CHANGES IN PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

In light of the new Applied Arts Practice Distribution requirement and the College's movement towards a more conscious assessment of student learning outcomes, the Music Department, in consultation with the Education and Curriculum Committee and also students enrolled in private music lessons, have made the following changes to private music lessons starting fall 2010:

- Credit levels for half hour music lessons (MUSC 1xx) will be offered for 1 credit; hour lessons (MUSC 2xx) will be offered for 2 credits;
- There will be two registration options from which to choose: either a non-juried option or a juried option.

This note is to explain the above changes in advance of your registration for the 2010 Fall Term and beyond.

Credit Changes: Half-hour lessons will now be 1 credit and hour lessons will be 2 credits. The work expectations of the courses will not change with the credit adjustment. This will allow students to register for music lessons without exceeding the 24-credit per term limit and may permit students a greater range of participation in other music activities. Courses above 22 credits require a petition to overload.

Juried Lessons (“J” courses): Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, there are two registration options each for half-hour Music lessons (the MUSC 1xx courses) or for hour Music lessons (the MUSC 2xx courses):

- First option: a one-credit course (MUSC 1xx) or a two-credit course (MUSC 2xx) that will be mandatory S/CR/Nc and fulfill the Arts and Literature requirement (AL). For the Class of 2014 and beyond, these mandatory S/CR/Nc, non-“J” Juried courses will not satisfy the new Arts Practice Requirement (ARP).
- Second option: a one-credit course (100-level) or a two-credit course (200-level) that will carry a “J” designation at the end of the course number (e.g. for piano, MUSC 150J or MUSC 250J). The “J” Juried courses will receive a letter grade, and will fulfill the Arts and Literature requirement (AL). Students may continue with Juried lessons even if they have satisfied the AL or ARP requirements. As with any other class, students may elect to S/CR/Nc this class, in which case, these S/CR/Nc credits count toward their 30-credit maximum allowed during a student's time at Carleton. For entry-level students matriculating Fall 2010 and beyond, "J" Juried courses will satisfy the new Arts Practice Requirement (ARP).

What is a Jury? All “J” (Juried) courses will include a five to ten minute performance (Jury) normally held after ninth week, including tenth week and exam days. The choice of repertoire and learning goals for the Jury will be decided by the primary applied music instructor in consultation with the student. The Jury will be assessed by your applied music instructor working in partnership with one other faculty member. Together, they will provide each student with constructive feedback about their jury performance. Of primary importance in assessing the Jury performance will be the level of engagement with and quality of preparation of the music performed, rather than the difficulty of the repertoire. Students will not be judged in comparison with other students. The final course grade for juried lessons will continue to be the decision of the primary instructor.

Why a Jury? Requiring a Jury at the end of each term of study is broadly typical of how music is taught at other institutions of higher learning. In addition, the College has moved to a more conscious assessment of learning outcomes as well as a revised set of distribution requirements for first year students starting in fall 2010. Accordingly, the Music Department decided that there should be a final evaluation (jury) every term which provides students with more constructive feedback as to their progress for the term. In addition to the feedback, students taking the juried option will receive a letter grade.

Non-Juried Lessons: The Non-“J” option may be especially attractive for students who wish to take private lessons without the required Jury or letter grade. Non-juried lessons are mandatory S/CR/Nc courses and do NOT require a Jury. The non-juried lessons WILL satisfy the Arts and Literature (AL) requirement and will retain the same requirements and current course numbers (e.g. for piano, MUSC 150 or MUSC 250).

S/CR/Nc: If a student chooses the S/CR/Nc option for the “J” Juried lessons, those credits will now count toward the 30-credit maximum limit of S/CR/Nc credits. Non-“J” lessons are only available as S/CR/Nc courses and do not count toward the S/CR/Nc credit maximum.

HOW TO CHOOSE? If already in lessons, we encourage students to discuss which type of lesson (Juried or non-juried) with their instructors. If you currently take half-hour lessons, enroll in the 100-level course. For students who have never taken lessons or not currently enrolled, there is no special audition process for juried lessons. Hour lessons require permission of the instructor.

Department of Music

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