DISCOVER YOUR RHYTHM

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Music
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
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 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 Alessi, trombone
- Robert Beaser, composer
- John Corigliano, composer
- Claude Delangle, saxophone
- Renée Fleming, soprano
- James Galway, flute
- Nathan Gunn, baritone
- Marilyn Horne, mezzo-soprano
- Branford Marsalis, jazz saxophone
- Wynton Marsalis, jazz trumpet
- Chris Martin, trumpet
- Yo-Yo Ma, cello
- Christian McBride, jazz bass
- Charles Neidich, clarinet
- Russell Sherman, piano
- Augusta Read Thomas, composer
- Tiempo Libre, Cuban timba ensemble
- Joan Tower, composer
- Masuko Ushioda, violin

COMPETITIONS
- International Tchaikovsky Competition, silver medal
- Van Cliburn International Competition, gold and silver medals
- Paganini International Violin Competition, first prize
- Honens International Piano Competition, first laureate
- Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, gold and silver medals
- Heldenleben International Horn Competition, first prize
- Fischoff Chamber Music Competition, winner
- International Queen Elisabeth Competition, two winners
- Boston Opera Competition, winner

AWARDS
- Naumburg Award
- Concert Artists Guild Award, winner
- Alan Merriam Prize, Society for Ethnomusicology
- MMEA Awards, Merit and Music Educator of the Year
- ASTA Teacher of the Year, Michigan Chapter

FELLOWSHIPS
- Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress
- MacDowell Colony

PERFORMANCES WITH LEADING ENSEMBLES
- Metropolitan Opera
- Jazz at Lincoln Center
- Israel and London Philharmonic Orchestras
- Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and Toronto Symphony Orchestras
- Minnesota and Philadelphia Orchestras

HIGH HONORS AND FACULTY RECOGNITION
- Naumburg Award
- Concert Artists Guild Award, winner
- Alan Merriam Prize, Society for Ethnomusicology
- MMEA Awards, Merit and Music Educator of the Year
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FELLOWSHIPS
- Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress
- MacDowell Colony
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-to-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
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. Campus Choir 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
Campus Choir
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. Opera productions are presented in the newly renovated Fairchild Theatre, bringing a new theatrical intimacy and stellar acoustics to audiences. MSU’s recent productions of The Pirates of Penzance and The Magic Flute took top prize within their respective divisions for the National Opera Association’s college competition.

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. The Running Start office for Career Services and Music Entrepreneurship coordinates extensive opportunities to help students learn how to apply business skills in real-world settings and market their talents for professional success in music.

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.

Workshops, led by faculty, successful alumni, and guest artists, cover topics such as self-marketing; building a private studio; recording techniques; applying for grants; and financial management for self-employed musicians.

PUTTING IDEAS INTO ACTION

The College of Music offers both undergraduate and graduate students considerable fellowship support for professional development. Students are also counseled on applying for grants and financial support for projects, identifying summer music programs, submitting research for scholarly journals, and presenting at conferences. Students also receive opportunities to submit entrepreneurial ideas for peer-and panel-reviewed competitions.

MSU COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOLS

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

CAREER ADVISING

One-on-one advising offers students the opportunity to customize their path to professional success. Students focus on developing business and marketing strategies; professional presentations; creating innovative teaching or performing opportunities; finding and securing funding for a project; and more.

INTERNSHIPS

Students can apply for internships both within the College of Music and in the larger community and receive credit toward their degree. Interns 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; Wharton Center for Performing Arts; the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival; and the Arts Council of Greater Lansing.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Students learn from guest artists, alumni, and industry experts who share their experiences as working musicians. Recent presentations include:

- DePue Brothers Band, “Branding Your Band and Leaving a Legacy,” Fall 2012

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

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

- Harry Chapin Foundation Artists Award, Victor Elmaleh, BM Music Education, 2005
- Grammy Award, 2014, with Brandon Ridenour, Best Traditional Jazz Album, “The Pirates of Penzance,” Spring 2013
- Winner, 2014 Concert Artist Guild, Victor Elmaleh Competition, MM student, Brandon Ridenour
- First Place, National Opera Association Division III, 2011 “The Pirates of Penzance,” MSU Opera Theatre
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 advancing 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 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 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 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, websites, 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

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC EDUCATION
ND.MUSIC.MSU.EDU

“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
ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

2015-16 Enrollment: 560

Undergraduate students: 287
Graduate students: 273

Percentage of students

From Michigan: 47%
From outside Michigan: 32%
From outside the United States: 21%

Number of states represented: 39
Number of countries represented: 26

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:
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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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