UMASS BOSTON PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
Application to Pursue an Honors Project in Music (MUSIC 498)

The honors project in music at UMass Boston represents exemplary achievement within the undergraduate academic setting, on par with the best undergraduate work at the institution. Students in music may, at the discretion of the faculty, elect to pursue senior honors in a particular area of excellence, such as music education, musical composition, music history, jazz, or musical performance, with the guidance of a tenured or tenure-track faculty member as the honors advisor. Those who meet the requirements and are interested in pursuing department honors research should secure the sponsorship of a department faculty member willing to supervise the project. Deciding on an appropriate topic for an honors project is a complicated matter, and the initial idea may come from work done in a previous course, some personal experience outside the classroom, or from a student’s general interest in a problem or question of musical relevance. A suitable faculty supervisor for the project should be someone with interests related to this field or problem. Frequently the final choice of research topic is based on a protracted dialogue between the student and the faculty sponsor. A final decision about the research topic should be made before the student begins the semester of the honors project.

Eligibility
In order to pursue an honor project, students must have senior status (90 credit hours earned) and possess a GPA of 3.25 or higher at the time of enrollment. The student’s honors advisor retains the right to withdraw honors eligibility and/or cancel an honors project at any time if the student’s work is not progressing at a rate that insures successful completion.

Instructions
1. Find a mentor. MUSIC 498 advisors must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members.
2. Under the guidance of your honors project mentor, complete the honors project proposal (see p. 2). Fill in the information at the bottom of this page. Obtain mentor and department chair signatures.
3. Submit both this page and your honors project proposal to The Performing Arts Chair and Music Program Director. Note the deadlines listed on p. 2.

Student Information

Name: ___________________________________________ Student ID: __________________

Email: __________________________________________ GPA: ______

Title of Project: ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________ Semester of Project Completion: _____________

Name of Faculty Mentor: ______________________________________________________________

Tenured or Tenure-Track Mentor Signature

Faculty Mentor: Sign to confirm your review of the proposal for clarity, feasibility, and academic rigor.

Mentor Signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________________

Department Chair Signature

Chair Signature: __________________________________________ Date: ________________
In a separate document, type your responses to each of the following questions by number in the order listed. We understand that your focus may change slightly as you complete the project. The music faculty will review the proposal and forward their decision, along with any comments, to you and your faculty mentor. Please keep a copy of your application form and written proposal for your records.

NOTE: Your proposal MUST be reviewed and accepted by your faculty mentor before you submit it. Incomplete or poorly-written proposals will not be accepted by the music faculty. Honors projects must go beyond the requirements of any other class you take in college. In other words, a paper written for one class cannot be used again for an honors project.

1. List your name, student ID number, abbreviated project title, and your faculty mentor’s name at the top of the written proposal.
2. Full project title
3. Description of the project (150-200 words) containing the following:
   a. Preliminary purpose statement or thesis (Your project should have a focus specific enough to do it justice in the time allowed for completion.)
   b. List of objectives (What do you hope to learn, demonstrate, or accomplish?)
   c. Methodology (research methods, rehearsal and performance plans, etc.)
   d. Assessment plan (How will you demonstrate what you’ve learned? On what will your mentor base your grade?)
4. List at least three sources (texts, articles, internet resources, videos, recordings, etc.) by title, author/performer, and publisher. Your mentor can help you find initial sources.
5. A tentative schedule for completion of the project. Include:
   a. Approximate dates of meetings with your faculty mentor
   b. For written projects: submission dates for your outline, rough draft, and final draft to your mentor
   c. For performance-based projects: rehearsal and performance dates, including lesson and coaching dates with your MUSIC 185 instructor, and the date, exact time, and location of your final performance
6. Number of credits requested (1-3). The course is variable credit, and the decision as to how many credits must be agreed upon in advance with the faculty supervisor.

Timeline and Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th>TASK</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Meet with prospective advisor(s) to define project</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Signed application and proposal due to Music Program Head</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Proposal approval or denial; secure recital date if approved during registration period</td>
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<td>Register for MUSIC 498 (Will need the Faculty Advisor Permission Number)</td>
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<td>6 weeks prior to recital</td>
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<td>Program with notes and translations due to advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 weeks prior to recital</td>
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<td>Program materials due to recital coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 week prior to recital</td>
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<td>Program draft made available to all committee members</td>
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**Exceptions to these deadlines are at the discretion of the Chair of the Performing Arts Department.**
Sample Learning Outcomes- Senior Recital (Learning outcomes for other projects should be drafted similarly, depending on the scope and number of credit hours of the project)
Successful completion of a Senior Honors Recital (MUS 498, 3 credit hours), fulfills honors in musical performance. The student will work closely together with an agreed-upon faculty advisor and the student's primary applied teacher in preparation of the recital. Students must register for both MUSIC 498 and MUSIC 185. Work towards the recital should include the creation of scholarly program notes, text and translations (if in voice), or other requirements agreed upon in advance.

By the end of the semester, the student will:

- select repertoire with their MUSIC 185 instructor, and demonstrate mastery of technique, musicality, and performance practice associated with that repertoire;
- research and write scholarly program notes that include critical analysis, historical context (history and reception), a composer biography, and details regarding standard performance practice;
- plan the logistics of the recital, including booking the Recital Hall and hiring/working with accompanists;
- demonstrate proper stage comportment, namely entering, exiting, bowing, acknowledging accompanists, and recognizing composers (if present).

Scheduling
Dates and locations of recitals must be vetted and approved by the Outreach Coordinator (Bill Doncaster) to avoid conflicts with other scheduled events.

Information on Programs
Honors students choosing the recital option will be responsible for producing a professional-quality program. Students must adhere to program submission deadlines; that is, one month before the recital date but no later than one month before the last day of classes. Programs must be submitted to the recital program editor, who will verify proper style and format.

Program Notes: Plan on 300-500 words for each piece or grouping, including biographical, historical, and subjective information. Programs may not contain Wikipedia citations. Texts and translations for vocal or choral works in languages other than English are required. It is your responsibility to meet all program deadlines. If deadlines are not met, your recital may be cancelled.