Carnegie Mellon University’s College of Fine Arts, a community of internationally recognized artists and professionals organized into five schools, has set its sights on being known as the definitive international hub of arts, architecture and design education, research and practice in the 21st century. We welcome visionaries and creative thinkers to study alongside our world-class faculty, staff and students to produce new culture, knowledge, techniques and technologies in architecture, art, design, drama and music.

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The Art and Innovation of Musical Performance

Your musical talent has led you here — to a school where you’ll experience the best parts of conservatory training while exploring and developing extra-musical interests. At the School of Music, you’ll choose your own path — whether it’s a traditional conservatory education or a more modern technology-focused major that integrates performance, theory, history and composition.

You’ll learn in small classes, where individual attention allows you to develop and showcase your musical passion. And because you’re attending a world-renowned research university, you’ll have the opportunity to explore coursework and electives — even double majors and minors — in other areas of the university. You’ll quickly find that our focus on interdisciplinary education creates a more holistic and well-rounded you.

Inside the School of Music, you’ll perform with a wide variety of groups, in a wide variety of musical styles. You’ll take courses from faculty members — not graduate students — and march to your own beat by choosing classes that fulfill your major requirements while defining your own educational theme. You’ll compose your very own work of art — an individualized education to kick-start your career in music.

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Did you know?

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PERFORM CONCERTS AS EARLY AS THEIR SECOND WEEK AT THE SCHOOL.** They’re featured in primary roles in opera during their undergraduate years.

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**Did you know?**

FROM PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES AND OPERA PRODUCTIONS TO CHAMBER MUSIC AND RECITALS, THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC HAS OVER 250 EVENTS EACH YEAR.

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**Programs**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts**
- Composition
- Electronic Music
- Instrumental Performance
- Piano Performance
- Vocal Performance

**Bachelor of Science in Music and Technology**
In collaboration with the School of Computer Science and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Music Education Minor & Certification**

**BXA Intercollege Degree Music Concentrations**
- Music Composition
- Music Technology
- Musicology
- Performance (instrumental, piano, voice)

**Minors for Music Majors**
- Collaborative Piano (piano majors only)
- Conducting
- Music Education Certification
- Music Technology
- Music Theory

**Double Major**

**Minors for Non-Music Majors**
- Music
- Musicology
- Music Technology
- Music Theory

**OUR INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES RUN ON A PROFESSIONAL CYCLE SCHEDULE.** Each Instrumental Ensemble rehearses for two weeks, performs and then is off for two weeks. This provides extra time for individual practice, recital and chamber music.
Curriculum Overview

The School of Music provides you with superb, individualized coaching in large and small ensembles — whether it’s an orchestra, chorus, wind ensemble or chamber group. You’ll achieve the highest standards of discipline and musicianship as you work toward a solid foundation in musical skills and knowledge. Our music core curriculum includes music theory, music history, aural skills, repertoire/listening, music technology and entrepreneurship courses, as well as Dalcroze Eurhythmics — a kinesthetic approach to musicianship training.

Starting with your sophomore year, you may apply for the Music Education Certification program, which extends your time at the school by one semester to allow for student teaching. This innovative program has a 100% placement rate. Additionally, you’ll have the chance to expand your knowledge base outside of by taking courses across Carnegie Mellon.

Throughout your studies, you’ll prepare for the travel, leaps of faith and business decisions that go hand in hand with a career in music. Music Entrepreneurship teaches marketing, taxes, working with donors and nonprofits, concert attire, etiquette and role preparation. Additional opportunities for growth include study abroad, research and extracurricular activities that reinforce the business, people skills and overall savvy that you’ll need as a successful working artist.

Alumni Accomplishments

Alison Fierst (BFA 2018) associate principal flute, New York Philharmonic

Muhammad Haris Usmani (MS 2015) music & technology, Bose Corporation

Erin Dowrey (BFA 2012) percussion, San Diego Symphony

Emma Steele (BFA 2012) violin, concertmaster of the Royal Danish Orchestra in Copenhagen

Rachel Ordaz (BFA 2011), 3rd flute and piccolo, Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Vivian Choi (AD 2010) piano, internationally acclaimed soloist and recording artist

James Wyman (MM 2010) principal timpani, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Marie Tachouet (MM 2008) principal flute, Lyric Opera of Chicago

Michael Kooman (BFA 2006) composer, 2010 Jonathan Larson Grant recipient, first recipient of the Lorenz Hart Award, Emmy-nominated for “Vampirina”

Liam Bonner (BFA 2003) baritone, Executive Director, Indianapolis Symphonic Choir

Cristian Ganicenco (MM 1997) principal trombone, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Joel Reist (BFA 1993) principal bass, Nashville Symphony

GRADUATE SUCCESS

87% Employed or in grad school within six months of graduation

Data as of January 2021

79% of graduates responding

RECENT EMPLOYERS

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Google

Royal Academy of Music

Heifetz Institute

Amazon Web Services

New York Philharmonic

Schell Games