

FAQ

- What kind of job can I get with a music degree?

Our music alumni have gone on to many diverse careers: professional musicians, music teachers, television and radio announcers, piano tuners, attorneys, physicians, and administrators--just to name a few! Please read on for some of our success stories:

http://www.albany.edu/music/music_alumni.shtml

- Can I take music lessons?

Private instruction in voice and piano is available to music performance majors. (Instruction in other areas may be arranged for music performance majors after consultation with the Department Chair. Please contact Prof. Reed Hoyt at rhoyt@albany.edu.) Music majors who are admitted to the performance concentration receive lessons at no extra cost and are awarded three credits for each course completed successfully. Auditions are held at the end of a student's first semester of lessons. Additional private piano instruction (for credit) is available to non-performance majors by permission of instructor. Other students may study privately on a fee basis but without credit. Please contact the Music Department Office for more information at (518) 442-4187.

- How do I apply?

The Admissions Office handles all applications. Please check their website at:

<http://www.albany.edu/admissions.php> (Undergraduate Admissions)

Although there is no need to contact the Music Department directly, we welcome queries from prospective students and encourage interested students to talk to us about our programs.

- Do I need to audition?

General music majors (and music minors) do not need to audition. Only music performance majors are required to audition. This audition takes place at the end of a student's first semester of lessons (with their first jury serving as their audition). Therefore, there is really no formal audition before admission to our music programs.

- How do I declare a major or minor in music?

Please visit the Advisement Services Center in LI-36 (go down the stairs in front of the University Library and turn right) or call them at (518) 442-3960.

- Can I double major?

Yes. Many of our students choose to double major with our department and another (for example: Communication, English, History, or Psychology).

- What do I need to do to be admitted to a particular music program?

For the following programs, please see the corresponding program director:

Composition (Max Lifchitz, lifchitz@albany.edu)

Conducting,

Performance, or

Vocal Performance (David Janower, janower@albany.edu)

Electronic Music & Media (Robert Gluck, gluckr@albany.edu)

Musicology (Nancy Newman, nnewman@albany.edu)

Theory (Reed Hoyt, rhoyt@albany.edu)

- Do you have an Honors Program?

Yes. The Honors Program in Music is designed for students showing exceptional dedication to the study and practice of the art and discipline of music. Successful completion of the program is excellent preparation for graduate studies in music and related fields. Applicants to the program must be Departmental Majors concentrating in Composition, Conducting, Electronic Music and Media, Musicology, Performance, or Theory, with an overall grade point average of at least 3.25 and at least 3.50 in music curriculum courses. Students in Performance will be admitted by audition. Normally, application will be made in the semester prior to the junior year, but later applications will be accepted. Decisions of the Honors Committee are final and not subject to review or appeal. If rejected, however, a student may reapply in a subsequent semester. In the senior year students in the program will be required to complete a major project in close consultation with faculty. Acceptable projects include recital, composition, thesis paper, or other undertaking appropriate to the student's concentration and approved by the Honors Committee.

- Do you offer a graduate degree?

No. However, it is possible to pursue a graduate degree at UAlbany in a different department, such as History, with a Music-related focus.

- How do I get a music advisor?

Please contact the Music Department Office for more information at (518) 442-4187.

- Can I have information about your concerts?

Please contact the Performing Arts Center Box Office at (518) 442-3997.

- Are there practice rooms available?

Yes. There are practice rooms in the basement of the Performing Arts Center building (the Music Department is on the left side of the building). Some are locked (for use by music majors only). However, other rooms are left unlocked for use by non-majors. All practice rooms are labeled, and use is on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Can I rent an instrument?

Yes. We do rent out some instruments to members of our ensembles. Please contact our band/orchestra assistant for further details at sunyband@albany.edu or sunyorch@albany.edu or (518) 442-4175.

- Can I store my instrument?

Yes. We do store instruments for some members of our ensembles. Please contact our band/orchestra assistant for further details at sunyband@albany.edu or sunyorch@albany.edu or (518) 442-4175.

- How big is the Music Department?

In spring 2010, we had 61 music majors and 82 music minors. Enrollment in music courses exceeded 750 students. Our student/faculty ratio was 17.6. (Students study with professors, not teaching assistants.)

- Why study music?

A 2000 Georgia Tech study indicates that a student who participates in at least one college elective music course is 4.5 times more likely to stay in college than the general student population.

– Dr. Denise C. Gardner, Effects of Music Courses on Retention, Georgia Tech, 2000

"Music exalts life, enhances life, and gives it meaning...For those who love it, it remains as a fixed point of reference in an unpredictable world. Music is a source of reconciliation, exhilaration, and hope which never fails."
(Anthony Storr, *Music and the Mind*)