

Case Western Reserve University
Department of Music

*Requirements for the
DMA in Early Music*

This program in early music (up to 1750) combines advanced study in performance, music history, and performance practices. Students should expect to spend a minimum of three years in full-time study in Cleveland.

Admission information

Admission to the program is granted to those who demonstrate the potential to be leaders in the field of early music and who show excellent scholarly potential in music history and performance practices. An audition is required.

Audition Information

Three pieces of differing style and character are required with a total length of approximately 20 minutes. The candidate will be considered on the basis of their command of various national idioms, ornamentation styles, and other aspects of historical performance as well as their overall level of artistry. It is expected that the candidate will provide an accompanist where applicable, unless arrangements have been made well in advance to provide one through the Case Music Department. It is also possible to submit a recording in lieu of a live audition, although a campus visit is strongly recommended as part of the audition process.

Coursework and Applied Music

All programs are formulated to suit the needs of the individual student (based in part on a diagnostic examination taken upon entering the program) and require the consent of the graduate advisor. A minimum of 36 hours of coursework is required (which includes the first two lecture recitals - see below), together with at 4 semesters of applied music (for zero credit) and comprehensive examinations (usually taken in the Fall of the 3rd year). After successful completion of comprehensive examinations, the student will advance to candidacy and undertake the 'final' lecture recital (6 hours)

Coursework must include Bibliography and Research (MUHI 610), Introduction to Early Music Performance Practices (MUHI 441), Medieval/Renaissance Notation (MUHI 443), Pre-Tonal Theory and Analysis (MUTH 416), Schenkerian Analysis (MUTH 424), and a total of at least three seminars (1-2 in Early Music Performance Practice (MUHI 442) and 1-2 Doctoral Seminars in Musicology (MUHI 590)).

Applied music (MUAP) will generally be taken every semester that the student is on campus. Applied faculty will be chosen in consultation with the student.

Lecture-Recitals and Documents

Three juried lecture-recitals are required (MUAP 751, 752 and 753, 12 hours total), each consisting of a 45 minute performance generally preceded by a 30-45 minute research-based lecture dealing with the musical, historical and performance practice issues relevant to the chosen repertoire. (The entire lecture recital should not exceed 90 minutes). The jury will consist of three full-time music history/performance practice faculty members, one of whom will serve as an advisor, together with the appropriate applied music faculty (if possible). After securing a date acceptable to the jury and available on the Department calendar, the student will work with the advisor to prepare a lecture draft, which will be distributed to the entire jury no less than one month before the performance. The final version of the lecture will incorporate changes mandated by the jury. The advisor, along with the applied teacher, will monitor the preparation of the recital portion, whilst the successful completion of the lecture-recital will be certified by a majority of the jury.

A research document pertaining to each lecture recital must then be submitted. A single advisor will evaluate each of the first two documents (3 hours each): the third or 'final' document must be more substantial than the others (6 hours, undertaken once the student has advanced to candidacy) and will be evaluated by a committee consisting of no fewer than three of the music history/performance practice faculty.

Students are expected to publicize the lecture-recital by all appropriate means, in addition to its listing on the Department concert calendar. Lecture-recitals should be scheduled by November 1 or April 1 during the semester before the event.

Ensemble Participation

All students in this program will participate in one or more of the Case early music ensembles during each semester in which they are on campus.

Foreign Languages

Prior to the comprehensive examination, students must demonstrate ability to read in two languages approved by the graduate advisor as relevant to the student's research. (These are generally drawn from German, French, Italian, and Latin, though exceptions can be made.) Each examination consists of two excerpts on subjects related to the student's area of specialty (each excerpt ca. 200-300 words in length), one to be translated with the aid of a dictionary, one to be translated without dictionary. Two hours are permitted for the examination—one hour for each excerpt.

The minimum required level of reading ability is usually attained by the equivalent of two years of college-level study of the language plus further reading in musical and musicological writings in the language.

Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Examination is to be taken at the beginning of the third year of study, in September. (DMA candidates should be aware that the examination will cover the entire range of music history, not just pre-1750.) It consists of two parts: written and oral. The orals are taken within two weeks of passing the written examinations. Both the written and the oral examinations can be repeated, but no more than once. Students will be provided with a laptop for use in all sections of the written exam.

The **written examination** is in two parts, the first of which is a general test on early music performance practices and the history of music from the Middle Ages to the present, given in four sections as follows:

Day 1: 9am-12pm	Early Music Performance Practices (EMPP)
Day 1: 2pm-4pm	Medieval and Renaissance
Day 2: 9am-11am	17th and 18th Centuries
Day 2: 11am-1pm	19th and 20th Centuries

Questions are drawn from the entire field of Western music and are not necessarily related to topics covered in seminars. The EMPP sections consists of two one-hour essays (chosen from four given topics) and four short questions (chosen from six). The other three sections each consist of two one-hour essays (chosen from four given topics).

The second part of the exam (taken on Day 3 from 9am-12pm) is an analysis test that requires a detailed critical commentary on compositional and contextual aspects on two works representative of different style periods.

The **oral examination**, which extends over one and a half hours, focuses on questions posed in the written examination and on issues related to these questions.

Degree overlap

Students in the Case EMPP MA program who wish to continue on to the DMA may formally petition to do so in their second year of study. Any coursework already taken will count towards the DMA requirements, and students should register for the first DMA lecture recital (MUAP 751 for 3 hours) rather than the MA lecture recital (MUAP 651 for 6 hours). The DMA comprehensive examinations will then be taken in the Fall of the fourth year at Case, rather than the third year as is normally required for DMA students.

Students who graduate from the Case EMPP MA program, then later petition to enter the DMA program, will be required to complete 24 hours of coursework, instead of the 36 normally required for the DMA degree.