

Special Talent Review for Music

Submitting a special talent for review at Binghamton University is an opportunity for your talents to be actively considered in your admissions process. It is a chance to showcase your talents; **it does not affect your intended major**. However, the portfolio is intended for students who desire to pursue this interest in some way at Binghamton University.

For applicants to the Bachelor of Music degree in Performance:

The Talent Review will be used for pre-screening and you will be contacted about in-person auditions for the BMus program (acceptance to the BMus program does not guarantee acceptance to Binghamton University).

Questions about the Special Talent Review in Music or the Bachelor of Music Degree in Performance should be sent to strmusic@binghamton.edu

If your portfolio is not received by January 15th, your application will be reviewed without consideration for the special talent program.

General Requirements for Music Special Talent Applicants:

- The Music Talent Review Form, including your application ID Number. Please do not submit your Talent Review materials to the Music Department until you have received your ID Number from Admissions. Talent Review files without ID Numbers may not be evaluated. Fill out the PDF form electronically, save it with the filename [lastname-firstname-Talent] (for example "Gomez-Julia-Talent.pdf").
- A current résumé that summarizes your musical experience, including:
 - your instrument(s), voice part, or composition, including number of years studied
 - names of your private teacher(s)
 - ensembles or organizations with which you've performed, and in what capacity
 - awards and honors (including all-state ensembles, etc.)
 - major solo repertoire studied
- A good-quality recording of your performing or compositional work, between 5 and 12 minutes in length. For guidelines for specific performance areas, see the following page.
 - You may post videos to YouTube.com or Vimeo.com, and provide links on the Talent Review form (you may post a separate video for each piece or one video with multiple pieces, as you prefer). Please make sure your videos are publically viewable and not password-protected. Alternatively, you may email mp3 files (no other formats). Please create mp3s at least 128kb/sec (CD quality), and create a separate file for each piece you send. Emails cannot be more than 25MB with all attachments, but you may send multiple emails if necessary.
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher who knows your musical abilities well. This should be your private-lesson teacher if you have one, or an ensemble director who has worked with you individually.

If your teacher has already written a recommendation for your general application, please request another letter specifically in support of your Talent Review for Music (see Guidelines below). **Your recommender should email the recommendation as an attachment with the applicant's name in the subject line to strmusic@binghamton.edu**

Guidelines for recommenders: Please discuss your work with the applicant, describing repertoire studied, strengths and weaknesses in technique and expression, ability to respond to a teacher's advice, and growth as a musician over time. Try to note strengths and accomplishments that might not appear on the student's résumé. Also, please evaluate the student's potential for musical success at the university and professional levels.

To submit your materials for review:

Email all requirements (except the letter of recommendation) as attachment to: **strmusic@binghamton.edu**

Portfolio Requirements for Special Talent Review

These guidelines are intended to convey the range and level of proficiency expected for the Talent Review process; they are not strict requirements. If they do not seem suited to your talents, we encourage you to demonstrate your abilities as fully as possible within the 12-minute time limit. If you are providing recordings in more than one instrument or other area (voice, composition, etc.), you may include 12 minutes of material for each specialization.

Voice:

- A minimum of two pieces in contrasting styles from the classical repertoire (e.g. an early Italian or English song and an art song from the Romantic period).
- As a third selection you may also add a musical theater song. Choose lyrical selections that show your range, your musicianship and phrasing, and your diction.
- Performances with piano accompaniment are preferred.

Piano:

- A minimum of two pieces in contrasting styles (for example, Baroque and Romantic) at NYSSMA* level 5 or 6 (or equivalent), demonstrating technical and expressive playing, memorized if possible.
- One major and one minor scale and arpeggio, four octaves in quarters, eighths, and sixteenths.

Brass/Woodwind:

- A level 5 or 6 NYSSMA* solo (or equivalent) demonstrating your musicality (phrasing), technical level, and control of intonation, articulation, and rhythm.
- One étude, study, or other contrasting work.
- Two major scales over the standard range of the instrument (1–3 octaves).

Percussion:

- Two solo pieces on different instruments that demonstrate musicality, technique, and varied dynamics and articulation.

Violin/Viola:

- 2–3 octave major and minor scales (one of each); bowings and/or accelerations are encouraged, but not required.
- Solo of applicant's choice (NYSSMA* level 5 or 6, or equivalent) which demonstrates musicality and variety of techniques OR 2 contrasting works.
- Performances with piano accompaniment are encouraged, but not required.
- Video, if used, should be shot showing the front of the candidate, with both hands visible.

Cello:

- C major and D minor scales and arpeggios over 3 octaves, plus two contrasting pieces.

Bass:

- G major and D minor scales and arpeggios over 2 octaves, plus two contrasting pieces.

Organ:

- An organ work by J.S. Bach and a piece from either the Romantic or Modern repertoire for organ solo.

Jazz:

- Pianists, guitarists, percussionists, vocalists and wind instrument players who wish to demonstrate ability in the jazz idiom should improvise a blues melody or a standard tune of their choice with a live or recorded background, then improvise at least two choruses, and complete the performance by playing the melody of the tune again.
- Vocalists should sing the melody, then scat sing a chorus or two, then sing the melody of the tune again.

World or Popular Music Tradition:

- Please demonstrate your technique and expressivity as appropriate to the instrument(s), styles, and traditions represented.
- Ensemble performances are acceptable if you are featured in a solo or other prominent role identifiable on the recording.

Composition:

- Submit at least two scores of works for different performing forces or media.
- Include audio or video recordings if possible, preferably of live performances rather than electronic realizations.
- Purely electronic works should also include a score or, if the music does not use conventional notation, a statement describing the hardware and software used, and the compositional techniques involved.
- Submissions of recordings only will not be evaluated.

*NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, publishes lists of repertoire graded by technical difficulty. Level 5 and 6 solos are the most challenging, approximating the level of typical professional repertoire. If you are not familiar with NYSSMA rankings, consult with your teacher and select the most challenging music that you can perform well.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY: Talent Review for Music

Deadline for submission: January 15

Please fill in this form and return it, along with your résumé and recordings, to: strmusic@binghamton.edu

NAME: _____
Last First M. I. ID Number (required)

BIRTH DATE: _____ CURRENT SCHOOL: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

ADDRESS: _____
Number & Street Apt. #

City/Town State/Province ZIP/Postal code Country

EMAIL: _____ Recommendation requested from: _____

APPLICATION PERIOD: Early Action Regular Decision Transfer

INTENDED MAJOR: If you check BMus, you will be screened for a possible live audition. The live audition is not related to your application to Binghamton University, and is only used for acceptance to the BMus program itself.

BMus Music Performance BA Music Other: _____

INTENDED MUSIC ACTIVITIES: All Music Department performing activities are open to all students by audition, regardless of major. What activities are you considering pursuing at Binghamton University? (Check all that apply.)

- Music Minor For-credit lessons Academic courses (Music Theory, Music History, etc.)
- University Orchestra Wind Symphony Jazz Ensemble University Chorus
- Harpur Chorale Women’s Chorus Other (Opera Ensemble, African Drumming, etc.)
- Non-Music Department activities (a cappella groups, Pep Band, Gospel Choir, Explorchestra, etc.)

AREA(S) OF TALENT: Please identify the area that you wish to have considered as part of your application. If you perform in more than one area, indicate which is your primary specialization.

Instrument(s): _____ Voice (indicate part): _____
 Composition or Songwriting World or Popular Music Tradition: _____

List contents of your recording(s), with links for YouTube and Vimeo videos:

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
Typing your name here represents your signature