



## **Music Program**

Music at American University goes beyond the studio, rehearsal hall, stage or classroom. The nation's great cultural institutions are sites for research, internships, and part-time jobs, as well as personal enrichment. Students at AU have the distinct advantage of living in an environment that thrives on artistic excellence.

The Bachelor of Arts in Music provides a quality music education in a broad liberal arts setting with emphasis on both performance experiences and music academics. The program provides a well-rounded education and intensive professional training well suited to many careers in the field and entrance to graduate studies. Students in the music program may concentrate their major in Performance (orchestral instruments, piano, voice, guitar, organ), Music History and Literature, Composition, Music Theory, and Arts Management, or may design their own individual program of concentration.

Students enjoy fantastic performing ensembles directed by outstanding AU faculty: AU Chorus, Chamber Singers, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Ensembles, Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Pit Orchestra; as well as many student-led groups. Our performing ensembles produce multiple programs per semester on campus and in excellent area venues; our choral ensembles and orchestra have performed in various national locations including Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and tours in North and South America, as well as Europe.

American University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

### **Admission to the Program**

Formal admission to the music major requires demonstrated ability through an audition and interview arranged with the department, preferably prior to beginning university studies. However, a student may enter as an intended major and audition/interview during the first year. Students will be accepted based on programmatic approval and written declaration of major.

# **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Music**

## **University Requirements**

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

## **General Education Requirements**

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than two courses may be taken in the same discipline

## **Major Requirements**

- 53 credit hours with grades of C or better

Applied Music Lesson requirement: all students must successfully complete a minimum of four semesters of MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study on a principal instrument or voice; music majors must enroll for a one-hour lesson each week and attend the weekly music performance lab (MUS-001).

Jury examinations must be undertaken at the end of each semester except when the student is presenting a recital in MUS-334 or MUS-434.

Performance Ensemble requirements: All students must successfully complete a minimum of four semesters of approved performance ensembles. Music majors must enroll in a performance ensemble in all semesters in which they are enrolled in applied music lessons.

## **Music Prerequisite Courses**

These courses are waived for students with equivalent music experience:

- PERF-111 Class Piano Level I (1)
- PERF-112 Class Piano Level II (1)
- PERF-120 Music Fundamentals (3) with a grade of B or better

## **Course Requirements**

- PERF-124 Harmony I (3)
- PERF-125 Harmony II (3)
- PERF-227 Musicianship I (3)
- PERF-228 Musicianship II (3)
- PERF-322 Music History I: From Antiquity to 1750 (3)
- PERF-323 Music History II: 1750 to Present (3)

- PERF-324 Form and Analysis (3)
- PERF-325 Counterpoint (3)
- PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Music (3)
- A minimum of 8 credit hours in MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2)
- A minimum of 4 credit hours in performance ensembles:

PERF-142/542 University Chorus (1)

PERF-143/543 University Singers (2)

PERF-144/544 University Orchestra (1)

PERF-145/545 Chamber Ensembles (1)

PERF-146/546 Jazz Ensemble (1)

PERF-161/561 Gospel Choir (1)

### **Area of Concentration**

- A minimum of 14 credit hours in an area of concentration. Students may select from the following or design an individual area of concentration with approval of their academic advisor and the director of music. Examples of individually designed areas include music production, international arts management, and music criticism.

### **Arts Management (15 credit hours)**

- ACCT-240 Principles of Financial Accounting (3)
- ACCT-241 Principles of Managerial Accounting (3)

*or*

ECON-200 Microeconomics 4:2 (3)

- ECON-100 Macroeconomics 4:1 (3)
- MKTG-300 Principles of Management (3)
- PERF-570 Survey of Arts Management (3)

### **Composition (16 credit hours)**

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Composition (2) three semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-326 Orchestration (3)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic)

### **Jazz Studies (16 credit hours)**

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2) three additional semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study:  
Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-226 Improvisation (3)
- PERF-321 The Evolution of Jazz and Blues (3)

### **Performance (16 credit hours)**

#### *Vocal Performance*

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2) three additional semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study:  
Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-251 Fundamentals of Acting I (3)
- PERF-356 Diction for Singers (3)

German, Italian, or French language courses are recommended

#### *Instrumental Performance*

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2) three additional semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study:  
Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic)
- PERF-550 Chamber Ensembles (1) three semesters for a total of 3 credit hours

### **History and Literature or Anthropology of Music (15 credit hours)**

- HIST-100 Historians and the Living Past 2:1 (3)
- HIST-xxx or ANTH-xxx approved course (3)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic) (two courses for a total of 6 credit hours)
- PERF-491 Performing Arts: Internship (1–6)

*or*

PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic)

- Senior thesis written project submitted for PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Music

### **Theory (15 credit hours)**

- PERF-326 Orchestration (3)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic) (three courses for a total of 9 credit hours)
- PERF-585 Creative Theories and Criticism in Performing Arts (3)
- Senior thesis written project submitted for PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Music

### **University Honors Program**

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to [www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/](http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/).

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Please visit <http://www.american.edu/cas/performing-arts/music.cfm> for more information about the music program, as well as the entire Department of Performing Arts.

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