

# First-Year Essentials for Music Majors at CWRU

Welcome to the CWRU Department of Music! As you prepare to begin your studies, here's your **First-Year Essentials** to help you navigate the weeks ahead:

## 1. Confirm Your Music Major Status

- **Music Arts Supplement:** If you submitted a successful supplement, you've been accepted into the music or music education major.
- **Entrance Audition:** If you did not submit a supplement but wish to pursue a music major, you may submit a **video [Entrance Audition >>](#)** by **August 1**. The next opportunity for current students to audition to add the music major will occur in December.
- **Major Declaration:** First-year students officially declare their music major during orientation week by completing a form approved by their academic representative.

## 2. Participate in Orientation Activities

- **Orientation/Discover Week (August 17–24):** A required week of class scheduling, community-building, and learning about campus resources. 🙌 [Get Details >>](#)
- **Music New Student Orientation:** Meet music faculty and fellow students, and learn about program expectations.
- **Ensembles Overview:** Learn about auditions, school-owned instruments, lockers, practice rooms, and ensemble participation.  
**Contact:** Dr. Kathleen Horvath ([✉️ kah24@case.edu](mailto:kah24@case.edu)), Area Head for Ensembles

## 3. Piano Diagnostic for Music Education Majors (students notified in advance)

If you have prior experience playing piano, the instructor will ask you to demonstrate as many of the following skills as you are able. This diagnostic helps determine the most appropriate course placement. If you do not have prior piano experience, simply let the instructor know at the time of the diagnostic—you'll be granted permission to register for **MUSP 101: Keyboard Skills**.

### Piano Diagnostic Study Guide:

- **Prepared Pieces**  
Play one or two pieces you've previously learned on the piano. These do not need to be memorized or polished—just something to demonstrate your general proficiency.
- **Scales and Arpeggios**  
Play a few major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios, using both hands together, two octaves, ascending and descending.
- **Chord Progressions**  
Perform the standard primary chord progressions:
  - Major: I – IV<sup>6/4</sup> – I – V<sup>6/5</sup> – I
  - Minor: i – iv<sup>6/4</sup> – i – V<sup>6/5</sup> – i

- **Melody Harmonization**

Harmonize a simple melody in your right hand using the left hand in one of the following:

- Blocked or broken chords
- Waltz style
- Alberti bass style

- **Sight-Reading**

Sight-read one or two short pieces of music provided at the diagnostic.

#### 4. Register for Courses

All first-year music majors must register for:

- **MUTH 111** – Elements of Music Theory I (Seminar)
- **MUTH 161** – Elements of Musicianship I (Lab)
- **MUAP 121** – Principal Performance I (Primary lessons by instrument/voice)
- **MUEN** – Ensembles (Primary ensemble by instrument/voice or secondary ensembles)

You will also work with your faculty advisor to select additional music courses that align with your degree requirements and interests.

- **Music (BA):** Dr. Benjamin Helton, Coordinator of UG Studies in Music (BA)  
[✉ bch51@case.edu](mailto:bch51@case.edu)
- **Music Education (BS):** Dr. Matthew Garrett, Acting Coordinator of UG Studies in MuEd (BS)  
[✉ glm59@case.edu](mailto:glm59@case.edu)

#### 4. Audition for Ensembles and Register for Lessons

- **Ensemble Participation:** Open to all students – explore orchestras, choirs, bands, and more. 📌 [Ensembles List + Participation Info >>](#)  
Music majors will receive an assigned audition time to be held on **Monday, August 25**. The schedule will be posted around **August 12**. 📌 [Prepare For Your Audition >>](#)
- **Primary Applied Music Lessons:** Register for **MUAP 121** for private lessons on your primary instrument or voice. 📌 [IMP Faculty and Instructors >>](#)  
Studio assignments will be emailed by early August by [Jennifer Wright](#), Manager of Department Operations.
- **Recital Class:** A required component of applied lessons for music majors.
  - **Instructor:** [Dr. Christopher Clark](#)
  - Meets **Wednesdays, 3:20–4:10 PM** in **Harkness Chapel**
  - Listed in SIS as **“Section 900: Recital”**
  - Attendance is mandatory; all students must perform at least once during the year.

#### 5. Secure an Instrument Locker

- **Instrumental Majors:** Assigned a locker in **Denison Hall**, accessible daily from **8 AM–10 PM** starting Monday of Discover Week.

Assignments will be emailed **Friday before Discover Week** by [Nicholas Strawn](#),  
Performance and Operations Assistant.

- **Vocalists or Secondary Instruments:** May request a locker using the Locker Request Form.  
[👉 Lockers + Borrowing Instruments >>](#)

## 6. Student Resources

- [👉 Student Resources >>](#)
- [👉 Facilities + Policies >>](#)
- [👉 First-Year Guide >>](#)

## 7. Stay Connected

- **CampusGroups:** Join the [Department of Music on CampusGroups >>](#) to stay informed about events and activities.
- **CWRU Music Message Board:** Music majors are automatically added to this Google Group. Be sure to check your **CWRU Gmail** regularly for important updates from the department.

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to our administrative office!

**Welcome to the CWRU music community!**

**Department of Music**

Case Western Reserve University

[✉️ music@case.edu](mailto:music@case.edu)