MUSIC

The music program of the Corcoran School of Arts & Design within the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences offers a broad base for understanding music as an art form and as a social, economic, and political practice. All students, regardless of their major, may perform in vocal, instrumental jazz, and chamber music groups; in choruses, orchestras, and bands; and in opera and musical theater productions.

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor’s program

- Bachelor of Arts with a major in music (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/music/ba/)

Minor

- Minor in music (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/music/minor/)

FACULTY

Associate Professors: K. Ahlquist, D. Boyce,
Assistant Professors: R. Baker (Chair), E. Montague
Adjunct Professors: C. Lornell, M. Scarlett (Voice)
Adjunct Instructor: A.B. Clark (Choral), A.S. Wood (Orchestra)
Professorial Lecturers: J. Albertson (Guitar), L. Barnet (Cello), R. Birch (Trumpet), M. Duhagon (Classical Guitar), M. Findley (Violin), P. Fraize (Jazz Performance/Saxophone), J.D. Levy (Jazz), P. O’Donnell (Piano), M. Orlando (Piano), J. Ozment (Jazz Piano), M. Peris (Piano)
Lecturers: J. Connell (Percussion), G. Corella (Tuba), A. Crockett (Voice), E. Dirksen (Bassoon), S.M. Fearing (French Horn), L. Ferguson (Clarinet), E. Field (Violin), E. Guenther (Pipe Organ), D. Jones (Clarinet), C. Libelo (Oboe), A. Lucini (Latin Percussion), A. Reiff (Voice), BR. Seidman (Harp), S. Stang (Flute), U. Wassertzug (Viola), S. Wellman (Voice), T. Wilson (Jazz Trumpet)

EXPLANATION OF COURSE NUMBERS

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
- Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that also may be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work assigned
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

COURSES

- MUS 1000. Dean’s Seminar. 3 Credits.
  - The Dean’s Seminars provide Columbian College first-year students focused scholarship on specific intellectual challenges. Topics vary by semester; see department for more details.
- MUS 1061. Instrumental Ensemble. 1 Credit.
  - Chamber ensemble groups are approved by audition. Section numbers are .11 guitar ensemble, .12 percussion ensemble, .13 jazz combo, .14 keyboard ensemble, .15 string ensemble, .16 woodwind ensemble, .17 brass ensemble, .18 Baroque ensemble, .19 Latin band, .20 blues band.
- MUS 1071. Jazz Band. 1 Credit.
  - Preparation and performance of classic and contemporary “big band” literature. Prerequisite: audition before director.
- MUS 1081. Orchestra. 1 Credit.
  - Preparation and performance of orchestral literature. Prerequisite: audition before director.
- MUS 1083. University Band. 1 Credit.
  - Consisting of two ensembles: The University Symphonic Band and GW Colonial Brass. See schedule of classes for section information. Audition before director required.
- MUS 1091. University Singers. 1 Credit.
  - Preparation and performance of choral literature. Prerequisite: audition before director. Section .10 is University Singers; Section .11 is Chamber Choir.

Performance Study

Performance study courses are offered both fall and spring, and may be repeated for credit. Music majors and minors, Presidential Arts Scholarship (http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/music/scholarships/) students, and other students with skills or potential appropriate to the department’s select ensembles are eligible for private lessons. Eligibility and placement for students new to private performance study are determined at a placement fair held at the beginning of each semester. For courses numbered in the 1500s, students may not register in the same semester for both the 1- and 2-credit course in the same instrument or in voice. Some performance study courses include individual lessons and require a supplementary fee. Supplementary fees for private performance courses are nonrefundable after the first two weeks of the fall and spring semesters; consult the Music Department (http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/music/) for details. The supplementary fee is waived during the fall and spring semesters for full-time music majors and minors and for music Presidential Scholars in the Arts (http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/music/scholarships/).

Required practice: a minimum of three hours a week for 1-credit courses and six hours a week for 2-credit courses.

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- MUS 1091. University Singers. 1 Credit.
  - Preparation and performance of choral literature. Prerequisite: audition before director. Section .10 is University Singers; Section .11 is Chamber Choir.
MUS 1095. Vocal Theater Workshop. 1 Credit.
Development of body awareness for the stage, acting improvisations, and character development. Scenes chosen from the opera, operetta, and musical theater repertoire. Musical coaching, use of makeup, and audition preparation.

MUS 1099. Variable Topics. 1-36 Credits.

MUS 1101. Elements of Music Theory. 3 Credits.
Elements necessary for the study of music, including practical musicianship and musical notations; develops skills in music reading, writing, and aural acuity. Concurrent registration in a music reading lab is required.

MUS 1102. Comprehensive Musicianship I. 3 Credits.
Aural and keyboard skills development through dictation, sight singing, and performance and improvisation at the keyboard. Prerequisite: MUS 1101.

MUS 1103. Music in the Western World. 3 Credits.
Introductory history of musical styles, related to listening; study of music materials and media. Not open to music majors.

MUS 1104. Topics in Music. 3 Credits.
A rotating set of classes; topics may include: American music, a composer, the opera, and musical life in Washington, DC.

MUS 1105. Introduction to Musical Thought and Practice. 3 Credits.
Introduction to concepts, methods, and practices that guide the study and performance of music. Old and new paradigms of musical thought are subject to discussion and critical investigation.

MUS 1106. Introduction to Musical Performance and Experience. 3 Credits.
Through discussion, writing, and performance, students engage with issues such as the putative transcendent character of music, the false divisions between interpretation, improvisation, and composition, and the impact of modernity on expressive culture. Placing their own processes of musical decision making within these conceptual frames allows students to interrogate and develop their performative and social selves. Restricted to Register for this course in the Music department.

MUS 1107. Music of the World. 3 Credits.
Introduction to music in culture through comparative study of music from a variety of cultures worldwide.

MUS 1108. History of Jazz. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the styles, composers, and performers of jazz music from its origins to the present.

MUS 1151. Conducting. 3 Credits.
Technique of conducting, score reading, rehearsal procedures, analysis, and interpretation of selected musical literature; practice in conducting. Prerequisite: MUS 2101.

MUS 1111. Piano. 1 Credit.
MUS 1112. Piano. 2 Credits.
MUS 1113. Voice. 1 Credit.
MUS 1114. Voice. 2 Credits.
MUS 1115. Organ. 1 Credit.
MUS 1116. Organ. 2 Credits.
MUS 1117. Classical Guitar. 1 Credit.
MUS 1118. Classical Guitar. 2 Credits.
MUS 1119. Violin. 1 Credit.
MUS 1120. Violin. 2 Credits.
MUS 1121. Viola. 1 Credit.
MUS 1122. Viola. 2 Credits.
MUS 1123. Cello. 1 Credit.
MUS 1124. Cello. 2 Credits.
MUS 1125. Bass. 1 Credit.
MUS 1126. Bass. 2 Credits.
MUS 1127. Flute. 1 Credit.
MUS 1128. Flute. 2 Credits.
MUS 1129. Recorder. 1 Credit.
MUS 1130. Recorder. 2 Credits.
MUS 1131. Oboe. 1 Credit.
MUS 1132. Oboe. 2 Credits.
MUS 1133. Clarinet. 1 Credit.
MUS 1134. Clarinet. 2 Credits.
MUS 1135. Saxophone. 1 Credit.
MUS 1136. Saxophone. 2 Credits.
MUS 1137. Bassoon. 1 Credit.
MUS 1138. Bassoon. 2 Credits.
MUS 1139. French Horn. 1 Credit.
MUS 1140. French Horn. 2 Credits.
MUS 1141. Trumpet. 1 Credit.
MUS 1142. Trumpet. 2 Credits.
MUS 1143. Trombone. 1 Credit.
MUS 1144. Trombone. 2 Credits.
MUS 1145. Tuba. 1 Credit.
MUS 1146. Tuba. 2 Credits.
MUS 1147. Harp. 1 Credit.
MUS 1148. Harp. 2 Credits.
MUS 1149. Percussion. 1 Credit.
MUS 1150. Percussion. 2 Credits.
MUS 1155. Lute. 1 Credit.
MUS 1156. Lute. 2 Credits.
MUS 1157. Harpsichord. 1 Credit.
MUS 1572. Jazz Performance Techniques. 2 Credits.

MUS 2012. Piano. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2014. Voice. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2016. Organ. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2018. Classical Guitar. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2020. Violin. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2022. Viola. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2024. Cello. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2026. Bass. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2028. Flute. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2030. Recorder. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2032. Oboe. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2034. Clarinet. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2036. Saxophone. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2038. Bassoon. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2040. French Horn. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2042. Trumpet. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2044. Trombone. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2046. Tuba. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2048. Harp. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2050. Percussion. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2058. Harpsichord. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2071. Jazz Performance Techniques. 1-3 Credits.

MUS 2072. Jazz Performance Techniques. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2101. Harmony. 3 Credits.
Study of tonal harmonic practice from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and twentieth-century repertoires. Concurrent registration in the weekly keyboard lab is required. Prerequisite: MUS 1102.

MUS 2102. Comprehensive Musicianship II. 3 Credits.
Aural and keyboard skills development through dictation, sight singing, and performance and improvisation at the keyboard. Prerequisite: MUS 2101.

MUS 2105. Introduction to Ethnomusicology. 3 Credits.
Models of understanding music as a cultural endeavor. Application and critique of models in the design and execution of student independent field research. Prerequisites: MUS 1101 or ANTH 1002 or ANTH 1004; or permission of the instructor. Same As: ANTH 2505.

MUS 2105W. Introduction to Ethnomusicology. 3 Credits.
Models of understanding music as a cultural endeavor. Application and critique of models in the design and execution of student independent field research. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement. Prerequisites: MUS 1101 or ANTH 1002 or ANTH 1004; or permission of the instructor. Same As: ANTH 2505.

MUS 2106. Music History III: Twentieth-Century Art Traditions. 3 Credits.
Western musical traditions and styles since Romanticism and approaches to music as art in contemporary society. Prerequisite: MUS 1101.

MUS 2122. Music in the U.S.. 3 Credits.
History of music and musical life in the United States, emphasizing relationships among traditions of diverse origin. Prerequisites: MUS 1101 or permission of the instructor.

MUS 2122W. Music in the U.S.. 3 Credits.
History of music and musical life in the United States, emphasizing relationships among traditions of diverse origin. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement. Prerequisites: MUS 1101 or permission of the instructor. Same As: MUS 2122.

MUS 2123. Musical Cultures of Black Americans. 3 Credits.
Musical genres and styles developed by African Americans since Reconstruction in their historical and cultural contexts. Emphasis on black musical contributions to the cultural life of Washington, DC.

MUS 2134. Composition. 3 Credits.
Introduction to twenty-first-century compositional practice; concepts of post-tonal analysis; emphasis on style studies and original student works. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: MUS 2101.

MUS 2140. Pedagogy. 3 Credits.
Principles, materials, and methods of teaching in selected areas. Permission of the instructor required prior to enrollment.
MUS 2173. Comprehensive Musicianship for Jazz. 2 Credits.
Aural and keyboard skills development through dictation, sight singing, and performance and improvisation at the keyboard, with emphasis given to skills associated with jazz performance. Prerequisite: MUS 1102.

MUS 2174. Introduction to Jazz Harmony. 3 Credits.
Analysis and composition of tunes in jazz/pop styles. Study of rhythmic characteristics, voice-leading, and chord/scale relationships within a jazz context. Prerequisite: MUS 1102.

MUS 2318. Orchestral Instrument. 2 Credits.
Prerequisite: Open by examination.

MUS 2661. Electronic and Computer Music I. 3 Credits.
Fundamental electronic and computer music concepts. Analog and digital sound synthesis techniques and theory, MIDI, studio recording techniques, signal processing, properties of sound, acoustics and psycho-acoustics, history and aesthetics. Laboratory fee.

MUS 2662. Electronic and Computer Music II. 3 Credits.
Continuation of MUS 2661. Fundamental electronic and computer music concepts. Analog and digital sound synthesis techniques and theory, MIDI, studio recording techniques, signal processing, properties of sound, acoustics and psycho-acoustics, history and aesthetics. Laboratory fee. Prerequisite: MUS 2661.

MUS 3099. Variable Topics. 1-12 Credits.

MUS 3126. Music History I: Antiquity through Early Baroque. 3 Credits.
The development of Western European music from its earliest traceable roots to the end of the early, experimental Baroque period. Prerequisite: MUS 1102 and sophomore standing.

MUS 3127. Music History II: The Tonal Era. 3 Credits.
Styles, structures, social foundations and aesthetic change in European music of the late 17th through the late 19th centuries. Prerequisite: MUS 1102.

MUS 3127W. Music History II: Tonal Era. 3 Credits.
Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement. Prerequisite: MUS 1102.

MUS 3139. Form and Analysis. 3 Credits.
Analysis of musical forms in representative musical literature. Prerequisite: MUS 2101.

MUS 3139W. Form and Analysis. 3 Credits.
Analysis of musical forms in representative musical literature. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement. Prerequisite: MUS 2101.

MUS 3173. Topics in Music Theory and Composition. 3 Credits.
A seminar on variable topics in the discipline of music theory, analysis, and composition. Topics may include analysis of post-tonal music, advanced jazz arranging, analysis of fourteenth-century vocal music, developments in extended instrumental techniques since 1950. Prerequisites depend on the topic; consult the department.

MUS 3175. Topics in Music History and Literature. 3 Credits.
A seminar on variable topics in music history and literature in all traditions and styles. Topics may include German musical Romanticism, introduction to critical musicology, the music of Josquin des Prez, and vernacular music in Washington, DC. Prerequisites depend on the topic; consult the department.

MUS 4085. Senior Capstone Project. 2-4 Credits.
Research, composition, or performance project. Students must consult with a faculty mentor and present a written proposal prior to enrollment and meet regularly with their mentor throughout the semester. Restricted to senior music majors. Recommended background: prior completion of MUS 4198.

MUS 4184. Advanced Composition. 3 Credits.
Private instruction in composition in tutorial format. Prerequisite: MUS 2134.

MUS 4198. Senior Seminar. 3 Credits.
Methodologies of musical research, including studies in performance, composition, history, bibliography, and cultural theory. Recommended for students completing senior capstone projects. Restricted to music majors.

MUS 4199. Independent Research. 1-4 Credits.
Under the guidance of an assigned instructor. May be repeated for credit. Majors in their senior year take MUS 4198 as a corequisite.

MUS 4199W. Independent Research. 1-4 Credits.
Under the guidance of an assigned instructor. May be repeated for credit. Majors in their senior year take MUS 4198 as a corequisite. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement.

MUS 5099. Variable Topics. 1-99 Credits.