups together. Check for unity within groups and repertoire where needed. Repertoire should be selected in consultation with the studio teacher.

THREE MONTHS TO SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE RECITAL DATE:

• Women should select their concert attire. Gowns with hemlines above the shoes are most appropriate for Ardrey Auditorium, dresses at least mid-calf are acceptable for Ashurst auditorium. Be sure to have appropriate shoes and wear them during a rehearsal. (Check with your accompanist to make sure your attire is compatible!)
• Men should wear a suit or tuxedo in Ashurst auditorium, a tuxedo or tails in Ardrey Auditorium. Plan to rent or buy your concert attire. (All vocal performance majors should invest in performance attire.)

THREE MONTHS TO FOUR WEEKS PRIOR:

• Complete research on texts and composers. Have the program, program notes (if applicable), and translations typed and ready to present to the voice faculty two weeks before the recital hearing. Be sure to include all personnel (extra instrumentalists, etc.) and spell their names correctly. The words "assisted by" should appear with any instrumentalists or other singers performing on the recital. A suggested format for the title page is:

Northern Arizona University  
College of Arts and Letters  
School of Music  
presents a  

Junior Recital  

Renee Fleming, soprano  
Steven Blier, piano  

assisted by  

Susan Graham, mezzo soprano  
Kurt Ollman, baritone  

Because a recital is a collaborative effort, the accompanist should be listed under your name in this manner, not listed as "assisted by."
The recital program **MUST** also include the following:

Mr. James is a student of ______________ (private teacher)

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance. (or Music Education, etc.)

**FOUR WEEKS TO ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE RECITAL:**

- Begin rehearsing the selections in order within groups and in program order. Sing one group or part of one group in a master class.
- Present Vocal Coordinator with a typed rough draft of the program, complete with translations and program notes.
- Make corrections suggested by vocal/choral/opera faculty and return to your private teacher for final proofreading.

**TWO TO THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE RECITAL:**

- You must sing a **Recital Hearing** for the voice faculty in order to be approved for giving the recital at the selected date. At this time, you must submit your finished program for approval. You will sing one selection of your choice, then the faculty will select one or two songs at random from your program. **Failure to pass the recital hearing will result in forfeiting the date and postponement of the recital.** Another date may be selected when a student has successfully passed the recital hearing.

- Make arrangements through the Ardrey/Ashurst staff or School of Music staff to reserve a room if you plan to hold a reception after the recital.

**ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE RECITAL:**

- Dress rehearsal should be held within this week. Rehearse your music in program order with your teacher listening for balance, etc. Practice walking on and off the stage and taking bows with your accompanist. Decide when to acknowledge your accompanist. Decide when during the program performers should exit the stage. If you are performing with others assisting, practice group bows. Dress appropriately to simulate recital attire, including correct shoes.

**HELPFUL REMINDERS**
Take extra care of yourself physically before your recital date. Get extra rest; plan your schedule so that you can "pamper" yourself somewhat.

Don't put off buying your gown until the day before your recital.

Write thank you notes to people who assisted you with the event—your accompanist, instrumentalists, your voice teacher, etc.

Advertise your own recital. Post signs a week to ten days ahead. Invite faculty—choral, vocal, and instrumental—as well as your other professors.

**Recital Check List**

- Freshman, first semester Sophomore theory classes passed
- Diction passed
- Class piano passed
- Upper division proficiency passed
- One semester of a foreign language passed (vocal performance only)
- Repertoire picked out
- Accompanist and accompanist’s fees confirmed
- Date, time and place confirmed
- Voice faculty committee confirmed
- Hearing date confirmed
- Concert attire picked out
- Advertising planned
- Invitations to faculty and friends sent
- Reception planned (optional)