

STRINGS STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2019–20

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Student:

Welcome to Manhattan School of Music! These are important years in your development as an artist and as a person. I wish you every success in your endeavors and I am here to assist you in any possible way. This document is designed to answer frequently asked questions about the string department. The responsibility for knowing the information contained in this handbook, as with all school policies and procedures, rests with you. Consult your major teacher or the departmental chair with any departmental questions or concerns.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicholas Mann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Nicholas Mann

String Department Chair

This handbook does not apply to students enrolled in the Orchestral Performance Program or the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program. Consult the appropriate program director.

APPLIED LESSONS

Your Teacher

This is one of the most important parts of a musician's development. Your teacher is among the most vital sources in helping you to make career decisions, both large and small. As in any relationship, issues may arise which need discussion and/or resolution. You are encouraged to discuss problems, as they occur, directly with your teacher. Unresolved issues and/or the sense that you cannot discuss problems with your teacher need to be addressed with the departmental chair or the Provost.

You are entitled to and required to have twenty-eight one-hour private lessons with your major teacher in the course of the school year. Some teachers give these lessons each week. Others, given the nature of other performance and teaching commitments, offer two-hour lessons and/or lessons at differing intervals. Others still have teaching associates or substitutes to give lessons at times when they are unable to do so. Make certain that you understand your teacher's lesson schedule plan. If you are concerned that you are not receiving the requisite number of lessons, or have a problem with the frequency of your lessons, notify the departmental chair.

Change of Teacher

Students may request a change of teacher. This is an important decision to be thought over carefully and thoroughly. Student decisions to change teachers are often the result of miscommunication or lack of communication with the current teacher. You are therefore encouraged to discuss the matter with your teacher and/or with the departmental chair and the Dean of Students. If you wish to change teachers you must obtain a Change of Teacher Request Form from the Provost's office. Complete instructions are on the form. School policy prohibits any action against a student by a former teacher.

Attendance Policy

Private lessons constitute the core performance study for every student. If a student needs to cancel a studio lesson for any reason, the student should immediately inform the studio teacher. In cases of documented illness or other emergency, the teacher will attempt to make up missed lessons at a mutually convenient time. The studio teacher is not obligated to adjust lesson times or make up lessons that were canceled for non-

illness, non-emergency reasons. Any student who has two consecutive unexcused absences in his or her private lessons will be required to see the Dean of Students before lessons may resume.

Professional Leave

Students may request to be excused from school for professional engagements for periods not longer than two weeks. The appropriate form is available in the office of the registrar or the office of student life, and requires the signature of all teachers, the departmental chair, and the signature and approval of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Playing-related Pain

If you experience pain before, during, or after playing your instrument, discuss it immediately with your major teacher. Physical pain is a sign that you are not using your body correctly. There are referral sources available to help you with this before it becomes chronic or serious. If physical therapy or other help is needed, consult the office of student life.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

In order to maintain the integrity of the educational process at Manhattan School of Music, the school has developed a set of criteria for entrance to, and graduation from all the degree programs offered at MSM. These standards include a combination of both technical and musical skills and they are the result of consultation with faculty, administration and professionals throughout our musical community.

All string students admitted to Manhattan School of Music will have demonstrated the following abilities:

Technical Skills

- Tune their instrument
- Hear and distinguish pitch relationships and intonation
- A basic sense of rhythm with an understanding and ability to play standard rhythms and meters
- Basic coordination of both hands and a substantial degree of dexterity and consistency in left hand
- Understanding and ability to perform standard bow strokes
- Have the focus and endurance to participate in orchestral and chamber music rehearsals and concerts

Musical Skills

- Understanding of musical notation and familiarity with the most common musical terminology
- A basic understanding of several musical styles including Bach
- A basic understanding of musical structure and harmony
- A basic understanding of musical nuance and the potential to grow as a musician

The Evaluation of Technical Standards at Juries

An annual jury is conducted to allow the faculty to assess the growth and progress of each student in all the above areas. All standards are judged in relation to the student's degree program and level of study. For BM students, the sophomore jury is a critical moment to evaluate the progress and potential of students to ensure that they are on the correct path to a successful completion of their Bachelor's degree.

Each year at MSM, students are required to present specific repertoire at their juries (all contained in this hand-book) so that at the end of their degree program they will have demonstrated that they have attained the necessary skills for graduation.

Syllabus

Applied lesson faculty have created a course syllabus that describes the objectives, grading, attendance, and other policies related to your lessons. Please be sure to read over the syllabus carefully and discuss any questions you have with your teacher.

ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

1. Orchestra

All string players must participate in orchestra every semester, for the entire semester, until graduation. Seating auditions will take place at the beginning of each semester. These auditions take place behind a screen so that the audition panel cannot see the person playing. Only orchestral excerpts are heard at this audition, and orchestral seating is determined by the results of the audition. Careful preparation for this audition is strongly advised. Please consult the Office of Orchestral Operations for applicable repertoire. Students are required to take this audition each semester. Any string player unable to attend the required audition must contact the office of orchestral operations prior to the audition date. Please consult the orchestra handbook for further information.

2. Chamber Music

Students are required to complete a minimum of six semesters (undergraduate), four semesters (graduate), by assignment (Professional studies/Doctor of Musical Arts) of chamber music. Other than a one-year undergraduate requirement, bassists are not required to play chamber music, but will be assigned by individual student request as possible in coordination with the requirement for other string players. The Manager of Chamber Music and Ensembles makes assignments in consultation with the Departmental Chairs of Strings and Piano. Students are strongly advised to fill out a chamber music request form each semester. Specific requests for type of ensemble, fellow players, and coach are given serious consideration.

Please consult the Chamber Music Handbook for further information.

3. Orchestral Repertoire

All string students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs must complete a minimum of four semesters of Orchestral Excerpts classes. Consult the office of the registrar for more information.

JURIES

Jury for Non-graduating Students

Every student must play a jury during the May jury period of each school year until applicable jury and recital requirements have been fulfilled. A fall jury period will be scheduled each year, as necessary, for students who need to take a jury at that time. Consult repertoire requirements early in the school year, and prepare carefully for this important event. Juries are a vital part of your training as a performer, and the resultant scores have bearing on your academic record, scholarship, chamber music, and orchestra assignments, and other aspects of your standing within the School. The Office of the Registrar assigns jury days and times. Students are responsible for providing their own accompanists for juries. Early planning will avoid last-minute scheduling problems. Students are encouraged to read their jury comments, which are available in the Office of the Registrar. The jury performance times allotted in non-graduating years are: freshman—ten minutes; sophomore—fifteen minutes; junior—fifteen minutes (junior double bass—ten minutes); first year of graduate study—fifteen minutes. Please review Nonrequired Recitals.

Sophomore Continuation Jury

This jury, at the end of the sophomore year of study, establishes that a student's progress has been sufficient to reasonably ensure completion of the program of study. The evaluation will determine whether or not a student may continue in that program.

Advanced Standing Jury

In rare cases, undergraduate students may accelerate their program in performance by means of an Advanced Standing jury. A successful Advanced Standing jury will allow a student to graduate early, provided all other academic requirements are also met early. Advanced standing can only be granted for one semester. To start the process, the student submits a petition for advanced standing to the Registrar's office. This petition must indicate the approval of both the major teacher and the department chair, and must be turned in no later than March 1 of the academic year in which the advanced standing jury is to take place.

Jury for Students Graduating from Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Students expecting to graduate from either program during the current school year must play a graduation jury. Consult applicable repertoire requirements. Students are responsible for providing their own accompanists. Graduation juries will take place during the last week of April and they are scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. Review the Required Recital section of this handbook. A graduation jury and/or graduation recital does not serve as a substitute for an entrance examination to a higher degree level.

Professional Studies and Doctor of Musical Arts

In most cases there are no juries. Review the requirements for recitals.

All current students who take an entrance audition at MSM for a higher degree program and are accepted by the school are not required to play a graduation jury

Jury Comments

Students have a right to see their jury comments and scores. They may elect to allow their teacher to see them.

Grading

The student's jury grade is the average of all scores received at the jury (excluding those of the primary teacher and any teacher who has previously taught the student at MSM).

Jury Postponement

The Provost's office will only consider a student petition requesting postponement of a jury in extreme medical conditions (documented by a physician), sudden family emergencies, or other exceptional circumstances. In all other cases, any student who fails to play a scheduled jury will receive an F for that jury. A failed jury may result in academic probation or dismissal from MSM. A postponed jury must be successfully completed not later than the first two weeks of the subsequent semester.

RECITALS

Scheduling Recitals

A graduation recital and/or jury, if required, must take place within the last two semesters of major lessons. A date for the recital must be applied for with the Scheduling Office. The recital program must be approved by the major teacher and the department chair, and a copy of this program must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar as part of the student's graduation requirement.

Nonrequired Recitals

Students are encouraged to give recitals in nongraduating years. Consult with your teacher for approval. Most nongraduating recitals are given in the fall semester when recital space is less at a premium. Consult the scheduling office for a recital application. Students are responsible for providing their own accompanists.

Required Recital—Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Students expecting to graduate from either program during the current school year are required to give a graduation recital in addition to the graduation jury. Follow repertoire requirements carefully in building a recital program. Make certain that your teacher approves of the chosen repertoire. Consult the scheduling office for a recital application. Further, the recital repertoire approval form, also available from the scheduling office, requires the approval and signatures of your teacher and the departmental chair. The teacher's signature implies that the student is prepared to perform. Once the major teacher has signed the form, the teacher is not permitted to request a postponement of the recital. The signature of the departmental chair signifies approval of the repertoire and programming. **The departmental chair will not sign a recital repertoire approval form until the major teacher has done so.** Students should be certain that the program is accurately written before submitting it for signatures. The recital repertoire approval form is to be filed with the scheduling office and the departmental chair at least four weeks prior to the recital date. Students must be enrolled for major lessons until the graduation recital and graduation juries (as applicable) have been successfully completed. A graduation recital and/or graduation jury does not serve as a substitute for an entrance examination to a higher degree program. Students are responsible for providing their own accompanists.

Required Recital—Professional Studies

Consult the scheduling office for a recital application. Consult repertoire requirements carefully. Students are responsible for providing their own accompanists. Students are required to present an audio recording of the recital to the departmental chair as soon as possible after the recital for adjudication by appropriate faculty.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recitals

Consult the Assistant Dean for Doctoral Studies for procedures and requirements.

Recording of Recitals

The school records all required recitals when possible.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Violin

All violin students are required to play the following music from memory: concerti, concerto-like works, solo (unaccompanied) works, virtuoso concert pieces.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Entrance Exam

- Major and minor scales and arpeggios in three octaves.
- First movement of a standard concerto with applicable cadenza.
- Two contrasting movements of an unaccompanied Bach Partita or Sonata.

Freshman Jury

- Repertoire determined by teacher and student, totaling at least ten minutes of music.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Sophomore Continuation Jury

This important jury establishes that a student's progress has been sufficient to reasonably ensure completion of the program of study. The evaluation will determine whether or not the student may continue in that program.

- Two contrasting movements of a concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- One movement of a sonata for violin and piano.
- At least one movement of an unaccompanied Bach Partita or Sonata.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Junior Jury

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Two movements of a sonata for violin and piano.
- At least two contrasting movements of an unaccompanied Bach Partita or Sonata, or the Chaconne from the d minor Partita. If the

student is playing dance movements from the b minor Partita, such movements must include the Double.

- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed, except with a concerto as a complete work this year.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Three significant, complete recital works from three style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- If a Bach Partita or Sonata is not one of the recital works, at least two contrasting movements from any solo Bach work, or the Chaconne from the d minor Partita must be played at the graduation jury in addition to the above repertoire. If the student is playing dance movements from the b minor Partita, such movements must include the Doubles.
- Any complete concerto is optional, and may be included in the graduation recital, at the discretion of the student.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Entrance Exam

- Two contrasting movements of a concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Two movements of an unaccompanied Bach Partita or Sonata.
- One movement of a sonata for violin and piano of your choice
- A virtuoso concert piece from the Romantic period by composers such as Paganini, Sarasate, Vieuxtemps, Wieniawski or Ysaÿe.

First-year Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Jury

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Complete multi-movement work.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Three significant, complete recital works from three style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century. A complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas may be used as one of the recital works, at the discretion of the student.
- If a Bach Partita or Sonata is not one of the recital works, at least four dance movements or the *Adagio/Grave* and Fugue from any of the sonatas, or the *Chaconne* from the *d minor Partita*, must be played at the graduation jury in addition to the above repertoire.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Doctor of Musical Arts/Professional Studies Entrance Exam

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Four significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.

Professional Studies Graduation Recital

- Four complete, significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Please consult the Assistant Dean for Doctoral Studies for subsequent DMA repertoire requirements.

Viola

All viola students are required to play the following music from memory: concerti, solo (unaccompanied) works, virtuoso concert pieces.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Entrance Exam

- Major and minor scales and arpeggios.
- First movement of a standard concerto with applicable cadenza.
- Two contrasting movements of an unaccompanied Bach Partita, Sonata, or Suite.

Freshman Jury

- Repertoire determined by teacher and student, totaling at least ten minutes of music.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Sophomore Continuation Jury

This important jury establishes that a student's progress has been sufficient to reasonably ensure completion of the program of study. The evaluation will determine whether or not the student may continue in that program.

- Two contrasting movements of a concerto with all applicable cadenzas
- One movement of a sonata for viola and piano
- At least one movement of an unaccompanied Bach Partita, Sonata or Suite
- No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Junior Jury

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Two movements of an unaccompanied Bach Partita, Sonata or Suite.
- One movements of a sonata from any period.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed, except with a concerto as a complete work this year.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Significant recital repertoire from three style periods, including Bach—either a Partita, Sonata, Suite, or Gamba Sonata.
- Concerto may be included as part of the recital but is not a requirement.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Entrance Exam

- Complete works from three style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century. One work must be a standard concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Repertoire chosen should clearly demonstrate graduate-level playing.

First-year Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Jury

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Complete multi-movement work.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Complete, significant recital works from three or more style periods, including both Bach (Partita, Sonata, Suite, or Gamba Sonata) and the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas, which may be either included in the graduation recital, or played in addition to the recital repertoire at the jury.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Doctor of Musical Arts/Professional Studies Entrance Ex-am

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Four significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.

Professional Studies Graduation Recital

- Four complete, significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Please consult the Assistant Dean for Doctoral Studies for subsequent DMA repertoire requirements.

Cello

With the exception of the entrance examination at the Bachelor of Music/diploma level, all cello students are re-quired to play the following music from memory: concerti, solo (unaccompanied) works, virtuoso concert pieces.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Entrance Exam

- Scale and arpeggio of applicant's choice in three or four octaves.
- First movement of a standard concerto with applicable cadenza or ten minutes of music from either "Rococo Variations" or Schelomo.
- Two contrasting movements of an unaccompanied Bach Suite.
- A work of the applicant's choice, such as a movement of a sonata or a short concert piece.

Freshman Jury

- Movement(s) from two contrasting works, totaling at least ten minutes of music.
- No repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Sophomore Continuation Jury

This important jury establishes that a student's progress has been sufficient to reasonably ensure completion of the program of study. The evaluation will determine whether or not the student may continue in that program.

- One movement of a concerto with applicable cadenza (not a slow movement).
- Two movements of an unaccompanied Bach Suite.
- No repetition of repertoire from the previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Junior Jury

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- A complete sonata or other multimovement work.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed, except with a concerto as a complete work this year.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Complete unaccompanied Bach Suite.
- Complete sonata.
- One other work, such that the recital total at least sixty minutes of music.
- For the jury, in addition to the above, the first movement of a standard concerto with applicable cadenza or a complete solo work for cello and orchestra such as Schelomo, “Rococo Variations,” or Don Quixote. If Elgar Concerto, there must be two contrasting movements.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Entrance Exam

- Two movements of a standard concerto with applicable cadenzas.
- Three movements of an unaccompanied Bach Suite.
- A complete sonata.
- A complete twentieth or twenty-first century work.

First-year Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Jury

- Complete concerto with applicable cadenzas.
- Complete sonata or other multmovement work.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Complete unaccompanied Bach Suite.
- Complete major sonata.
- Complete twentieth-century (postimpressionist) or twenty-first century work.
- An encore piece.
- The recital must total at least seventy-five minutes of music.

- For the jury, in addition to the above, two movements of a standard concerto with applicable cadenzas.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Doctor of Musical Arts/Professional Studies Entrance Exam

- Complete concerto with all applicable cadenzas.
- Four significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.

Professional Studies Graduation Recital

- Four significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Please consult the director of doctoral studies for subsequent DMA repertoire requirements.

Bass

Memorization of bass repertoire other than sonatas and orchestral excerpts is recommended, though not required.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Entrance Exam

- Major or minor scale and arpeggio, three octaves, of applicant's choice.
- Two contrasting movements of a baroque sonata or the first movement of a standard concerto and an additional contrasting movement or work.
- One etude on the level of Bille, Simandl, Storch-Hrabe or Sturm.
- One orchestral excerpt of the applicant's choice.

Freshman Jury

- Two contrasting works from different style periods of music and one orchestral excerpt, totaling at least ten minutes of music.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Sophomore Continuation Jury

This important jury establishes that a student's progress has been sufficient to reasonably ensure completion of the program of study. The evaluation will determine whether or not the student may continue in that program.

- Two contrasting works from different style periods of music and two orchestral excerpts, totaling at least fifteen minutes of music.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

Junior Jury

- Two contrasting works from different style periods of music and two orchestral excerpts, totaling at least ten minutes of music.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

Bachelor of Music/Diploma Graduation Jury

Bassists may choose to play either a full recital or half recital (shared with another student).

- Recital repertoire from three contrasting style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- Two significant orchestral excerpts – at the jury only.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or en-trance exam is allowed.

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Entrance Exam

- Three complete works of different style periods, which must include either a complete concerto or sonata.
- Three significant orchestral excerpts.

First-year Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Jury

- Repertoire to be determined by teacher and student, totaling at least fifteen minutes of music.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed

Master of Music/Postgraduate Diploma Graduation Recital and Jury

- Contrasting recital repertoire from four style periods.
- Three significant orchestral excerpts—at the jury only.
- No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or en-trance exam is allowed.

Doctor of Musical Arts/Professional Studies Entrance Exam

- Four complete, contrasted recital works, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- Three significant orchestral excerpts.

Professional Studies Graduation Recital

- Four complete, significant recital works from a wide range of style periods, including the twentieth or twenty-first century.
- No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Please consult the Assistant Dean for Doctoral Studies for subsequent DMA repertoire requirements.

MASTER CLASSES

Classes will be given periodically by visiting artists. A list-ing of classes will be posted on the string department bul-letin board. Participation in master classes is determined by teacher nomination and, in most cases, by subsequent competitive auditions. Consult your major teacher if you wish to be nominated for a class.

EISENBERG-FRIED CONCERTO COMPETITION

The string concerto competition will be held on February 21st, 2020 in the Neidorff-Karpartí Hall. There will be a preliminary audition on February 17, in the Green-field Recital Hall. Applications are available in the office of the Manager of Chamber Music and Ensembles, Room 305. The signature and approval of the major teacher are required. Application deadline is February 1st. The winner will be chosen from departmental auditions. There will be no interdepartmental finals, and there will be one annual winner from the string department. The following concerti are ineligible this year: the Barber Violin Concerto, the Shostakovich Cello Concerto and the Sibelius Violin Concerto

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chair of the String Department

If you need to contact the departmental chair, do so in one of the following ways:

- Schedule an appointment at the string department office, Room 503. There is a sign-up sheet provided on the door.
- Send an email to Mr. Mann at nmann@msmnyc.edu

There is an inbox and outbox folder next to Room 503. Forms (except for change of teacher) may be left for the Chairman's signature - **PLEASE NOTE - ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPETED AND WITH ALL OTHER NECESSARY SIGNATURES BEFORE BEING LEFT FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE**

String Department Bulletin Board

This is located on the second floor, along with all departmental bulletin boards. Check it periodically for special departmental notices.

Student Website

The strings page is located on the MSM website.
(<https://www.msmnyc.edu/programs/strings-and-harp/>)

