The Distinguished Major Program allows outstanding music majors to work on large-scale projects during their last two semesters at the University. The project may consist of a thesis, a composition or set of compositions, or the performance of a full recital; a project that combines these components is also possible.

Majors normally apply to the program during their sixth semester. Serious applicants will have a cumulative college GPA of 3.4 or above; if their cumulative GPA is not at least 3.4 at the time of graduation, they cannot receive any distinction they may otherwise have been awarded. After a preliminary discussion with the DUP, a student arranges supervision by a main advisor and a secondary advisor, and submits a proposal to the DUP. Each spring, the DUP announces detailed application procedures and a deadline.

Work on the Distinguished Major project normally takes place through three credits of independent work in each of the last two semesters at the University. These credits do not count toward music major requirements, but the 4 lessons credits in the final year – in addition to the 16 performance credits already allowed for credit – do count toward the 120 credits required for graduation from the College. A student working on a thesis or composition normally takes MUSI 4993 at three credits. A student preparing a recital normally takes honors-level private performance lessons, MUPF 4930-4940, at two credits each, as well as an academic independent study pertinent to the recital program, MUSI 4993, at one or more credits each.

Written projects are due, at the latest, by the last day of classes in the second semester of work; a student’s committee may set an earlier date of completion. The committee evaluates the completed project and submits a report to the DUP, who then forwards the report to the main DMP Evaluation Committee and other interested full-time faculty members. Students completing projects may receive the B.A. in Music with Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction, provided the cumulative GPA at graduation is 3.4 or above (a CLAS rule, as mentioned above). It is also possible that a project will not receive any distinction.

Any level of distinction is an honor, showing strong Department admiration for a student’s work. The Department awards Highest Distinction only rarely.

Please complete two hard copies of this form: one for the Department file, one for the student.

*Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Brief title/description of project: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Please attach a more detailed description of the project (about one page).

*Expected date of completion of project: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Names and signatures of the two faculty advisors for the project.*

Each project is evaluated by a committee of two faculty, including the main advisor for the project and a member of the full-time faculty. For recitals, a third member is assigned by the Department. The signatures indicate that these instructors have read and approved the attached description of the proposed project, and have agreed to advise the student during the year and participate in evaluation of the completed project.

*Names Signatures*

*Main advisor:*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Other committee member*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Third committee member (assigned by the Department, and for recitals only; do not fill this out!)*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

All projects must be approved by the Chair and the Director of Undergraduate Programs:

*Signature of Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Signature of DUP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

DMP Recitals additionally must be approved by the Director of Performance:

*Signature of Director of Performance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

The student should read the following statement and sign to indicate acceptance of these policies:

I undertake to complete the project described on the accompanying page. I understand that the members of my committee will evaluate the completed project and report to pertinent members of the Department, who will decide on my level of honors. I will keep committee members, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Director of Performance (as applicable) informed about the progress of the project throughout the year, and will arrange meetings of the committee as appropriate, including at least one meeting at the beginning of the year when I work on the project. On completion of the project, I will give committee members copies of written material to evaluate, and will inform them well in advance of any performance that is part of my project. At the end of the year I will deposit in the Music Library a recording and/or written materials to document my project.

*Signature of student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Please return the signed form by the announced deadline to Karl Hagstrom Miller, the Director of Undergraduate Programs, [khm8f@virginia.edu](mailto:khm8f@virginia.edu).