

MASTER OF MUSIC: ORGAN PERFORMANCE

Program Overview

The Organ Department of Westminster Choir College educates students in many facets of organ playing and related topics. Courses in performance, collaborative skills, choral conducting, improvisation, and literature are offered each semester. Westminster Choir College is home to a collection of 18 pipe organs built by Aeolian-Skinner, Beckerath, Casavant, Flentrop, Noack, and others. Students are encouraged to seek church employment during their time at Westminster; the organ faculty and sacred music office maintain a list of available positions in the area. For more information, including audition requirements and instrument specifications, visit the Organ Department website (<http://www.rider.edu/organ/>).

Curriculum Overview

The graduate curriculum includes four semesters of applied lessons, three semesters of organ literature, two semesters of organ improvisation, and courses in choral conducting, worship planning, and accompanying.

Degree Recital Requirements

One fully-memorized recital or two non-memorized recitals:

- Recitals must be at least 60 minutes.
- Students are required to be enrolled in organ lessons at Westminster Choir College during the semester of a degree recital, without exception.

Performance Class Requirements

For each semester a student is enrolled in organ lessons as a performance major, the following requirements must be met:

- **Three solo works**, one of which must be memorized.
- **Two hymns**, one of which must be memorized.
- **One collaborative work** (i.e. anthem, vocal/instrumental solo, concerto, etc.)

Jury Requirements

- A jury must be performed at the conclusion of any semester that does not include a degree recital.

Degree Offered

- M.M. in Organ Performance

Contact

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Program Website: www.rider.edu/organ (<http://www.rider.edu/organ/>)

Associated Department: Department of Conducting, Organ and Sacred Music

Related Programs

- Sacred Music (<http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/undergraduate-programs/bm-music-sacred-music/>)
- Piano (<http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/mm-piano-performance/>)

Master of Music: Organ Performance Program Requirements

(36 credits)

Learn more about General Graduate Requirements. (<http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/general-requirements/>)

Code	Title	Credits
Major Area		
OR 587 & OR 589	Organ Improvisation and Organ Improvisation II	4
OR 590	Accompanying at the Organ	2
OR 629	Seminar in Organ Literature	2
OR 641A	Organ Primary (4 semesters)	8
OR 723	Organ Literature Before 1800	3
OR 724	Organ Literature since 1800	3
SM 511	Sacred Music Lab (1 semester)	0
Core Courses		
MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
CR 509	Symphonic Choir (2 semesters)	2
Theory or music history elective (one course)		3
Core elective ¹		3
Electives		
Free electives		3
Total Credits		36

¹ The core elective must be a single, 3-credit graduate-level course outside the student's major area, area of emphasis, and/or area of applied study.

² Students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of French or German equivalent to two years of college study of one of these two languages.

Note

Following departmental approval, one memorized or two non-memorized public recitals must be presented.

The following educational plan is provided as a sample only. Rider students who do not declare a major during their freshman year; who change their major; or those who transfer to Rider may follow a different plan to ensure a timely graduation. Each student, with guidance from his or her academic advisor, will develop a personalized educational plan.

Course	Title	Credits
Year 1		
Fall Semester		
CR 509	Symphonic Choir	1

MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
SM 511	Sacred Music Lab	0
OR 723	Organ Literature Before 1800	3
OR 641A	Organ Primary	2
Semester Credit Hours		9
Spring Semester		
CR 509	Symphonic Choir	1
Theory or Music History elective		3
OR 724	Organ Literature since 1800	3
OR 641A	Organ Primary	2
Semester Credit Hours		9
Year 2		
Fall Semester		
OR 587	Organ Improvisation	2
OR 629	Seminar in Organ Literature	2
Core elective		3
OR 641A	Organ Primary	2
Semester Credit Hours		9
Spring Semester		
OR 589	Organ Improvisation II	2
OR 590	Accompanying at the Organ	2
OR 641A	Organ Primary	2
Free electives		3
Graduate Recital		
Semester Credit Hours		9
Total Credit Hours for Graduation		36

OR 641A Organ Primary 2 Credits

OR 641B Organ Primary 1 Credits

OR 641C Organ Elective 2 Credits

OR 641D Organ Elective 1 Credits

OR 641E Organ Primary 2 Credits

OR 641F Organ Primary 1 Credits

OR 690 Independent Research and Study 1-4 Credits

Students may pursue a special topic for which they have prepared through prior course work. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester. The project may involve 1-3 credit hours. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and dean required prior to the first day of the semester in which the project is to be completed. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 required.

Prerequisite(s): graduate standing.

OR 723 Organ Literature Before 1800 3 Credits

Historical study of the organ literature coordinated with a study of the development of the organ as a musical instrument.

OR 724 Organ Literature since 1800 3 Credits

Study and research into the style, form, and interpretation of representative organ works composed after 1800. Study and research into national styles of organ composition and construction in France, Germany, England and North America.

Courses and Descriptions

OR 587 Organ Improvisation 2 Credits

A laboratory in the keyboard disciplines of modulation, transposition, improvisation and vocal score reading. Required for undergraduate Organ Performance majors; others may elect the course by permission of the instructor.

OR 588 Organ Pedagogy 2 Credits

Pedagogical approaches to organ playing. Required for undergraduate Organ Performance majors; others may elect the course by permission of the instructor.

OR 589 Organ Improvisation II 2 Credits

Continuation of OR 587.

OR 590 Accompanying at the Organ 2 Credits

Development of accompanying techniques essential to the professional organist. Arranging and transcription from piano reductions and orchestral scores; standard choral/organ literature. Leading congregational song; appropriate methods of instrumental registration.

OR 623 Organ Music of J.S. Bach 3 Credits

A study by genre of Bach's organ compositions will include background, overview of the influences of Buxtehude, Pachelbel and Böhm, and performance practice issues. The question of the "Bach organ" will be explored. Prerequisite(s): MH 731, OR 433.

Corequisite(s): MH 731, OR 433.

OR 629 Seminar in Organ Literature 2 Credits

An intensive study of an area of organ literature or its performance practice. Specific content will change with each semester. Emphasis upon in-depth study of the works of a selected composer or genre.