



Mead Witter School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

VOICE

This document contains the recording and audition requirements for the Voice & Opera area. Please refer to the “Graduate Application Guide” for detailed instructions about the application process and general requirements for admission to the School of Music.

When filling out the Graduate School application, please select
“Music: Performance MM” or “Music: Performance DMA”

PORTFOLIO (due on December 1)

As part of your application, you will submit a portfolio of recordings. Your portfolio must be submitted as a single URL link to a YouTube channel or another file sharing site (Google Drive, etc.). You may submit a single video or a folder containing multiple videos. Please be sure that your video(s) are set to “public” or “unlisted” so that they are accessible to our faculty.

Your portfolio will be used for audition prescreening within the Voice & Opera area as well as potential funding consideration within the entire School of Music.

Portfolio requirements:

- Must be video.
- Must include piano accompaniment.
- Submit the following 3 pieces: Two art songs and one aria from an opera or oratorio.
- Selections must include English and at least one other language.

Note: In consultation with the Voice & Opera faculty, you may supplement your portfolio with additional recordings/materials later in the process to be used for school-wide fellowship competitions.

AUDITIONS

Candidates who pass the prescreening round will be invited for a full audition. Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 17, and Saturday, February 14. Candidates may choose one of the following options:

Option 1

Travel to the UW-Madison campus and perform a live audition.

The audition slot will be 20 minutes for MM and 30 minutes for DMA and will include a brief interview with the Voice & Opera faculty. You will select one piece, faculty will select additional pieces, and you will choose the performance order.

Please make a list of your prepared repertoire (title & composer) and bring 6 copies of the list to your audition, which the faculty will use to select excerpts and take notes. You do not need to bring copies of your actual sheet music.

Option 2

Stay at home and submit an updated (final) portfolio of recordings.

Meet the faculty in a short Zoom interview on the audition day.

The final portfolio is due no later than one week before your selected audition date. A submission template will be sent along with your audition invitation.

On the audition day, you will have an interview with the Voice & Opera faculty on Zoom (10 minutes for MM, 20 minutes for DMA).

PREPARING FOR YOUR AUDITION

MM candidates

Prepare the following 5 pieces:

- 1 aria from an opera or oratorio
- 3 art songs
- 1 selection of your choice (may be musical theatre, CCM, or other styles)
- Include at least one selection in English plus a minimum of two other languages.

DMA candidates

Prepare the following 8 pieces:

- 1 opera aria
- 1 oratorio aria
- 6 songs
- Include selections in English, French, German, and Italian and represent a variety of historical periods and styles.

Instructions for all Voice candidates

1. Use of a collaborative pianist is required! If auditioning live, you may bring your own accompanist or hire one of ours. A contact list will be sent along with your audition invitation.
2. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to set up a free trial lesson with one or more of the Voice & Opera faculty before or after the audition.

Accessibility

In an effort to foster accessibility, we encourage you to comment on your access needs and/or share any accommodations that may help ensure a meaningful audition experience. We cannot guarantee accommodations, and some accommodations may necessitate documentation from applicants.

Please send any access/accommodation requests to James Doing at gpm@music.wisc.edu

Audition Repertoire

We welcome applicants to present a repertoire that highlights their musical strengths and identities. To this end, we encourage applicants to select from wide-ranging musical approaches. Show us who you are as a musician. If you wish to discuss your selected repertoire with us, please email your prospective major professor.

Last revised: September 3, 2025