



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MUSIC

*Dean and Professor*

**UofT Music - Covid-19 Update**

**Date: March 24, 2020**

**RE: COVID-19 Update on Academic Disruption and the Evaluation of Faculty of Music Applied Lessons and Juries/Recitals**

Dear Members of the UofT Music Community:

The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to make a series of difficult and unprecedented decisions for the University and the Faculty of Music. These decisions have been made within a compressed timeline and rapidly evolving chain of external circumstances that have deeply affected our daily lives with friends and family, as well as our core artistic and academic activities in the Faculty and in the performing arts community. I want to thank all of you, our students, faculty members, and support staff for your extraordinary efforts in these extraordinary times.

Our collective goal remains threefold: (1) to do our best to ensure the health and well-being of our community; (2) to continue to pursue our scholarly and creative research activities to the extent we can at this time; and (3) to maintain our educational mission with as little compromise as possible as we work together to complete the academic term. The first requires the physical isolations and suffers the social isolations that are externally driven. The second has led to the reworking of many research projects and the cancellation of many performances and travels. The third has resulted in the need to move all courses and seminars to alternate modes of delivery and evaluation, which has meant that many instructors and students have had to scramble to find creative solutions to end-of-term classes and assignments in a wide variety of courses at a time of year that is already stressful.

Unfortunately, our many core performance-based activities (lessons, performance classes, ensembles, juries and recitals) cannot be addressed in this fashion, particularly at the scale of our institution: from mid-March to the last week of April, some 560 individual sets of lessons, delivered by at least 130 different instructors, with 250 scheduled public recitals (all of which involve several individual performers, faculty members, and support staff). For these, we have had to appeal to the Provost of the University to declare an “Academic Disruption”. There are no safe, viable, and equitable workarounds for this type and this level of activity. The Academic Disruption permits us to declare alternative evaluation schemes for certain courses that allow students to complete their year, albeit not under the normal artistic and academic circumstances we would all prefer.

As we communicated previously, due to external constraints related to COVID-19, *all performance juries, BMus recitals, and MMus recitals are cancelled for the current academic session*. Students will, however, still be able to receive credit for them. We are now writing about the assessment of these activities, following the declaration by the Provost of an Academic Disruption in these courses:

- For undergraduate performance juries in Applied Music courses (PMU184Y1, PMU284Y1, PMU384Y1, PMU484Y1, PMU185Y1, PMU285Y1, JMU184Y1, JMU284Y1, JMU384Y1,

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JMU484Y1, JMU185Y1, JMU285Y1), the final grade will be based 100% on the mark given by the applied teacher for term work, with 50% coming from each semester. (Normally, the term mark counts for 60% and the jury mark counts for 40% of the final grade.)

- For undergraduate recitals in third- and fourth-year Applied Music courses (PMU385Y1, PMU485Y1, JMU385Y1, JMU485Y1), the final grade will be based 100% on the mark given by the applied teacher for term work, with 50% coming from each semester. (Normally, the term mark counts for 60% and the jury mark counts for 40% of the final grade.) *In those few instances where students performed their recital before the suspension of in-person teaching activities, the student will receive as a final grade the HIGHER of the grade calculated with the normal 60%/40% weighting or with the 100% term work weighting.*
- For Advanced Certificate in Performance recitals in Applied Music courses (PMA485Y1), the final grade will be based 100% on the mark given by the applied teacher for term work, with 50% coming from each semester. (Normally, the term mark counts for 60% and the jury mark counts for 40% of the final grade.) *In those few instances where students performed their recital before the suspension of in-person teaching activities, the student will receive as a final grade the HIGHER of the grade calculated with the normal 60%/40% weighting or with the 100% term work weighting.*
- For MMus recitals (MUS6666Y, MUS8888Y), students will receive a grade of CR, as long as the grade submitted by the instructor for the associated applied music course (MUS4444Y, MUS4445Y) is a passing grade (B- or higher). *In those few instances where students performed their recital before the suspension of in-person teaching activities, the student will receive a grade of CR but can contact the Graduate Office to request that it be changed to the alphanumeric grade assigned by the recital adjudicators.*

A separate communication will be going out from the Registrar's Office to undergraduate students concerning their Arts & Science courses and Music courses. These are the key items from that communication:

- As previously announced, the Faculty of Arts & Science has extended the drop deadline for their S and Y courses. Music students will be able to drop Arts & Science S and Y courses up to April 25, 2020 (for courses on the St. George Campus and at UTSC) and up to April 22, 2020 (for courses at UTM). In addition, Music students will be able to elect CR/NCR (credit/no-credit) grading in their S and Y Arts & Science courses after seeing their final grade.
- The Faculty of Music will not be extending the drop deadline for Music courses, but we will permit students to elect CR/NCR (credit/no-credit) grading in all S and Y Music courses. The deadline for making the CR/NCR election will be in May 2020, after the release of final grades to students. There will be no limit on the number of courses for which students can elect to receive CR/NCR grading, but students should keep in mind that we cannot predict how subsequent applications to graduate schools or for external awards might be impacted by a large number of CR/NCR versus alphanumeric grades and that they should therefore be judicious in requesting CR/NCR grading in their courses. As usual, students will have 30 days following the release of grades to petition their final grades and/or request a retroactive late withdrawal based on medical or other extenuating circumstances.

Additional practical information will be provided to Music Area Chairs and instructors from the Registrar/Student Affairs, Performance, and Graduate Offices through the Associate Deans Academic, Performance, and Graduate Education.

Thank you, once again, for your patience and understanding in this very difficult and still evolving situation. Updates will be provided as new information becomes available. We will get through this: please reach out to fellow students, faculty colleagues, and the administrative and support teams to help each other and to get any assistance you need. The externally mandated requirement for physical isolation should not lead to social isolation at a time when we need each other's support more than ever. Stay well, keep the music making and musical thinking alive, and reach out to others in the community to help them—for we will all eventually regroup and reaffirm together the transformative value of music for ourselves and for society.

With best wishes to you all.

Don

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