At Michigan State University’s College of Music, we believe in giving musicians the room they need to grow and the inspiration they seek to realize their unique potential.

Our rigorous program challenges our students while our supportive culture nurtures their creativity and helps them succeed. We believe in blending competition with collaboration, and intense preparation with excellent mentorship.

College of Music students graduate equipped with broad analytical skills gained through studies in musicology, music theory, and composition, and through exposure to contemporary and international influences. The cultural awareness and intellectual acuity gained empowers students to make well-informed and integrated decisions about their music, career, and pursuit to realize their full potential.

Because we are committed to fostering each musician’s unique strengths, we provide multiple paths for engaging and developing one’s creative abilities. Our students perform with nationally recognized collegiate ensembles; study with award-winning artist teachers; explore avant-garde music with the ensemble Musique 21; teach music to community members of all ages; and much more. Students in all disciplines enjoy an abundance of performance opportunities on our campus, in the greater capital region of Lansing, and around the nation and the world.

Students at the College of Music enroll in a curriculum that prepares them to meet the real demands facing musicians in the marketplace. Our students graduate with both depth and breadth of knowledge, training, and performance experience. These skills, combined with the connections students form with our committed and renowned faculty, allow them to find their place in the larger world of music after graduation.

LEARN MORE AT MUSIC.MSU.EDU
DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES

The College of Music provides all students with a strong foundation in music theory and history as well as exposure to global and contemporary musical styles and influences. This foundation enables students in all areas of study to develop strong analytical and intellectual skills as they pursue their creative passion.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

Bachelor of Music
- Composition
- Jazz Studies
- Music Education
- Music Performance: brass, percussion, piano, strings, voice, woodwinds

Bachelor of Arts
- Music

GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

Master of Music
- Collaborative Piano
- Composition
- Conducting: choral, orchestral, wind
- Jazz Studies
- Music Education
- Music Performance: brass, percussion, piano, strings, voice, woodwinds
- Music Theory
- Piano Pedagogy

Master of Arts
- Musicology

Doctor of Musical Arts
- Composition
- Conducting: choral, orchestral, wind
- Music Performance: brass, percussion, piano, strings, voice, woodwinds

Doctor of Philosophy
- Music Education

Non-Degree Programs
- Performance Diploma
- Music Minor

“As an aspiring music theorist, I found the theory faculty to be a strong point here. They provided opportunities for me to get involved in research as an undergrad, and treated me at times as an ‘honorary’ graduate student. In other words, the faculty took me seriously.”

JOSEPH VANDERSTEL, BA MUSIC, 2013
OUR FACULTY

EXCEPTIONAL ARTISTS, ACCESSIBLE MENTORS

Ask College of Music students what sets their educational experience apart, and you’ll get a near-unanimous answer: The faculty.

Our students study with world-renowned musicians, scholars, educators, and composers who bring exceptional skill and experience to their art. The faculty’s numerous awards, publications, and outstanding performances around the globe reflect their commitment to musical excellence.

Perhaps what really distinguishes them, however, is their equally strong commitment to their students. Our dedicated faculty are active members in the local campus community. They foster strong relationships with students, introducing them to colleagues in the music world, inviting them to join them at gigs, mentoring them as they present at conferences, and staying connected long after graduation.

“Our college is incredibly friendly and nurturing. There is no superiority complex from anyone, faculty or students, yet the accomplishments of both are tremendous. The faculty is a big plus at MSU; everyone seems to just know the best way to reach students.”

CHRIS NEWMAN, BM COMPOSITION, CLASS OF 2016

NOTABLE VISITING ARTISTS

Joe Allessi, trombone
John Corigliano, composer
Claude Delangle, saxophone
Jon Faddis, jazz trumpet
Renée Fleming, soprano
James Galway, flute
Nathan Gunn, baritone

Marilyn Horne, mezzo-soprano
Karel Husa, composer, conductor
Branford Marsalis, jazz saxophone
Wynton Marsalis, jazz trumpet
Chris Martin, trumpet

Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Charles Neidich, clarinet
Russell Sherman, piano
Augusta Read Thomas, composer
Tiempo Libre, Cuban timba ensemble
Joan Tower, composer
Masuko Ushioda, violin

FACULTY AWARDS, COMPETITIONS WON

Our faculty members have won competitions all over the world and have received many prestigious honors and awards.

- Gold and silver medals, International Tchaikovsky Competition
- Gold and silver medals, Van Cliburn International Competition
- First prize, Paganini International Violin Competition
- Grammy Award, best opera recording
- First laureate, Honens International Piano Competition
- Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress
- Two on roster, Metropolitan Opera
- Naumburg Award
- Fellowship, MacDowell Colony
- Gold and silver medals, Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition
- First prize, Heldenleben International Horn Competition
- Winner, Fischoff Chamber Music Competition
- Two winners, International Queen Elisabeth Competition

- Alan Merriam Prize, Society for Ethnomusicology
- Winner, Boston Opera Competition
- Winner, Concert Artists Guild Award
Students at the College of Music enjoy both the intimacy of a closely knit creative community and the excitement of a Big 10 university.

Music students benefit from our 6:1 student-teacher ratio, ensuring in-depth, individualized attention, and strong classroom connections. Our students are known by their peers, professors, and mentors.

Undergraduate music majors have the opportunity to reside in the North Neighborhood, which offers housing close to the College of Music. This proximity fosters a friendly, supportive environment for daily living and for the rigor of regular practice, and reinforces our open and collaborative culture.

Michigan State University is located in East Lansing, a vibrant college town just minutes away from the state capital and an easy drive to Detroit to the east, and Chicago and the beaches of Lake Michigan to the west. When students need a break from practice, there's always a game by the MSU Spartans to enjoy, a live concert at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts to attend, or a contemporary art exhibit opening at the Broad Art Museum to visit. As a world-class university, MSU attracts internationally renowned scholars, guest lecturers, and visiting artists. Students come from around the country and the globe, creating a truly international community.

“When I visited MSU, I felt like everyone I met gave a different vibe, one that said, ‘This is a great school and you would fit in well here. We hope you come.’ That little difference made a big difference to me.”

HANNAH STONE, BM PERFORMANCE, CLASS OF 2013

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES
MSU.EDU
MUSIC.MSU.EDU
LANSONG.ORG
CITYOFLEASTLANSSING.COM
ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE

The College of Music offers extensive opportunities for students to develop their skills through numerous renowned ensembles. Each ensemble listed is open to all MSU students; most require an audition. More information regarding each ensemble and the audition process is available at music.msu.edu/performance.

BANDS

The College of Music concert band ensembles perform the full spectrum of wind music including chamber, contemporary, and traditional repertoire. Wind Symphony, comprised of graduate and upper-division undergraduate students, presents six concerts during the academic year with additional national performances. Symphony Band consists of upper division undergraduate music majors and maintains an active performance schedule giving five to six concerts a year. Concert Band consists of undergraduate music majors and non-majors and presents four concerts. Campus Band provides playing opportunities for non-music majors campus wide and gives two concerts per semester.

Wind Symphony
Symphony Band
Concert Band

ORCHESTRAS

The Symphony Orchestra is comprised of some of the most advanced string, wind, brass, and percussion musicians in the college. It maintains a schedule of six main orchestral performances, two full opera productions, and a holiday program each season. The repertoire chosen is often advanced and draws from both the well-established orchestral canon and new works by living composers; it is designed to be an intensive learning environment for musicians further developing core musicianship skills. The Concert Orchestra, which is open to students, staff, and faculty from all corners of the university as well as the greater Lansing community, presents four concerts per year and is designed to be a community-building artistic experience for all involved. Note that an audition is required for participation in all orchestral ensembles at MSU.

Symphony Orchestra
Concert Orchestra

CHOIRS

The choral groups at MSU perform secular and sacred music in all styles and genres representing many eras and cultures. University Chorale is comprised of graduate and upper-level undergraduate singers in the college. It frequently appears with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. State Singers is recognized as the oldest singing organization on the campus. Women’s Chamber Ensemble focuses on more contemporary repertoire. Glee clubs are popular ensembles performing in the glee tradition. Novum Voce and Chamber Choir perform world music and music from a range of periods, respectively. Choral Union is a community chorus that focuses on major choral-orchestral works. The Chorale, Women’s Chamber Ensemble, and Men’s Glee have performed at national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association.

University Chorale
State Singers
Women’s Chamber Ensemble
Women’s Glee Club
Men’s Glee Club
Novum Voce
Chamber Choir
Choral Union
JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Jazz ensembles include three big bands, each made up of 18 members, and play the repertoire of the great jazz masters as well as a wide range of soul, swing, blues, and gospel. The four octets are eight-piece ensembles that blend the sounds of big band with small group performance. There are also 12 combos, each consisting of four to six members.

Jazz Orchestras I-III
Jazz Octets I-IV
Jazz Combos

MUSIQUE 21

Musique 21 is a project-based group of musicians with a flexible instrumentation. Focusing on innovative presentations of new work utilizing a variety of media including theatre, film, and movement, this adventurous troupe pushes the envelope of 21st century performance. Using a style that has often been called “Theatre of Music,” M21 has been enthusiastically celebrated by students, audiences, and critics alike.

MSU OPERA THEATRE

Each season, MSU Opera Theatre presents two fully staged and costumed productions with orchestra. This year, both opera productions will be presented in the newly renovated Fairchild Theatre, bringing a new theatrical intimacy and stellar acoustics to audiences. MSU’s recent production of The Pirates of Penzance took the top prize in the National Opera Association college competition, Division III.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FACILITIES

Cook Recital Hall
Historic Cook Recital Hall is the heart of performance life in the College of Music. The intimate, 182-seat venue has been completely renovated to meet contemporary performance standards, and is used for student rehearsals, recitals, faculty concerts, and master classes.

Fairchild Theatre
Fairchild Theatre has transformed from a 75-year-old proscenium-stage facility into a modern performance venue with state-of-the-art acoustics, thanks to a recent $20 million renovation. The 462-seat historic hall hosts College of Music courses, rehearsals, master classes, and performances.

Wharton Center for Performing Arts
The Wharton Center’s Cobb Great Hall, which seats 2,420, is used for most College of Music large ensemble performances. Wharton’s Pasant Theatre with its thrust stage and intimate ambiance, seats 596 and hosts a variety of performances each year.

Sights and Sounds
We present more than 400 concerts and recitals each year — orchestral, band, jazz, choral, and small ensemble concerts; faculty artist, guest artist, chamber, student, and studio recitals — as well as two fully staged operas. Enjoy select sights and sounds on YouTube or witness a live concert on Livestream.

YOUTUBE.COM/MUSICMSU
NEW.LIVESTREAM.COM/MUSICMSU
FROM PASSION TO PROFESSION

Running Start, our entrepreneurship program, introduces students to business concepts and strategies tailored to meet their career ambitions through participating in workshops, courses, internships, performance opportunities, and community activities.

Music is more than a passion. It’s a profession. At MSU, we prepare students for life as a working musician in the 21st century.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a variety of on-campus learning opportunities that include practical experiences in performance, business, and teaching. Coursework designed to prepare students for success after graduation is woven throughout the curriculum. Both undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to consider electives that enhance their marketability and give them the freedom to decide how to best position themselves.

In addition, our faculty offers extensive opportunities to learn how to apply business skills in real-world settings and how to brand and market your talents. They lead regular workshops on topics such as engaging audiences; self-marketing; building a private studio; applying for grants; financial management for self-employed musicians; and more.

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOLS

MSU’s Community Music Schools in East Lansing and Detroit offer music instruction, music therapy, and free concerts to community members of all ages. College of Music students may teach classes including piano pedagogy, folk music, early childhood music education, string methods, as well as instrumental music.

FELLOWSHIPS

The College of Music is proud to offer both undergraduate and graduate students considerable fellowship support for professional development. Students are encouraged to seek financial support for research projects, to participate in competitions, to study with a particular artist-teacher, to enroll in summer music programs, to present at conferences, and more.

INTERNSHIPS

Students in all areas can apply for internships both within the College of Music and in the larger community. Learn new skills and apply them in business and artistic environments, including performance, teaching, administrative work, and marketing.

Placements include the Lansing Symphony Orchestra; the Detroit Opera House; the Wharton Center for Performing Arts; the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival; the Arts Council of Greater Lansing; and more.

GUEST SPEAKERS

You’ll learn from guest artists, alumni, and industry experts who share their experiences as working musicians. Their inside knowledge of arts policy, advocacy, creative programming, marketing, financial management, and business planning will help equip you with the tools and perspective you’ll need to make your passion your profession.

Recent presentations include:

• David Cutler, “Creating Demand for Your Music in ANY Environment,” and “How Music Education Can Change the World (and Why It Often Doesn’t),” February 2012
• Chuck Leavell, pianist/keyboardist for the Rolling Stones, “A Casual Conversation with Chuck Leavell on the Music Biz,” April 2013

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Our students and alumni regularly receive awards from a variety of national and international competitions. Below are just a few recent examples.

• William David Brohn, BM Music Theory, 1955, Tony Award, 1998 best orchestration for Ragtime
• Clare Fischer, BM Composition, Theory, 1951, 2013 Grammy Award, Best Latin Jazz Album
• Robin Giebelhausen, PhD Music Education Candidate, Ryan Shaw, PhD Music Education Candidate Winners, 2013 NAFME Collegiate Chapter of Excellence Award, Professional Development
• Kristopher Johnson, BM Jazz Studies, 2005, MM Performance, 2008, Recipient, 2013 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Award
• Nathaniel Peake, MM Performance, 2010, Grand Prize, 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition
• Ben Williams, BM Music Education, 2007, Grammy Award, 2013, with Pat Metheny, best jazz instrumental album Winner, 2009, Thelonius Monk International Jazz Competition
NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC EDUCATION

The College of Music’s Music Education program provides students with unparalleled options for improving their skills as educators and artists. We are committed to encouraging and expanding scholarship in new, innovative, and developing areas of music education and developing practical applications of that scholarship. Among the many opportunities we provide music education students is participation in the cutting-edge New Directions in Music Education initiative.

The New Directions in Music Education conference, hosted by Michigan State University since 1997, provides a stimulating environment for sharing and learning the latest scholarly advances and best teaching practices from some of the world’s foremost teachers, researchers, and musicians. Participants attend presentations and clinics that explore new and developing approaches to music making, new types of music classes, and new ways of working with traditional instrumental and vocal ensembles. The conference is designed for middle school and high school music teachers and for collegiate faculty and students.

The quarterly e-journal, New Directions: A Journal of Scholarship, Creativity and Leadership in Music Education, is a space for the music education community to discuss, debate, and engage with one another around the questions and conversations that fuel our growth as a profession. New Directions accepts submissions in alternative presentation formats, including audio and video material, web sites, slide shows, and other formats. Contributions include:

- Policy briefs
- Curriculum studies
- Pedagogical and conducting analyses
- Position statements
- Collaborative writing
- Reports of research of any methodological paradigm or design

“\textit{I love working with kids. That is what made the decision for me because I knew MSU had a great music education program.}”

KIMBERLY WREN, BM MUSIC EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2013
COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC
2012–2013 Enrollment: 610
  Undergraduate students: 340
  Graduate students: 270

Percentage of students
  From Michigan: 55
  From outside Michigan: 26
  From outside the United States: 19

Number of states represented: 34
Number of countries represented: 20

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
The College of Music provides merit-based scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate students in all areas of study also may seek teaching assistantships, which provide tuition waivers and stipends.

Both undergraduate and graduate students may seek fellowship support for individual projects once enrolled.

HOW TO APPLY
Apply online at music.msu.edu/admissions
CONTACT US
For more information or to arrange a visit, contact:

College of Music
Admissions Office
Michigan State University
333 W. Circle Dr. Room 253
East Lansing, MI 48824
(517) 355-2140
admissions@music.msu.edu

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