



WOODWIND DEPARTMENT

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020-2021

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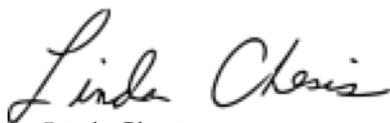
WELCOME

Dear Student:

Welcome to Manhattan School of Music! Here you will study with world-class faculty, be challenged to absorb as much as you can of musical language, develop your sense of musical history, and hone your skills—solo, orchestral, and chamber. This document is for your use— it answers many questions you may have at present or will have during your years of study at MSM. The responsibility for knowing the information contained here, as well as all school policies and procedures, rests with you. Please consult your major teacher or the departmental chair with any departmental questions or concerns.

I hope all of you feel during your time at MSM just how much all of us working with you— faculty, administration, staff— wish you well, and want to do all we can to help you on your way to successful, fulfilling lives in the world of music.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Chesis".

Linda Chesis
Woodwind Department Chair

This handbook does not apply to students enrolled in the Orchestral 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.

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.

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

No student may be absent from the school for professional engagements unless permission for such absence is granted by the Dean of Students well in advance of all such engagements. Students who wish to pursue a professional opportunity over several days must apply for a professional leave, using the form available in the Dean of Students office. Typically, the professional leave may not extend for more than two weeks.

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

Technical Skills

- Hear and distinguish pitch relationships and intonation
- A basic sense of rhythm with an understanding and ability to play standard rhythms and meters
- A substantial degree of dexterity and technical consistency
- Understanding of and ability to perform a variety of articulations
- Control of breathing and sound production
- Have the focus and endurance to participate in orchestral, 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
- A basic understanding of musical structure and harmony
- A basic understanding of musical nuance with 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.

ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

Large Ensembles

All BM and MM woodwind students (with the exception of saxophones) must participate in orchestra, jazz philharmonic and/or wind ensemble as assigned every semester until graduation. Placement 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. A list of required will be sent to students by the end of the preceding semester. As distribution of parts is determined, in part, by the results of the audition, careful preparation for this audition is strongly advised. Students are required to take this audition each semester. Anyone 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.

Chamber Music

Students are required to complete a minimum of four semesters (undergraduate), four semesters (graduate), by assignment, of chamber music. The Director of Chamber Music and Ensembles makes assignments in consultation with the Departmental Chairs of Woodwinds, Strings, Piano and Brass. Students are strongly advised to fill out a chamber music request form each semester. Specific requests for type of ensemble, fellow players, repertoire and coach are given serious consideration.

Please consult the Chamber Music Handbook for further information.

WOODWIND LAB

All juniors, seniors, masters and PS students are required to enroll in Woodwind Lab, which meets every Thursday from 10 AM to noon. Please ensure that nothing in your schedule conflicts with this time. Transfer students who may have course conflicts, must contact the WW Department chair as soon as possible to determine a solution.

JURY PROCEDURES AND FORMAT

Format:

- Juries will be held via video recordings.
- Major teachers will decide the choice of repertoire with the student.
 - If the teacher feels that a certain flexibility is necessary, that opinion will be deemed very important by the Chair.
- If the student is on campus and/or safely able to work with a pianist, they may record with accompaniment. Otherwise, it is permissible to present all repertoire without piano, or with a pre-recorded track such as:
 - [mypianist.app](#) (iOS devices only)
 - [piano-accompaniments.com](#)
 - Play With Shams

Grading:

- Juries will be graded on a 10-point scale with a passing score of 6 (or B).
- A grade of B- or lower will require a re-jury in the Fall.
- Jurors will include the major teacher, the department chair and at least two other members of the department.
- The student's jury grade is the average of all scores received at the jury (excluding those of the major teacher).

Schedule:

- Please follow the Repertoire Guidelines for May 2021 listed below.
- Since the requirements result in more music than the jurors will be able to review, the following procedure will be used:
 - 1) Submit your repertoire selection via Air Table by **Friday, May 7th** at 5 PM EST, providing the following:
 - a. Title of work
 - b. Composer (with birth and death dates)
 - c. Movements you have selected
 - d. Length (in minutes and seconds) of each movement

- 2) You will receive a list of the specific material you must record (as determined by the Department Chair and your Major Teacher) by **Wednesday, May 12th** at 5 PM EST.
- 3) You must upload your videos to AirTable by **Monday, May 17th** at 12 PM EST.
- 4) You will receive an appointment to meet with Faculty on Zoom to discuss your jury and hear their comments on **Wednesday, May 19th, Thursday, May 20th, or Friday, May 21st. Precise Date and Time TBD.**
- 5) Any student with extenuating circumstances may petition for extra time with approval of the major teacher and the Department Chair.

JURY REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

- It is not mandatory for the entire jury to be submitted in one single take.
- However, each work you submit must be in its own uninterrupted/unedited take.
- All students must include the following excerpts recorded in a single, uninterrupted take. The student may take time as needed between excerpts, but the camera must remain rolling and the space between excerpts must not be edited out. (recorded in a single take):
 - a. **Flutes**
 - i. Hindemith: *Symphonic Metamorphosis*, Mvt 3: 6 bars before C to the end of the movement
 - ii. Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf: #2 to #4
 - b. **Oboes**
 - i. Schumann *Symphony No. 2*, Mvt III: bars 8-19
 - ii. Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra*, Mvt. II: 25-44
 - c. **Clarinets**
 - i. Stravinsky: *Firebird*, Variation of the Firebird
 - ii. Rachmaninov *Symphony No. 2*, Mvt. 3: bar 5-1 before #47

d. **Bassoons**

- i. Stravinsky: *Firebird*, Berceuse, Rehearsal Nos. 1-3 and 6-8
- ii. Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*, Mvt. 2, beginning to Rehearsal A and Rehearsal L-M

e. **Saxophones**

Please choose two from the following list:

- i. Ravel: *Bolero* (solo)
 - ii. Rachmaninoff: *Symphonic Dances* (entire part)
 - iii. Prokofiev: *Lt. Kije*, Mvt. II (all)
 - iv. Ravel : *Pictures*, The Old Castle
- All Woodwind students are encouraged (but not required) to play at least one selection from memory. Concerto requirements for juniors, seniors and MM students will already have been prepared as part of this semester's WW Lab.

Freshman Jury: 12 minutes

- 1) Two contrasting movements totaling 12 minutes of music.
- 2) The excerpts listed above by instrument (recorded in an uninterrupted take).

No repetition of repertoire from entrance exam is allowed.

Sophomore Continuation Jury: 15 minutes

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.

- 1) Complete contrasting movements from a minimum of two works from different periods.
- 2) The excerpts listed above by instrument (recorded in an uninterrupted take).

No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

Junior Jury: minimum of 15 minutes of music

- 1) One movement from a major concerto with all applicable cadenzas or a concert work intended to be performed with orchestra (ideally memorized).

- 2) Two complete contrasting movements from a recital work or a complete through-composed work demonstrating varied tempi and technical demands.
- 3) The excerpts listed above by instrument (recorded in an uninterrupted take).

No repetition of repertoire from previous jury or entrance exam is allowed.

First-year Master of Music: minimum of 15 minutes of music

- 1) At least one movement from a major concerto with all applicable cadenzas or a concert work intended to be performed with orchestra (ideally memorized).
- 2) At least one complete movement from two different recital works of contrasting style/periods or two through-composed works demonstrating varied tempi and technical demands.
- 3) The excerpts listed above by instrument (recorded in an uninterrupted take).

At least one of your selections should be from the 20th or 21st century.

No repetition of repertoire from previous juries or entrance exam is allowed.

GRADUATION RECITAL/JURY REQUIREMENTS FOR BM, MM, AND PS WOODWIND STUDENTS

Required recitals must include between 30-45 minutes demonstrating a varied and contrasting selection of *at least three* complete movements/works (video recorded in complete **uninterrupted/unedited** takes).

Please include the excerpts listed above by instrument (recorded in an uninterrupted take).

One of your pieces should represent the work of an African American creator and/or a creator from the African diaspora as per the MSM Cultural Inclusion Initiative. Your major teacher will have some suggestions and will assist you with determining appropriate repertoire selections. Although you are not required to have an accompanist, you may want to try the many pre-recorded accompaniments found online:

- a. mypianist.app (iOS devices only)
- b. piano-accompaniments.com
- c. Play With Shams

You are strongly encouraged to create and perform a livestreamed event which satisfies the above requirements if you have the bandwidth capabilities to do so. This may take place at MSM for Track A students, at home or, if you are in a position to safely do so, at an outside venue. Details of your performance as well as a video of this event may be submitted as fulfillment of your graduation recital/jury.

If you are unable to present a livestreamed event, please submit unedited videos as unlisted YouTube links. *You are not required to have an accompanist for these videos.*

Audio only submissions *will not* be accepted for the recital requirement.

You must include your official program, as created by the Recital Program Desk.

MASTER CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the school year, there are special events such as master classes, departmental recitals, and other performance opportunities. Pertinent information will be emailed to you as well as posted on the MSM calendar.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Woodwind Department Chair

If you need to contact the departmental chair, please send an email to Ms. Chesis: lchesis@msmnyc.edu who will address your concerns as soon as possible or make an appointment to meet with you. If you are requesting a signature, please note that all forms must be completed and include the major teacher's signature before emailing it to the Department Chair as either a jpeg or pdf. Please indicate which form you are attaching in the subject line. Here is an example: **Leave of Absence Form – Department Chair Signature requested**

Woodwind Department Bulletin Board

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

Student Website

The Woodwind page is located on the on the MSM Student website. (Departments /Woodwinds)

