

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Linda Monson, Director

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Fairfax Campus

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Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor's Degrees

The two undergraduate degree programs offered through the School of Music, the bachelor of arts (BA) in music and the bachelor of music (BM), prepare students for graduate work in music and music literature; research and professional work in musical activities; and state licensure, or certification, to teach vocal and choral or instrumental music at the elementary and secondary school levels.

The School of Music enables students to pursue worthwhile vocational goals as teachers, performers, conductors, composers, and in music technology. The School of Music also seeks to educate its students to reflect a concern for cultural and humanistic values as future ambassadors and advocates of music and other arts. Through innovative learning experiences, the School of Music provides all students in the BA and BM programs with opportunities to become effective musicians, teachers, and advocates of music. Teaching music is the principal area in which students can find employment in private studios, public and private schools, academies, and higher education within the ever-changing workplace. Because of this, all music majors at Mason receive some training in the teaching of music.

The School of Music also recognizes the critical outreach role it provides in serving students from all majors, as well as members of the community who significantly benefit from the values and experiences of an education in music. The School of Music seeks to provide unique educational opportunities through its various course offerings, workshops, presentations, and performances for those seeking music enrichment.

Teacher Licensure

Undergraduate students seeking certification to teach vocal and choral or instrumental music at the elementary and secondary levels must earn the BM degree as specified under Concentration in Music Education section in this section. Students who have earned a baccalaureate degree and are seeking state licensure to teach music must also complete this sequence of courses, which constitute a state-approved program for teacher education in music.

Graduate Certificates

Music Education Licensure for PK-12

This graduate certificate is designed as a pathway to music education licensure for music students without an undergraduate degree in music education. Upon completing this certificate students will be equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience to obtain music teaching licensure from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Music for Well-Being Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Music for Well-Being builds on courses currently offered in the School of Music and on the school-wide initiative around well-being as an important consideration and subject of study for all musicians.

Expanding and supplementing courses developed in connection with the undergraduate minor in Music for Well-Being, the certificate allows students to explore the connections between music and consciousness and between vibration, meditation, and well-being. The graduate certificate gives students a thorough grounding in theory and practice and includes instruction in compositional and improvisational approaches. Although there is some overlap in subject matter, this is not intended as a program in music therapy. The certificate is conceived as a compliment to the programs focused on mindfulness and well-being that are a priority across the university. The success of the long-running Healing Arts Ensemble at the graduate level, as well as the undergraduate level, and the growth in the new minor in Music for Well-Being indicates the potential level of student interest in the program.

This certificate may be pursued in either part-time or full-time status.

Instrumental Performance Artist Graduate Certificate

The certificate is a specialized, graduate-level program for advanced musicians who desire to further develop and refine their performance art. The certificate program is a two-year course of study requiring at least two consecutive semesters of residence. A total of 32 credits is required. Advisor's approval is required for each semester's enrollment.

Piano Performance Artist Certificate

The certificate is a specialized, graduate-level program for advanced musicians who desire to further develop and refine their performance art. The certificate program is a two-year course of study requiring at least two consecutive semesters of residence. A total of 32 credits is required. Advisor's approval is required for each semester's enrollment.

Vocal Performance Artist Certificate

The certificate is a specialized, graduate-level program for advanced musicians who desire to further develop and refine their performance art. The certificate program is a two-year course of study requiring at least two consecutive semesters of residence. A total of 32 credits is required. Advisor's approval is required for each semester's enrollment.

Graduate Programs

Accelerated Master's Option

The School of Music offers a Music, BM (Performance)/Music, Accelerated MM (Performance) option which allows undergraduate students to take graduate classes that can be used towards a designated master's degree. Undergraduates who wish to pursue the accelerated master's route should talk to their academic advisor first to see if they qualify. Students must be within 75-90 credits of their bachelor's program to be eligible to apply; those who have earned more than 90 credits will not be considered. Students must be approved by their academic advisor and formally apply and be accepted to the master's program through an accelerated master's application. For more information about admissions requirements and the application process, students should visit the website (<http://cvpa.gmu.edu>).

Music, MM

The MM degree is offered as an educational channel to meet the intellectual and career needs of qualified students. It is a comprehensive and advanced program of study with a choice of concentrations in performance, music education, composition, conducting, jazz studies, and pedagogy. The MM with a concentration in music education does not provide licensure to teach music in public or private schools.

Music Education, Ph.D.

The PhD in music education, a research-intensive degree, focuses on the gathering, processing, and interpretation of information. Students in the PhD program take seminars and topics courses in music education, as well as research courses through the College of Education and Human Development. PhD graduates are expected to demonstrate the ability to communicate significant concepts of music education.

The PhD in music education requires 60 credits beyond the master's degree in music.

Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

The DMA concentrations are composition, conducting, and performance. While these concentrations share some required coursework, each is also distinct in course requirements. Professional musicians earn the DMA to enhance and extend their knowledge and practice within their area of specialization. The DMA student focuses on the profession of music performance, conducting, or composition, as well as the theory and practice of those disciplines.

The Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree requires 60 credits beyond the master's degree in music.

Faculty

School Faculty

Professors

Balakerskaia, Billingham, Camphouse, Carroll, Engebretson, Layendecker (Heritage Chair), Maiello, Miller, Monson (Director), Rendler, G. Smith

Associate Professors

Aler, Ciorba, Gillam, Guessford, Kilkenny, Nickens, T. Owens (Associate Director), G. Robinson

Assistant Professors

Alvarez, D. Purcell, Green, Huang, Lavengood, Mulcahy, Walsh

Administrative Faculty

Freer

Adjunct Faculty

Beach, Berger, Bisesi, Blakeslee, Brough, Chao, Cote, Curtis, Delaney, Dewey, East, Edelbrock, Ferguson, Fowkes, Fraedrich, Gammon, Gebo, Gerber, Halligan, Healey, Horn, Jenkins, Jewell, E. Johnson, K. Johnson, Kim, Laget, Lapple, G. McCarthy, Mirtcheva, Nam, Neff, Ja. Nickel, Ju. Nickel, Nickels, Niess, M. Owens, Parrell, Perez, Porter, Provost, S. Purcell, Racz, Rance, Rittenhouse, D. Robinson, Sarmientos, K. Smith, Spirtas, Stephansky, Stokes, Summey, Trkula, Van Slyke, Walker, Wenner, Wharton, Whitehead, Wilkerson, Wilson, Woods, Yang, Yi

Requirements & Policies

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Entrance to all music degree programs is by audition. Arrangements for an audition must be made in advance by contacting the School of Music before the scheduled audition date. Auditions are held approximately once per month. Audition dates and audition application forms are available through the School of Music (<http://music.gmu.edu>).

Program Requirements

A fundamentals of music test is given prior to the first week of classes to all students enrolled in MUSI 115 Introduction to Music Theory. Call for additional information.

Competency placement tests are required of all transfer students who wish to present transfer credit in any of the following areas: music theory, aural skills, and keyboard skills.

Students must earn a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA in their major or higher, if required by their program.

Policies

See CVPA Requirements and Policies.

Termination from the Major

No School of Music course that is required for the major may be unsuccessfully attempted more than three times. A grade of F constitutes an unsuccessful attempt in any given course. Those students who do not successfully complete such a course within three attempts will be terminated from the major. For more information, see AP.5.2.4 Termination from the Major.

Writing-Intensive Requirement

Mason requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their major at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in music may fulfill this requirement by successfully completing MUSI 332 Music History in Society II or MUSI 438 Music History in Society B. Students who transfer this course into Mason may be required to repeat it or enroll in some other suitable course to fulfill the writing intensive requirement.

Programs

- Artist Graduate Certificate
- Ethnomusicology Minor
- Jazz Studies Minor
- Music Education Licensure for PK-12 Graduate Certificate
- Music Education, PhD
- Music Minor
- Music Pedagogy Minor
- Music Technology Minor
- Music for Well-Being Graduate Certificate (title change pending SCHEV approval)
- Music for Well-Being Minor
- Music, BA
- Music, BM

- Music, MM
- Musical Arts, DMA