



Music

music.richmond.edu

Introduction

The Department of Music leads students to integrate creative and practical musical skills with critical thinking and intellectual inquiry, empowering them for a lifetime of learning. The curriculum provides an excellent foundation that prepares students to be adaptive leaders equipped to actively engage in their communities through the arts.

The Department of Music welcomes students with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests in music and provides pathways for performers, listeners, scholars, and creators of all kinds. The curriculum trains students in music performance, composition, industry, and research and cultivates the creative habits of mind that make our majors competitive in a wide range of careers. An audition is not required to major or minor in Music.

Students graduating with music majors and minors have established careers in the performing arts, medicine, law, finance, neuroscience, accounting, librarianship, and non-profits. Graduates also have pursued advanced study in music composition, film scoring, musical performance, environmental management, law, and classics at institutions of national and international renown.

Ensembles

A wide array of ensembles are open to all students and include:

- Popular Music Ensemble
- Women's Chorale
- Schola Cantorum (Chamber Choir)
- Musical Theatre and Opera Workshop
- University Band
- UR Symphony Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble
- Little Big Band
- Swing Combo
- Japanese Taiko Drumming
- West African Drumming
- Gamelan
- Brazilian Combo
- Guitar Ensemble
- Bluegrass and American Roots Music
- Chamber Ensembles

Many ensembles tour internationally, with recent tours to Central Europe, the Baltics, Spain, Portugal, Cuba, Italy, Costa Rica, and Columbia.

Private Lessons

Students may take private lessons for academic credit at no additional fee when approved by the department. Lessons are offered for most instruments and voice.

Music Department Facilities

Booker Hall of Music in The Modlin Center for the Arts offers exceptional performance spaces, recording technologies, and a research library.

Camp Concert Hall, which boasts crystal-clear acoustics and two Steinway concert grand pianos (a Hamburg and a New York), is the primary concert venue for student ensembles, faculty recitals, and guest musicians. The concert hall also hosts a range of other events, from comedy shows and lectures to film screenings and interactive presentations.

The Music Technology Lab and Recordings Studios offer high-end equipment, software and spaces to compose, produce, and record music. The studios also employ student workers to assist with recording and editing.

Parsons Music Library features an attractive study space, private rooms for collaborative work, an outdoor patio, and a large collection of books, scores, and recordings in every musical genre.

Perkinson Recital Hall provides an intimate venue for solo student recitals and small groups.

Cannon Memorial Chapel houses an impressive von Beckerath two-manual, mechanical action pipe organ.

Multimedia performances also take place in **Jepson Theatre**, with its proscenium stage and full technology suite.

The Department owns two two-manual harpsichords, a Beckerath mechanical-action practice organ, numerous band and orchestral instruments, and sets of

traditional instruments: Balinese (gamelan), Javanese (gamelan), Japanese (taiko), Brazilian (samba), African (Ewe, Dagomba, Zimbabwean, and Malian), and Indian (sitar and tabla).

The Modlin Center Series gives students the opportunity to observe and interact with distinguished musicians who perform in a variety of styles and traditions. Guest artists typically participate in residency activities, including master classes, private coachings, lectures, demonstrations, and classroom visits.

Scholarships

The Music Department offers generous merit scholarships to students who plan to major or minor in music. To apply, submit a music portfolio with your application; see music.richmond.edu for portfolio requirements. Additional awards and prizes are offered annually to outstanding students and alumni. The Richmond Scholars program provides full-tuition awards to students who plan to major in an arts discipline. Further information about this award is found at scholars.richmond.edu.

Graduate School Acceptances Since 2009

- Boston University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Duke University
- Eastman School of Music
- Fordham Law School
- Georgetown Law School
- Harvard Medical School
- New York University
- Oxford University
- Princeton University
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Mississippi Law School
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Southern California
- Vanderbilt Law School
- Westminster Choir College
- Wesleyan University

Recent Student Internships

- NBC Universal (NYC)
- Downtown Music Publishing (NYC)
- Spacebomb Studios (Richmond, VA)
- Arts and Business Council of New York
- Institute for Ideas (London, UK)
- Manhattan New Music Project (NYC)
- Richmond (VA) Symphony Orchestra
- Smithsonian Folkways (D.C.)
- Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts (Vienna, VA)
- Moon Studios (Brooklyn)

Student Projects and Fellowships

Students may apply for summer research fellowships to pursue creative projects with a faculty mentor. The amount of fellowship awards is usually enough to replace the income that might otherwise have been earned from a summer job. Recent student projects include original composition projects in multiple styles and genres, researching opera composers at the French national library, transcribing Renaissance vocal music at the Library of Congress, researching music created in the Richmond jail, writing an operetta based on Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, and studying a Handel oratorio in light of gender, crime, and punishment.

Notable Alumni Accomplishments

Graduates of the Music Department have won a variety of awards in music composition and performance, and many have performed nationally and internationally in recital, opera, and concert halls. One graduate is a sales coordinator for the Philadelphia Orchestra Association; another writes music for Hollywood films. Graduates have gone on to teach music at Bowling Green University, the San Francisco Conservatory, Eastern Connecticut State, and Lehigh. Alumni work as doctors and lawyers, accountants and academics, scientists and librarians. In 2023, vocal major Kobie Turner was drafted to the LA Rams football team.

