

Proposal for Programs Leading to a

(NON-DEGREE) GRADUATE PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE IN PIANO

Proposed by the

Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

**Oakland University
Rochester, Michigan**

Submitted by:

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Department of Music, Theatre and Dance—Music Program
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College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Studies Committee
Submitted, October 17, 2008 Approved, _____

Oakland University Graduate Council
Submitted, _____ Approved, _____

Proposal for Programs Leading to a (Non-degree) Graduate Performance Certificate in Piano

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance proposes to offer undergraduate and graduate performance certificates in piano as part of our effort to recruit high level performers to our piano programs. These certificate programs are designed to attract and meet the needs of students who wish to become professional performers but who may not necessarily be seeking (at least initially) to spend their time with other academic requirements. The certificate programs would allow them the time they need to practice piano to enable them to achieve the levels of performance required for a professional career. This document is a proposal for a graduate certificate program. A parallel document, also under consideration at this time by the bodies that govern undergraduate programs, proposes an undergraduate certificate program.

Oakland already offers a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and a Master of Music in Piano Performance. Therefore, the proposed programs would not require any additional faculty or funding. The two proposed programs combined would require the creation of three new applied music course numbers that would serve these students, but these would not impact the budget in any way. Certificate students would learn side by side with Oakland's regular undergraduate and graduate performance majors, putting more students into existing music classes. The only difference is that the certificate students would not be degree seeking and would not take very many academic classes beyond the performance classes and supporting music classes.

Other universities offering similar programs (notably the School of Music at Texas Christian University) have noted that many certificate students eventually do enroll in the academic degree programs and often do end up earning degrees. More

important, schools like Texas Christian University have found that offering performance certificates caused their overall music student numbers to rise. Certificate programs tend to attract students who are seeking a particular kind of program and would thus enable us to recruit students we are not currently reaching. Once they are involved in the programs, it is likely that the quality of our other offerings may entice them to pursue a degree. But if not, the university would still benefit from their enrollment and the department would still benefit from the level of quality and peer influence they would bring to the programs. It would be a win/win situation for all.

From a budgetary perspective, these certificate programs would generate income (through tuition) and bear no additional cost. Students would pay tuition and enroll in regularly scheduled classes and applied lessons.

Further, since these programs are designed to attract students who would not otherwise come to Oakland University, we believe the programs would qualify as incentive programs.

Proposed Graduate Certificate Program

We propose to offer a Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance. We chose that particular name for the certificate because it is the name generally used by institutions that offer these kinds of programs.

The Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance is a program for the most advanced and gifted performers who, by their performance and credentials, demonstrate that they have serious potential to become concert artists. The program is designed to provide intensive study and performance opportunities in preparation for a concert career. Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent and, through audition, must demonstrate potential for becoming a concert performer.

Proposed Program Plan

The Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance would consist of 32 credits to be earned over the course of two years:

Course No.	Course	Credits
MUA 540	Applied Piano Lessons (Diploma level) (4x)	16
MUE 580	Chamber Music (8x, 2 chamber groups each semester of attendance)	8
MUA 575	Accompanying (2x)	4
MUS 541 & 542	Piano Pedagogy I and II	4
	Recital (2x)	No credit
Total		32

Typical Student Program

(8 credits per semester)

Semester 1: MUA 540 (4)
MUE 580 (1)
MUE 580 (1)
MUS 541 (2)

Semester 2: MUA 540 (4)
MUE 580 (1)
MUE 580 (1)
MUS 542 (2)
Recital

Semester 3: MUA 540 (4)
MUA 575 (2)
MUE 580 (1)
MUE 580 (1)

Semester 4: MUA 540 (4)
MUA 575 (2)
MUE 580 (1)
MUE 580 (1)
Recital

Note that the program is designed to assure that students would have a sufficient number of credits to enable them to hold full-time status, which is particularly important for international students and those seeking financial aid.

Admission Requirements

The proposed certificate program would serve an important role in recruitment for the piano area of the music program. Piano programs tend to attract larger numbers of international students than other programs generally do. In many cases, these are stronger, more promising students than we might otherwise attract. Language barriers often keep such students out of American programs when they could actually be significant contributors. Performance certificate programs are generally designed to enable students who know English well (but not quite well enough to qualify for regular admission) to begin work in a program by dealing with the musical aspects of the program that present no problems for them. Such students may have some issues communicating verbally in English but none communicating in music, which is nonverbal. These certificate programs are designed to enable students who may have some language difficulties to live in the U.S. and interact with English-speakers while participating on the highest levels musically and even taking leadership roles musically. As they engage musically with English-speaking students, their verbal English skills grow. This phenomenon is experienced regularly in other universities that offer such programs. This situation gives rise to certain characteristics in these kinds of certificate programs that would also be true of the proposed program for Oakland. These are that:

- Minimum TOEFL scores for these kinds of programs are generally slightly lower than they are for other programs.
- ESL courses are not necessarily required as the students tend to learn the language through working and interacting with their teachers and peers.
- Students who enter with lower TOEFL scores are able to participate fully in performance and music theory classes because the “language” of these classes

is music. They are generally superior students in these classes, often outperforming native English-speaking peers.

- Students who enter with lower TOEFL scores would choose electives that did not require a high level of English proficiency: e.g., applied study in organ or harpsichord over a music history class.

Therefore, we propose the following admission requirements for the proposed Graduate Diploma in Piano:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- Paper-based TOEFL score of a least 520 with optional ESL coursework or 500 with required ESL coursework.
- Qualifying entrance audition.

As a point of reference, Oakland's standard for admission is a paper-based TOEFL score of a least 550 with no ESL coursework required or 520 with required ESL coursework.

We provide the paper-based scores here because we believe this is the format with which most faculty considering this proposal would be most familiar. However, in practice, the Internet-based version of the TOEFL is rapidly replacing the paper-based. There has also been a computer-based version. For reference, score equivalencies for the paper-based, computer-based, and Internet-based TOEFL examinations are presented in the table below:

	Paper-based TOEFL	Computer-based	Internet-based
OU's required score for no ESL	550	213	79-80
OU's score for admission with ESL	520	190	68
Proposed score for no ESL (for this program only)	520	190	68
Proposed score for admission with ESL (for this program only)	500	173	61

Therefore, what this proposal suggests is that students could be admitted to this program with an Internet-score of 68 with no ESL and admitted with ESL if they earn a score of 61-67.

Relationship to Existing Piano Degree Program

As mentioned earlier, the experience of other schools offering similar programs is that such students are generally highly intelligent and highly motivated. After spending two years in the program interacting with English-speakers and living in the U.S., many become able to fully participate in classes that require language proficiency and could opt to finish a degree program at Oakland (probably the Bachelor of Music or Master of Music in Piano Performance). Because this is actually the goal of such a program—to attract, serve, and graduate strong pianists—we propose to accept the certificate credits as counting toward the degree programs.

The proposed Graduate Diploma program is 32 credits; the existing Master of Music in Piano Performance program is 36 credits. There would be some overlap between the two programs. Therefore, a student could apply the Diploma coursework to the Master of Music in Piano Performance degree and graduate with both the certificate and the degree, if the student actually completed the requirements for both programs (40-50 credits). In this case, the Applied Music credits and some elective credits could count for both programs, but there would be at least 8-12 credits of different coursework between the two programs (the MM Core) that would need to be completed in order to earn the MM as well.

Proposed Catalog Copy

The proposed catalog copy would be placed in the graduate catalog following the descriptions of the Master of Music Programs.

▪ Performance Certificate

Certificate program coordinator:

Yin Zheng

Description

The Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance is a program for the most advanced and gifted performers who, by their performance and credentials, demonstrate that they have serious potential to become concert artists. The program is designed to provide intensive study and performance opportunities in preparation for a concert career. Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent and, through audition, must demonstrate potential for becoming a concert performer.

The Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance is a certificate program, not a degree program. It consists of 32 credits of applied lessons, performance opportunities, and supporting coursework.

If students wish to become degree candidates and qualify for admission to a degree program, all coursework in the certificate program can be applied to a degree program. However, all remaining requirements of the degree program must also be satisfied.

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor's degree in music (or equivalent).
2. Paper-based TOEFL score of a least 520 (ESL coursework optional) or 500 (ESL coursework required). Internet-based score of at least 68 (ESL coursework optional) or 61-67 (ESL coursework required).
3. Audition demonstrating that prior experience and musical achievement provide potential for becoming a concert performer.

Certificate requirements

The Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance is awarded upon satisfactory completion of 32 credits in the required program of study and performance of two successful recitals.

Program of study

The 32-credit degree program consists of:

Core courses (12 credits)

MUA 540	Applied Piano (Diploma Level) (4x)	16
MUE 580	Chamber Music (8x)	8
MUA 575	Accompanying (2x)	2
MUS 541, 542	Piano Pedagogy I, II	4
MUA 601	Recital (2x)	no credit

Proposed New MUA Course:

In order to require accomplishment of the higher level of proficiency in technique and repertoire appropriate to a performance certificate program, we propose to create a new course for graduate-level applied piano study: MUA 540, Applied Piano (Diploma level).

APPLIED MUSIC

MUA 540

Piano (Diploma Level) (4 Credits)

Individual lessons in piano. May be repeated.

Master of Music in Piano Performance students would enroll in MUA 501 as they always have. Graduate Diploma students would enroll in MUA 540. Enrollment in MUA 540 would be restricted to Graduate Diploma students classified by that curriculum code. A Course Action Form is attached as Appendix A.

Since the Diploma standards would be higher than those of the Master of Music, if a student decided at any point to transfer from the Diploma program to the MM program, the MUA 540 credits could be counted toward the MM as well. However, the opposite would not apply, i.e., if a student qualified to transfer from the MM program to the Diploma program, the MUA 501 credits would not count toward the Diploma (because a lower level of proficiency would have been required for success at the 501 level).

Self-study of the Academic Unit

The department has regularly engaged in reflective self-study as part of our accreditation processes for the National Association of Schools of Music, National Association of Schools of Theatre, and National Association of Schools of Dance. Copies of these documents are available in the department office, dean's office, and provost's office and can be reviewed at any time.

Relevant to this proposal, we should explain that the department has a new faculty member in piano, Yin Zheng, who has been working hard to build the piano area of the music program to levels of size and quality comparable to the other music programs in the department. Suffice it to say that it has been some years since this level of energy has been put into this essential program. Piano programs are essential to the music study of all students because of the role that piano and pianists play in

collaborative work—particularly in accompanying instrumental performers and singers and in chamber music. Music is a collaborative art and, when a program is missing strengths in any area, the deficit impacts the entire program. Pianists of the caliber we are seeking would be excellent musicians who would have studied music intensely from a young age. Experience has taught us that the presence of high quality students in the music program enhances the whole program. As these students interact with other students, their presence tends to establish models of the work ethic required for achievement and tends to motivate high levels of achievement in students who might not have understood the level of effort and intensity required to achieve such levels of expertise.

At present, the piano program has a relatively small number of majors because of lack of attention to recruiting on the part of Professor Zheng's predecessor. In her initial efforts to recruit new students, Professor Zheng has identified and connected with many international students who would come to Oakland if we offered the proposed certificate programs. If we do not offer them, they will likely choose to attend a different school that does. Many of the students with whom she has connected are not yet of college age. They are still young enough that they would choose OU if we were able to make these programs part of our offerings.

On a practical level, the Department currently offers on a regular basis all courses necessary for the proposed certificate programs. All courses are offered on a yearly cycle, with the exception of Piano Literature and Piano Pedagogy, which are offered every other year. The only impact on the current offerings would be a positive one—that some traditionally under-enrolled classes would have larger enrollments.

However, the impact on the nature of the program and what we would be able to offer our whole student body would improve dramatically.

Comparison to Other Programs

Across the nation, both music conservatories and schools or departments of music within universities offer Performer's Certificates and Graduate Diplomas. There is considerable variation in what such programs look like at the various schools. The program we are proposing is most like those offered by schools or departments of music within universities. Information about other programs is included as Appendix B.

Needs and Costs of the Program

The proposed program would add no costs. Students would be enrolling in existing courses, generally making those courses more economically viable. The program would be offered by existing music faculty. Marketing the new programs would be done in conjunction with the regular marketing of the music programs.

We expect that this proposed option would bring new students to Oakland, but it would be difficult to estimate how many. The proposed budget below is based on our attracting one such graduate student per year. The budget is also based on in-state tuition; it is more than likely that these students would come from outside of Michigan.

However, since the programs have no cost, it almost does not matter what these figures are. The point is that this new option may increase our enrollment in existing courses, which would make them more profitable.

Pro Forma Budget

College of Arts and Sciences
Certificate Programs in Piano
Program Inception: Fall 2009
Five-Year Budget: FY09-FY14
Fund: tba
Date: 9/20/08

		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	Acct.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Revenue Variables:						
Headcount (undergraduate)		0	0	0	0	0
Headcount (graduate)		1	2	2	2	2
4-Credit Equivalent Sections (undergrad)		0	0	0	0	0
4-Credit Equivalent Sections (grad)		4	8	8	8	8
Total Credit Hours (incremental)		16	32	32	32	32
Undergraduate (lower)		0	0	0	0	0
Undergraduate (upper)		0	0	0	0	0
Graduate		16	32	32	32	32
Total FYES		.67	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33
Undergraduate (cr.÷31)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Graduate (cr.÷24)		.67	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33
Doctoral (cr.÷16)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuition Rate Per Credit Hour						
Undergraduate (lower)		\$268.50	\$268.50	\$268.50	\$268.50	\$268.50
Undergraduate (upper)		\$293.25	\$293.25	\$293.25	\$293.25	\$293.25
Graduate		\$496.00	\$496.00	\$496.00	\$496.00	\$496.00
Revenue						
Tuition		\$7,936	\$15,872	\$15,872	\$15,872	\$15,872
Other		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue		\$7,936	\$15,872	\$15,872	\$15,872	\$15,872
Compensation						
Salaries/Wages						
Faculty Inload Replacements	6301					
Faculty Salaries	6101					
Faculty Overload	6301					
Part-time Faculty	6301					
Visiting Faculty	6101					
Clerical	6211					
Out of Classification	6401					
Overtime	6401					
Total Salaries/Wages						
Fringe Benefits	6701					
Total Compensation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Operating Expenses						
Supplies and Services	7101					
Telephone	7301					
Equipment	7501					
Library	7401					
Total Operating Expenses		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net		\$7,936	\$15,872	\$15,872	\$15,872	\$15,872

Implementation

If university approval were granted, we would need to seek the approval of the National Association of Schools of Music. Once we obtained their approval, the program could be implemented immediately.

Appendix A

College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Course Action Form

CATALOG EDITION	2009-2011	EFFECTIVE TERM	Fall 2009
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RUBRIC/NUMBER: MUA 540 **COURSE NAME:** Piano (Diploma Level)

Banner abbreviation of course name (no more than 31 characters, including spaces): **CREDITS:** 4

PIANO (DIPLOMA LEVEL)

ACTION (see reverse side for codes)

GRADING MODE

COURSE REPEATS

<u>X</u>	New course approval	<u>N</u>	Standard numeric	<u>X</u>	Improve grade
	Course name change	<u>(A)</u>	Audit		No repeats
	Description change		Satisfactory/unsatisfactory	<u>X</u>	Additional cred

Course credit change

w/progress

Course number change

Satisfactory/unsatisfactory w/progress

Change in prerequisites

Change in corequisites

SCHEDULE TYPE:

Change in grading system

A

Change to restrictions

Change to schedule type

Continuing education

Delete course (end date)

FEE CODE :

Change to course repeats

DIV: MTD

COREQUISITE: **EQUIVALENT COURSE:**

DEPT: MUA

ATTRIBUTE: _____ **CROSSLISTED COURSE:** _____

PREREQUISITES: (Include if grade greater than 1.0 is required): Admission to Performer's Diploma program

CATALOG DESCRIPTION (please limit to 50 words): Individual lessons in piano. May be repeated.

Previous course #, title, credits, prerequisites: _____

RATIONALE FOR ADDITION OR CHANGE

To support new program.

Appendix B

The offerings of Texas Christian University (TCU) are the closest to what we are proposing, although theirs are three-year programs and the proposed OU programs would be only 2-year programs (more in keeping with what other universities offer, as will become evident from the information provided here). The TCU School of Music offers an undergraduate Performer's Certificate and an Artist's Diploma on both the undergraduate and graduate levels, described on their web site as follows:

The **Performer's Certificate** is a special course of study designed for those undergraduate students with outstanding musical and performance ability who show the promise of becoming concert artists and who do not choose to include the academic component of the Bachelor of Music curriculum. The program is designed to allow the student maximum time and flexibility to develop his/her performing ability while completing the essential studies for a solid musical background.

To be considered, candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent and must demonstrate, through an audition for the piano faculty, the promise of becoming a concert performer. Admission to the program is allowed only upon the recommendation of the piano faculty and the approval of the Director of the School of Music.

International students must demonstrate proficiency in English by scoring at least 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or by otherwise meeting the TCU English requirement, with no section score less than 55. For information about the University's general admissions policies, contact the TCU Office of Admissions.

The Performer's Certificate is a three-year program.

Performers Certificate in Piano (79 hrs.)

- Ensembles (2 hrs. total: .5 hr. each semester)
- Studio Performance Lessons (24 hrs.)
- Music Theory (20 hrs.)
- Music History (12 hrs.)
- Accompanying (2 hrs.)
- Piano Chamber Music (4 hrs.)
- Piano Repertoire & Performance (4 hrs.)
- Conducting (2 hrs.)
- Recitals (3 hrs.)
- Music Electives (6 hrs.)

The **Artist Diploma** is a program for the most advanced and gifted young performers who, by their performance and credentials, demonstrate that they have serious potential to become concert artists. The program is designed to provide intensive study and performance opportunities under the guidance of master teachers in preparation for a concert career.

An audition for the relevant faculty is required. Admission to the program is allowed only upon the recommendation of the area faculty and the approval of the Director of the School of Music.

The Artist Diploma is a three-year program, offered at both the pre-baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required to maintain satisfactory academic progress in the program.

Artist Diploma (pre-baccalaureate - 33 hours)

- Studio Performance Lessons (26 hours)
- Recitals (4 hrs.)
- Chamber Music/Ensemble/Collaborative Piano (3 hours)

Artist Diploma (post-baccalaureate—33 hours)

- Studio Performance Lessons (26 hrs.)
- Recitals (4 hrs.)
- Chamber Music/Ensemble/Collaborative Piano (3 hrs.)

The University of Texas at Arlington offers a Certificate in Performance at the Graduate Level.

This program has been designed to provide graduate level instruction to performers interested in professional development. Outcomes of the Certificate include:

- improving technical ability of performers
- enhancing performing artistry
- expanding repertoire

The Certificate in Performance requires a total of 15 hours of coursework including nine hours of applied instruction, three elective hours, and a three-hour credit recital program. Admission into the program requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent and is contingent upon an audition for a committee consisting of at least two faculty members. Upon successful completion of audition, student must apply to the UTA Graduate School as a "special student."

(Students in this certificate program who later seek graduate degrees at UTA may apply 12 hours of Certificate coursework within 6 years of completion and award of the Certificate, if they meet the admission requirements for the graduate degree and receive approval from the appropriate Graduate Studies Committee and the Dean of the Graduate School. Admission as a special student in no way

guarantees subsequent unconditional admission into a graduate program or into the Graduate School.)

San Diego State University offers an Artist Diploma on the graduate level.

The Artist Diploma is the most advanced certificate program offered in the School of Music and Dance. It is reserved for the most highly gifted and creative performers and composers. Artist Diploma studies provide intensive musical and management training with the intent of each student creating an international career. Pre-formed ensembles are encouraged to apply and may be considered for special paid residency opportunities. All interested applicants should possess a minimum of a Bachelor degree in Music and may have a Masters and/or Doctoral degree. Acceptance into the Artist Diploma program is highly competitive and predicated on the level and quality of performance and achievement.

Admission Requirements

- Entrance audition.
- Undergraduate degree in Music from an accredited institution with a GPA of not less than 3.0 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted.
- A review of undergraduate transcripts.
- For applicants whose Bachelor's Degree is not in Music, competency exams will be required.

Artist Diploma (24 units)

- Professional Orientation for Music Performers (2) 2 units
- Performance Practice Forum (1) 2 units
- Performance Ensemble (1-2) selected with the advice of the advisor) 4 units
- Advanced Performance Studies 8 units
- End of First year Qualifying Recital (60 min. of music, 15 min. intermission)
- Special Topics (selected with the advice of the advisor) 1 unit
- Electives (selected with the advice of the advisor) 4 units
- Culminating Recital (3 units)

California State University offers a Performer's Certificate on the undergraduate level.

The School of Music and Dance is proud to offer a Performer's Certificate open to both matriculated and non-matriculated students who do not possess a University degree.

To be eligible, students must have a high school diploma and have TOEFL and academic scores that allow them to be CSU eligible. In addition, students must pass an audition and take placement tests in Music Theory/Aural Skills and Music History and submit a one-page "Statement of Purpose." Voice students must be at least 21 years of age.

Performer's Certificate (36 credits)

- Private Instruction (12 units)
- Ensembles (6 units)
- Professional Orientation (2 units)
- Performance Forum (2 units)
- Music Theory (6 units)
- Music History (2-3 units)
- Music Literature (2 units)
- Electives (3-4 units)
- A full-length qualifying public solo recital
- A full-length public graduation recital

The Music Department at LaSierra University in California offers an undergraduate Performer's Certificate.

The Department of Music offers the Performer's Certificate program as a full-time course of study designed for promising performers who need intensive training on their instrument or voice in order to enhance their employment opportunities or to prepare for graduate studies. Although a baccalaureate degree is not required for admission, applicants must meet the performance level which is required for graduation from the undergraduate performance program. Since this is a special program and not a standard degree, no academic credit is given. If academic credit is desired, the regular tuition costs will apply.

Performer's Certificate

- 8 units per quarter of private instruction for three quarters
- 1 unit of large ensemble credit per quarter
- 1 unit of small ensemble credit per quarter
- 1 recital

The Cali School of Music at Montclair State University offers two post-baccalaureate options, a Performer's Certificate and an Artist's Diploma.

The **Performer's Certificate** program is a one-year version of the Artist's Diploma. A student may enter the Performer's Certificate program and then, assuming the consent of the Cali faculty, transfer the accumulated twelve credits toward the Artist's Diploma program.

Like the Artist's Diploma, the Performer's Certificate is a unique conservatory inspired program, focused on developing both the artistry and professionalism of gifted young musicians. Except in unusual and compelling circumstances, the

Performer's Certificate is limited to areas of performance with substantial and significant solo and chamber repertoire.

Candidates for the Performer's Certificate possess not only great talent, but also the ability and determination to realize that talent in the contemporary musical world. They may have already embarked on solo performing careers, or may be on the brink of such careers.

The **Artist's Diploma** is a unique conservatory inspired program, focused on developing both the artistry and professionalism of gifted young musicians. Except in unusual and compelling circumstances, the Artist's Diploma is limited to areas of performance with substantial and significant solo and chamber repertoire. Candidates for the diploma possess not only great talent, but also the ability and determination to realize that talent in the contemporary musical world. They may have already embarked on solo performing careers, or may be on the brink of such careers.

The two-year program they pursue here is tailored to their individual needs. Working in close collaboration with studio faculty and advisors, including Artists-in-Residence Shanghai Quartet, Artist's Diploma students focus on performance, deepening their artistry in close collaboration with master teachers. In addition, some will want to enhance their education through studies of music theory, languages, and so forth, while others will want to begin practical preparations for careers to which their talents have led.

New England Conservatory of Music offers two-year Artist's Diplomas on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Artist Diploma

The Artist Diploma is a unique Conservatory program, focused on developing both the artistry and professionalism of gifted young musicians. Except in unusual and compelling circumstances, the Artist Diploma is limited to areas of performance with substantial and significant solo repertoire.

Candidates for Artist Diploma possess not only great talent, but also the ability and determination to realize that talent in the contemporary musical world. They may have already embarked on solo performing careers, or may be on the brink of such careers.

The two-year program they pursue here is tailored to their individual needs; working in close collaboration with studio faculty and advisors, Artist Diploma students focus on performance, deepening their artistry in close collaboration with master teachers. In addition, some will want to enhance their education through studies of music theory, languages, etc., while others will want to begin practical preparations for careers to which their talents have led.

In each case, the candidates have opportunities to reflect on their music, to enjoy the support of an educational environment, and to feel the freedom to create their

music. The Artist Diploma provides full tuition remission, as well as the opportunity to perform in Jordan Hall each year. As part of their program responsibilities, these young artists play an active role in the musical life of the Conservatory during the required two years' residence, participating in institutional outreach and demonstrating the commitment of musical artistry.

Undergraduate Artist Diploma

This program provides intensive studio instruction during three years of study in instrumental performance, vocal performance, or composition. Students register for repertoire coaching, ensemble, chamber music, and course work related to their major. Audition standards are higher than those for the Bachelor of Music program.

Undergraduate Artist Diploma (72 credits)

- Studio Lessons and Coaching (28-36 credits)
- Coursework (24-36 credits)
- Ensemble (0-6 credits)
- Chamber Music (0-6 credits)

Graduate Artist Diploma

This program consists of two years of full-time study in composition, instrumental performance, or vocal performance. Programs may include repertoire coaching, ensemble, chamber music, and coursework as related to the major. Audition standards are higher than those for the Master of Music program, though not as high as for the Artist Diploma. The minimum requirement for entry into this program is a bachelor's degree, undergraduate diploma, or the equivalent.

Graduate Artist Diploma (24 credits)

- Studio Lessons (16 credits)
- Electives and Chamber Music (8 credits)

Ball State University offers a graduate-level Artist Diploma.

The artist diploma is a highly selective non-degree graduate program for the specialized training of the gifted and accomplished performer. The program focuses on the practical aspects of music performance: private instruction, solo performance, participation in musical ensembles, chamber music, musicianship skills, and may include non-performance supportive music courses.

Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, and must have an overall GPA of 2.75 (or 3.00 in the last two years of study).
- Audition demonstrating a high level of performance ability. All audition requirements will parallel the graduate-level audition requirements used in existing graduate degree programs.
- All diploma students must pass a jury or a recital hearing by the end of the second semester of study.

Artist Diploma (24 credits minimum):

- Applied study (8-12 credits)
- Career/Performance Seminar (4 credits)
- Electives (8-12 credits)
- Two faculty-adjudicated solo recitals

Boston Conservatory of Music offers a two-year Artist Diploma.

Artist Diploma

- Applied lesson each semester
- Appropriate ensemble activity as assigned.
- One formal recital per year
- Concert and recital attendance each semester

Beyond these core requirements, Artist Diploma students may enroll in an unlimited number of courses each semester. At the beginning of the first semester of study, the AD student, Music Division Director, and Applied teacher meet and establish the structure of the 4-semester program.

Park University in Kansas City offers a Graduate Diploma in music performance.

The Graduate Diploma in music performance is a unique program open to only a few highly gifted artists who have demonstrated exemplary artistic achievement in their academic/professional career, and is the most advanced course of study in music offered at Park University. This course of study is to prepare the individual for a concert stage career, or a major appointment in the professional or academic arena.

Graduate Diploma (24 credits)

- Applied music (24 credits)

Admission Requirements

The graduate certificate program in applied music is designed for students who want to build on their knowledge and expertise in a particular instrument. Minimum graduate semester credits required for the certificate are 24. In addition to the general rules that are applicable for admission to the Graduate School at Park University, specific admission requirements are:

- Bachelor of Music or related undergraduate degree from a U. S. institution or an equivalent bachelor's degree from an accredited foreign institution of higher education.
- An audition before the music faculty. In approved situations a recording may be submitted in lieu of a live audition.

The program must be completed within a period of four years regardless of the location of the program. Students learn under the close supervision of qualified faculty. Upon completion of the program, a student will be able to increase his or her chances of becoming a professional musician, pursue a graduate degree program in music, or teach music in schools or privately.

The University of Connecticut Department of Music offers a Performer's Certificate in Piano.

Admission Requirements

- Audition is required.
- Transcripts of all collegiate-level study.
- TOEFL examination showing a score of 450 or higher.

Performer's Certificate (12 credits)

- Applied Music (8 credits)
 - Graduate Chamber Ensemble (2 credits)
 - Accompanying (2 credits)
 - One public recital is required. The recital carries no academic credit.
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Northern Illinois University offers a graduate-level Performer's Certificate.

The Performer's Certificate is not a graduate degree. The purpose of the Performer's Certificate program is to permit students to attain greater mastery of their chosen fields than they can achieve in formal study through the master's degree level. This 24 semester-hour program includes private instruction, research related to performance, and performance experience designed to develop fully independent professional musicians.

Performer's Certificate (24 credits)

- Private applied study (8 credits)
- Ensembles (2)
- Electives in music performance (6)
- Internship in Music Performance (0-4)
- Performer's Certificate Research and Performance (4-8)

A series of at least four performances and presentations is required, consisting of at least two full-length recitals and such other presentations or performance experiences as master classes, lecture recitals, professional internships, and concerto performances, as determined by the adviser and program committee. Normally, only one full-length recital may be presented in a single semester. Because the program is highly specialized and concentrated, students are expected to enroll in a full course load during each term they attend.

Southern Methodist University offers an Artist Certificate on the graduate level.

The Artist Certificate is intended for the exceptional performer who already holds a bachelor's degree or equivalent conservatory/professional credentials, and who is in the final stages of preparation to enter major competitions, audition for major orchestras or begin a professional career. Acceptance into the program requires a personal audition with the faculty at or above the recital level expected for completion of the Bachelor of Music degree in performance. The certificate normally encompasses a four-semester residency.