

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

and

## EXAM DETAILS

for

### M.M.-Performance in Collaborative Piano majors at Ithaca College School of Music

#### I. REQUIREMENTS

A. Within their first semester at Ithaca College, all MM-Performance in Collaborative Piano majors are normally expected to pass a language comprehension examination (written translation) in French, German *or* Italian. (Students will choose the language.)

B. In addition, all students must pass an oral/IPA examination in lyric diction in the same language as the student chose under “A”.

These requirements can be met by one of the following means:

1.) Demonstrate lyric diction proficiency via an oral/IPA exam and a language proficiency via a language comprehension examination as outlined below, or

2.) Provide a transcript showing that lyric diction courses and/or two-semesters (1 full year) of college-level study of one of the following languages – French, German, Italian - have been taken previously and that the student received a grade of B or higher in each of those courses.

C. If, upon taking the language comprehension and/or lyric diction exams, the student does not demonstrate proficiency in one or both, they will be encouraged to take a graduate-level intensive diction course. Achieving a grade of B in this course will fulfill the requirement. If the student chooses not to take the course, they will need to re-take the exam. Upon re-taking the exam(s), if the student still does not demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency, they will be required to enroll in appropriate courses at Ithaca College or in equivalent courses elsewhere and attain a grade of B or higher.

#### II. INFORMATION ABOUT the LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION EXAMINATIONS

##### A. THE TRANSLATION PORTION of the EXAMINATION (written)

1.) Students will be asked to translate a song or aria from the standard repertoire, and they may use a dictionary. They should be sure to write their final translation on a separate sheet of plain paper. The translation should reflect the sense of the song in easily understood idiomatic English. Do not submit a word for word translation! The examination will be a maximum of 1 hour in length.

2.) If the student has taken 2 semesters (1 full year) of college-level language study and has received a grade of B or higher in each of those courses, this language comprehension examination will be waived. The student should provide the Coordinator of the M.M.-Performance in Collaborative Piano with a transcript certifying completion of the courses so that the grade may be verified.

## B. THE LYRIC DICTION EXAMINATION

- 1.) The student will take an oral diction exam administered by the designated member of the IC Voice Area faculty. The exam will include providing IPA for a vocal text, as well as speaking texts to demonstrate lyric diction ability.
- 2.) If the student has completed a previous diction course and has received a grade of B or higher in each of the course(s), then the lyric diction exam will be waived. The student should provide the Coordinator of the M.M.-Performance in Collaborative Piano with a transcript certifying completion of the courses so that the grade may be verified.

## III. SCHEDULING of the EXAMS

The scheduling of all examinations will be organized by the Coordinator of the M.M.-Performance in Collaborative Piano. Exams should be completed as early as possible within the first semester of study at IC, and no later than the end of the first year of the student's residency.

### **Please note:**

No student should attempt to take one of the language tests without having had prior study in that language. The following may be helpful to keep in mind.

### **Suggestions for Collaborative Piano Majors taking the Written Language Exam**

- You have one hour for the written translation exam.
- You may use a dictionary.
- Stop looking up words after 35 minutes and work on the sentence structure.
- If you cannot finish translating the entire text, focus on the part that you can do and make sure it reflects the original's content.
- If you encounter an unfamiliar word that is not in your dictionary, leave a blank space and continue. The context of the sentence may help you decipher the term later.
- Be sure to write your final translation on a separate sheet of paper. Please write legibly. At this point your translation should reflect the sense of the song in easily understood idiomatic English. **Do not** submit a word-for-word translation!
- Reserve the final 5 minutes to review your translation and correct potential mistakes. Remember, the goal is an approximate English version that reflects the meaning of the original.
- Not finishing the entire text does not necessarily mean that you have failed the exam.