HEAR FROM OUR GRADUATES:

Melanie Shank
(2012 B.A., Vocal Performance & Psychology)

“Having transferred to UAlbany after a semester at a premiere music conservatory, I can say that the UAlbany Music Department offered me more opportunities than I would have received in the conservatory setting. I was the featured soloist with a live orchestra and University Chorale several times, and I was involved in recitals with singers in the community as well as at UAlbany. The program is really student centered, and if there is something you want to explore, the faculty will make sure you have that chance; the Bach to Broadway concert for voice majors is a nice example of this because most programs don’t allow classically-trained singers to perform musical theatre pieces. The electives offered were also impressive, and I was so excited to find courses in Arts Management, Film Sound and Music, Survey of Opera, and more. I graduated in four years with a double major in voice performance and psychology and a minor in business, and I know I could not have done that, and explored all my interests, without the support, flexibility, and quality of the UAlbany Music Department.”

Melinda Cestaro
(2012 B.A., Piano Performance)

“I could not be happier with the experience I had in the Music Department at UAlbany. I felt so at home right from the beginning. Because it was such a small department, I was afforded tons of opportunities, which helped me grow both as a musician and as a person. Everyone in the department knew one another, and it was obvious that each professor truly cared about the success of each student. I loved being a member of the Chamber Singers, and I learned a lot about teaching through my experience as a music theory tutor. As a pianist, I was able to accompany vocalists, participate in chamber ensembles, perform with the orchestra, and give multiple solo recitals. These opportunities not only helped me get accepted to graduate school in music, but also prepared me with solid experience for a career in music. The Music Department at UAlbany is a hidden gem which anyone interested in should surely take advantage of.”
WHY UALBANY MUSIC PERFORMANCE?

- Highly affordable
- Small, nurturing environment where students study with professors, not teaching assistants
- Double majoring is encouraged and feasible
- Comprehensive liberal arts education

UALBANY VOCAL STUDENTS

...Sing a wide range of genres including classical, musical theatre, pop, and jazz
...Learn skills needed to be a marketable singer in today’s arts environment
...Experience vocal and choral programs that work closely together
...Explore many opportunities for solo performance
...Perform in choral ensembles with our new director, Michael Pfitzer
...Study with faculty who have extensive teaching and performing experience
...Collaborate with Capital Region arts groups in the community

UALBANY PIANO STUDENTS

...Play in our newly renovated Recital Hall equipped with two Steinway concert grand pianos
...Receive individual instruction from two superb pianists in a supportive, friendly atmosphere
...Participate in a variety of performances

Voice Professor Frances Wittmann:

“Our vocal program is a good choice for students interested in continuing their vocal performance training within the broader scope of a solid liberal arts education. Most of my students, in fact, are double majors. I use a functional approach in the training of the voice students at UAlbany, a kind of cross-training that helps students build a foundation of vocal skills that can be applied to a wide range of musical genres.

We welcome students at various stages of vocal development: those who are in the early stages of building their voices, those with more advanced training, along with those who are trying to decide if singing will be part of their career path.”

The piano program at the University at Albany offers majors the opportunity to be part of a small, vibrant department, where students receive weekly instruction from Professors Duncan Cumming and Victoria von Arx. The Department of Music and Theatre is housed in the Performing Arts Center building, which provides ample performance and practice facilities. Piano performance majors can present solo recitals in our beautifully renovated Recital Hall on our new Steinway concert grand and perform as soloists with our University-Community Symphony Orchestra. Piano majors are featured in student recitals and play four-hand music in our annual Youth Movements Festivals. Pianists also work with singers and play chamber music and duo piano repertory. Further performance opportunities are available in the community with outreach performances at schools, libraries, and senior residential communities.

Degree Programs include:
- Vocal Performance
- Piano Performance
- Choral Conducting
And many more music programs; all may be combined with a double major in another field.

Performance Opportunities include:
- Opera Scenes
- Bach to Broadway
- Chamber Singers
- University Chorale
- Chamber Music
- Student Recitals
- Orchestra
- Concert Band
- Pep Band & Marching Band
- Jazz Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble

Come visit us at www.albany.edu/music or call (518) 442-4187