

# DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

## Major Field: STRING PERFORMANCE (INCLUDING GUITAR)

DEGREE PLAN

### REQUIREMENTS

**I. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.** As shown below, the D.M.A. degree requires 6 credits of graduate-level course work in musicology (not counting Music Bibliography) prior to enrolling in MUSC 6822 and 6 graduate credits in music theory prior to enrolling in MUSC 6801.\* These preparatory academic courses do *not* need to be officially transferred, but they must be validated in writing by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies *before* the student enrolls in 6000-level courses. Also note that Preliminary Exam requirements in musicology and theory must be completed *prior* to registration for 5000-level or higher courses in the respective academic disciplines.

	<i>credit hours</i>
<b>Musicology course work*</b> in preparation for MUSC 6822	(0-6)
<b>Advanced Studies in Musicology</b> (MUSC 6822). Prerequisite: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) or equivalent.* With instructor's permission, a Ph.D. seminar in musicology (MUSC 7822 or MUSC 7832) may be substituted.	3
<b>Music Theory course work*</b> in preparation for MUSC 6801	(0-6)
<b>Advanced Topics in Theory</b> (MUSC 6801). Prerequisite: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) or equivalent.* With instructor's permission, a Ph.D. seminar in theory (MUSC 7801) may be substituted.	3
<i>subtotal:</i>	6 - 18

\*Graduate-level course work from a master's degree may apply. Upon the recommendation of the area faculty, these courses may be validated in writing by the Associate Dean. In general, these credits do *not* need to be officially transferred to CU.

### II. MAJOR AREA

<b>Applied Study</b> (PMUS 6 __ 6) <i>var. 2 or 3 cr.</i>	6
<b>Orchestra</b> (bowed instruments only): Symphony Orchestra is required for ALL DMA students with TA funding. Credit is attached to applied study.	0
<b>Support courses</b> as needed to complete the dissertation projects (Determined by advisement)	
<i>subtotal:</i>	6

### III. DISSERTATION PROJECTS

The TMUS Dissertation Projects usually are undertaken after successful completion of the first semester of study at CU. Students must have passed all required Preliminary Examinations or have begun enrolling in remedial coursework before they are permitted to present their first recital. If a recital or project is not completed during the same semester as registration, an IP (“In Progress”) grade is recorded. The IP grade is later replaced with the letter grade assigned by the faculty advisory committee, and the student does not need to register again for the same TMUS project.

Although the Dissertation Projects are numbered sequentially below, students are strongly encouraged to begin work on one of the non-recital projects (TMUS 8259 or 8329) during their second year in residence. For each non-recital project, the student should select one member of the faculty advisory committee to serve as the main advisor (not necessarily the committee chair), who guides the student in preparing a written prospectus, which is then submitted to the faculty advisory committee for their suggestions and approval. Before the student proceeds with the project, two members of the committee must agree to serve as first and second readers, who will guide the project to the final draft, which is then presented to the committee as a whole. Research Lecture papers should be in their final form *before* the public presentation of each lecture.

<b>Dissertation Project 1</b> (TMUS 8219) Solo Recital	3
<b>Dissertation Project 2</b> (TMUS 8229) Solo Recital	3
<b>Dissertation Project 3</b> (TMUS 8239) Chamber Music Recital	3
<b>Dissertation Project 5</b> (TMUS 8259) Research Lecture	3
Original research resulting in a paper and a public lecture. The paper generated for TMUS 8259 will normally be a minimum of 30 pages in length.	
<b>A fifth project</b> – to be either:	3
Repertoire Project** (TMUS 8319)	
Solo Recital (TMUS 8309)	
Chamber Music Recital (TMUS 8249)	
Research or Pedagogy Project (TMUS 8279)	
<b>Major Project</b> (TMUS 8329)	4
Option 1: Original research resulting in a substantial final project, similar to a thesis in scope and depth	
Option 2: Recording Project: With the approval of the faculty advisory committee. See Recording Project Guidelines.	
	<i>subtotal:</i> <u>19</u>
	<b>Total:</b> 31-43

#### \*\*Repertoire Project:

**Bowed Instruments - Repertoire Examination.** As one part of the Final Examination, the Repertoire Project is presented after all other degree work has been completed. The purpose of this examination is to show that the student can prepare at short notice a high-level public performance. Below are the steps to follow regarding this Examination:

1. Each student, with the advice of the studio teacher, will prepare a list of 4-5 hours of repertoire, providing an overview of the major literature (including works from each stylistic period, choosing from the solo & sonata literature, and choosing from repertoire that is new to the student as well as repertoire that has been previously performed).
2. The studio teacher will send the list to the student's advisory committee for approval. The committee may choose to approve this list as presented or may make changes to this list. The student will then be advised of the approved list, in order to begin preparation.
3. The student will secure a pianist through the Collaborative Department and will secure a date and place for the Repertoire Project.
4. Prior to the 2 weeks before the Project date, the studio teacher will, upon the advice of the pianist and the Collaborative Department, select from the repertoire list a program with a total playing time of 50-55 minutes. This proposed program will be sent to the student's advisory committee for final approval.
5. The student will be given notice of 2 weeks to review the selected repertoire before playing it for his/her committee. It is suggested that the student review this repertoire with little, or no, outside help. The Collaborative Department will determine the number of rehearsals with the pianist. As stated above, it is expected that the performance will be well enough prepared for a high-level public performance.

**Guitar** – For TMUS 8319, guitar students may choose between:

1. An additional chamber music recital **OR**
2. The *Repertoire Project* Each student, with the approval of his/her committee, will prepare approximately 4 hours of repertoire. This repertoire may include all works presented in the two solo recitals, supplemented by other works of the student's choice. The supplementary repertoire should be chosen so as to help balance the DMA recital repertoire with styles not otherwise represented, but the overall list need not be historically comprehensive. As one part of the Final Examination, after all other degree work has been completed, the student's committee will select, from this repertoire, a program with a total playing time of 60 minutes (likely divided in three equal parts between the two DMA recitals and the supplementary repertoire). The student will be given notice of two weeks to review the selected repertoire before playing it for his/her committee. It is expected that the performance will be well enough prepared for a high-level public performance and will be played from memory except for complex modern works. The purpose of this examination is to show that the student can maintain and prepare at short notice enough repertoire for three recital programs.

**For further details and essential information for all DMA students, please consult the *General DMA Degree Guidelines* at the College of Music website.**

*June 2026*