

Hello students of the Department of Music!

We look forward to seeing you (online!) this coming September 2020.

This document will be regularly updated with information you need to know to commence your courses this autumn.

*****FRESH UPDATES as of August 5, 2020*****

FAQ

What courses will be held online?

Until further notice, all department activities will take place online. This includes classes, lessons and ensembles.

What equipment do I need?

- a decent computer
- solid internet connection (wired is best)
- device with webcam (and solid internet connection)
- keyboard (all students)
- your instrument (if you take lessons)
- a place to make noise when you need to

Can I have access to the practice rooms?

Until further notice, no one has access to the practice rooms.

If you have extenuating circumstances and wish to be put on a waiting list once please contact Dr. K: kdibella@brocku.ca. State your case and you'll be put on a prioritized waiting list.

I need a piano at home for my piano lessons since I can't get into the practice rooms. What should I look for in an electronic piano?

- 88 keys, weighted, touch sensitive, with pedal
- external speakers (built in, otherwise you'll need an amp)
- doesn't have to be fancy or expensive
- check used - well-known brands can last a long time
- ideally pedal should be able to do shadings (not just an on/off switch)

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Do I need a microphone?

Maybe, maybe not. You do NOT need a recording studio at home. Most smartphones have perfectly good microphones in them already that will do the job. If you do want to use a microphone make sure it picks up all the sound you need it to. Sometimes the sound picks up better without one. Basically no, a microphone is not required.

What video conferencing platforms will be used?

The University supports Teams and Lifesize video platforms. All other platforms are unsupported. Pay close attention to your instructor's information concerning the video platform they will be using.

Who do I talk to about course selection?

Dr. Royal is the advisor for Music Majors: mroyal@brocku.ca

Michael Gicante is the advisor for anything non-music (context credits, minors in other programs, etc.): mgicante@brocku.ca

I have a general department question. Who can I talk to?

Natalie in the Music Office is your main contact for most administrative things that are not specifically course-related. nfedj@brocku.ca or music@brocku.ca

I have a course-related question. Who can I talk to?

If you have a question about one of your courses, always talk to your instructor first. They are there to help you.

I play an instrument that requires piano accompaniment. Will this be required?

Singers should talk to their voice instructor. Rebecca Goode is happy to do online coachings and track recordings. All other instruments will not be required to provide virtual accompaniments but may do so if you wish. More information will be discussed in masterclasses.

July 24, 2020

TOWN HALL Q&A FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

View the recording of the meeting here: [Incoming students Town Hall Q&A video](#)

View the powerpoint of the meeting here: [Incoming students Town Hall Q&A slides](#)

Look here for information on what to expect this year, meet some of your professors, find out what courses might look like, information about gear and setup at home, lists of resources and contact information, and all kinds of other goodness.

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If you have questions this presentation is a great place to start. Links are also posted in the Brock Music Students facebook group, which you should join if you haven't already. Click [here](#) to request access.

July 22, 2020

TOWN HALL Q&A SESSIONS

Returning students: Wednesday July 22, 11:00am

View the recording of the meeting here: [Returning students Town Hall Q&A](#)

View the powerpoint of the meeting here: [Returning students Town Hall Q&A slides](#)

Incoming students: Friday July 24, 10:00am

MS Teams link: [Incoming Students Q&A](#)

Bring your questions! Watch this document after the sessions for a running list of questions and their answers.

July 17, 2020

REGISTRATION

Course registration is happening!

Incoming students' registration opened July 13, with returning students' registration opening on July 15 (15 or more credits), July 17 (10 or more credits), July 20 (5 or more credits), and July 22 (fewer than 5 credits).

Registration information for new and returning students is here:

<https://brocku.ca/registrar/toolkit/registration/>

Some new vocabulary for this Fall term: Please note that courses will be listed on Timetables as SYNC and ASYNC. SYNC means is that they are timetabled for a specific time every week; while ASYNC courses do not require attendance at a certain time.

All MUSI courses are SYNC for the Fall term, but this does not necessarily mean that that the course will require continuous online presence for the full length of a course's scheduled time. Instructors may include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous elements in their courses, and will indicate this in course outlines.

ESPECIALLY FOR FIRST-YEARS

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SmartStart begins this month! We hope that all incoming students who are undertaking this valuable Brock orientation program have a great time SmartStarting!

UPCOMING: FIRST-YEAR TOWN HALL Q&A FOR INCOMING MUSIC STUDENTS

Mark your calendars! We will be hosting a Town Hall Q&A especially for you on Friday July 24th at 10:00. This will be on the MS Teams platform. Check your email a few days before for a link to this meeting, or contact the Music Office (music@brocku.ca).

RETURNING STUDENTS

We will host a Town Hall Q&A on Wednesday July 11 from 11-12 on MS Teams. Check the Brock Music Students facebook group for the link, or contact Natalie in the Music Office the day before to get the link.

Where do I find information about [Instrumental Ensembles](#), [Choir](#), and [Lessons](#), whether I'm a Music Major or studying another subject? <<< Check out the links to the updated pages at the [Music website](#)!

And what about music courses for non-majors? What if I want to take a minor? [Check out this page](#).

PREVIOUS UPDATES

A few thoughts about the new reality at MUSI this fall:

Like all postsecondary institutions, Brock's planning for the coming year is being formulated in response to best practices suggested by Public Health Ontario, and in collaboration with regional health related organizations.

Brock's Fall term academic plan details can be found here:

<https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2020/05/brock-announces-fall-2020-academic-plan/>

As you'll see, the information here also articulates the university's current advice regarding student residences, which is continuing to evolve. The email to contact residence services is: res@brocku.ca

As the plan suggests, all undergraduate programs including Music are being offered online. The recently released plan suggests that certain small group activities may occasionally be

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granted permission to occur in person. We at Music are exploring protocols and safety procedures that might permit this in some cases, although whether or not we decide to proceed with some in-person activities will only be determined later in the summer. Our expectation is that, for the fall at least, even if there are a very limited number of on-campus activities in Music, these same activities will also be available in an online format. Our goal is to be safe and flexible for everyone.

Given the global nature of the pandemic phenomenon, faculty at Music have been working with collaborators nationally and internationally to develop the best possible online delivery for our students. Will it be different than an in-person experience? Absolutely. Will it be rigorous, playful, creative, and challenging? Absolutely.

Please check back regularly!

Your professors and the staff of the department.

If you are a new student the university has a plan to get you oriented and settled. Sign up for the Smart Start program today at <https://discover.brocku.ca/> !

There is a “helpful tips” page for incoming students of the MIWSFPA found here:

<https://discover.brocku.ca/miwsfpa-tips/>

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To contact the administrative office of the Department:

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Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts
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Phone: 905 688 5550 x3817

Email: music@brocku.ca

To contact your Academic Advisor for Music:

Dr. Matthew Royal

Associate Professor, Department of Music

mroyal@brocku.ca

To contact your Academic Advisor for courses and programs other than Music:

Michael Gicante

Office: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: MC A313

Office: Tuesday and Thursday: MIWSFPA 236

905 688 5550 x5279 (please use email first until we return to our offices on a regular basis)

mgicante@brocku.ca