

Undergraduate

MUSIC at YALE



Department of Music

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Music at Yale

For nearly 150 years, the study of music at Yale has produced many famous figures in musical composition, in the performance of music, and in music scholarship. Today the university ranks among the very top institutions that foster music, at the undergraduate level in Yale College, at the post-graduate level in the Yale School of Music, and in the Ph.D. program in music within the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The Department of Music

The Department of Music in Yale College is the home of undergraduate music majors as well as the source of course work designed for the non-major with minimal preparation in music. For the music major, the Music Department offers a full-scale humanities-based program in the history, theory, and composition of music that is intended to provide an extensive background in the art form for students who will go on to professional careers as composers, performers, or scholars, or who may enter fields in which a solid grounding in music is essential, such as arts management or publishing. The study of musical performance for credit toward the music major and the Bachelor of Arts degree is available by an arrangement between Yale College and the Yale School of Music. Completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in music is an excellent basis for post-graduate music study. Students may select Music as a humanities major, just as they would, for example, select English or History.

The Faculty of the Department of Music comprises some twenty full-time members, all of whom are active professionally in various capacities, in addition to fulfilling their primary educational responsibilities within the university. By tradition, each faculty member teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses.

The Yale Department of Music enjoys an international reputation of the highest order; it is regarded as one of the finest music departments in the United States, attracting students from all parts of the country and many from abroad. Its extensive graduate program brings talented young music scholars to Yale, providing yet another dimension of expertise to the undergraduate program in music.

Programs of Undergraduate Study

In addition to the two possible music majors, the standard major and the intensive major, there are additional opportunities for undergraduates to enlarge the scope of their undergraduate education in connection with their music studies. Some students elect a double major, completing the requirements for the music major simultaneously with those for a major in another field. There are two combined degree programs: the combined Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music program, offered in cooperation with the Yale School of Music, and the combined Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts program, offered in cooperation with the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The combined B.A. / M.M. program requires a total of five years of study, while the B.A. and M.A. program, available to specially qualified students, is completed in four years.

Performance Study

Lessons in instrumental and vocal performance are arranged through the Yale School of Music. Music lessons for credit toward the bachelor's degree are available to both majors and non-majors, who qualify by audition, on the basis of their performing ability and their enrollment in a designated music theory course. Qualified undergraduates have the opportunity to study with School of Music faculty, subject to their availability. Piano-equipped practice spaces are available in Hendrie Hall as well as in the residential colleges.

Libraries and Collections

The renowned Irving S. Gilmore Music Library, a research facility comprising some 140,000 books and recordings, contains unique collections, such as the Charles Ives and Mellon Chansonnier Collections and provides an invaluable resource for the study of music. In addition, the Sterling Memorial Library serves as the center of the library system, and the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, is the principal repository for literary papers and for early manuscripts and rare books

The YalMusT Lab

The YalMusT Lab serves a variety of constituencies. Those faculty and students working at the YalMusT Lab focus on the creative interaction between music, video and technology, and the research, performance, and pedagogical impact of that focus. Students enrolled in fundamental musicianship courses, composition classes, music theory courses, music history courses, as well as courses in music, video and technology, use the YalMusT Lab facilities.

Extracurricular Musical Activities at Yale

Extracurricular musical activities at Yale are legendary. Undergraduate performing organizations include the Yale Glee Club, the Yale University Bands, the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Yale College New Music and The Yale University Javanese Gamelan Ensemble. In addition, there are chamber orchestras within many of the residential colleges, informal chamber music groups, and the Yale singing groups, of which the Whiffenpoofs is the best known.

Supplementary Tapes, CDs and Scores for Admissions

Although Yale College does not conduct musical auditions for applicants, the Admissions Office accepts CDs, tapes or scores from advanced musicians, whether or not they wish to major in music as undergraduates. Please consider sending musical materials with your application only if your accomplishments are truly outstanding for a high school musician, and if your playing or composing is a strong and important part of your application. Elementary or merely competent submissions will not help your application, and are discouraged. All materials must be sent to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by the appropriate application deadline. For Early Action this is November 1, for Regular Decision, December 31. Please do not send originals as the materials will not be returned.

The following guidelines must be observed:

1. Tapes/CDs and scores are reviewed by Yale Faculty and should demonstrate a very high level of accomplishment attained through serious and continuous study.
2. Submission of tapes/CDs or scores of popular music or jazz are welcome, as are those of classical music.
3. Although the tape/CD need not be of professional quality it should be clear enough to enable a judgment without interference. Recordings should not be edited. Scores must be neat and legible. Tapes must be standard, analog cassettes.
4. Those submitting a tape/CD should concentrate on a short work or a portion of a longer work. Solo performances that demonstrate the full range of the applicant's capabilities are preferable; selections from method books are to be avoided. Recordings should be short, no more than 10 minutes and feature two pieces of contrasting style or period.
5. Tapes, CDs and scores must include the following, typed and visible on the outside of the material:

Full name and address of the applicant
Name of high school
Instrument or voice on the tape
Composer and title of composition.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I am interested in a professional career in music. Will music study at Yale help me achieve that goal?

Answer: *The study of music at Yale College, and particularly the music major, provides a firm foundation in music for continued study or for professional activities in arts management, composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music education, music history, music theory, or performance.*

2. Is the Yale College music major a degree in performance?

Answer: *No. The music major is a general music program with studies in composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music history, music theory, and performance.*

3. Are auditions required for admission?

Answer: *Yale College is an academic institution, so there are no auditions for admission. Students are welcome to include composition works or recordings of performances with their application as supplementary material. *See Supplementary Tapes, CD & Scores*

4. Are music scholarships available?

Answer: *There are no specific music scholarships for undergraduates, however, financial assistance is available through the [Office of Financial Aid](#).*

5. Can the music major at Yale be combined with my other academic interests?

Answer: *The music major at Yale is pursued as part of a diversified liberal arts program, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Although Yale does not offer minors, students may double major.*

6. May I take music lessons and receive academic credit?

Answer: *Yes. Qualified students may apply up to four performance credits toward the thirty-six-credit requirement for the Bachelor of Arts. Lessons are offered in cooperation with the Yale School of Music. Placement auditions are held every September.*

7. May I take music lessons without credit?

Answer: *Yes. A fee is charged. The fee for 12 half-hour lessons is \$200, and \$400 for 12 one-hour lessons per semester. Students are required to audition for non-credit music lessons as well.*

8. How should I prepare for placement auditions in September?

Answer: *Students hoping to enroll in [performance courses](#), lessons for credit, the [Yale Bands](#), the [Yale Glee Club](#), and the [Yale Symphony Orchestra](#), among others,*

should arrive at Yale College in September with two pieces of your choice ready for audition. It is best, but not required that these pieces be memorized. Singers may bring music for accompanists, who are provided.

9. What opportunities are there to perform?

Answer: *Many of the [performance opportunities](#) at Yale College are outside the classroom. Yale College is well known for its extracurricular musical activities; both student run and those led by faculty. *See [Extracurricular Musical Activities](#)*

10. Will there be opportunities to play a public solo recital or to participate in a public performance?

Answer: *It is possible to arrange performances under the auspices of your residential college, or through the Department of Music. Sudler Hall, a very fine small concert hall, is intended for undergraduate performances. Students may compete in the annual [Friends of Music Recital Competition](#), or the [William Waite Concerto Competition](#) sponsored by the [Yale Symphony Orchestra](#).*

11. Will I be able to play chamber music?

Answer: *The Music Department offers Music 221, a course in chamber music performance, which provides professional coaching by faculty members. Additionally, informal opportunities to play chamber music are ample.*

12. Will I be able to play in the Yale Symphony Orchestra?

Answer: *Auditions for the [Yale Symphony Orchestra](#) are held in September each year. Participation is an extra-curricular activity.*

13. I compose. Can I have my own music performed?

Answer: *Students may have their works performed under the auspices of [Yale College New Music](#). Many of the Yale College performance ensembles premiere compositions by Yale College composers.*

14. Will I be able to study conducting?

Answer: *Courses in conducting are offered as electives in the Yale College music curriculum.*

15. Will the music major prepare me to teach music?

Answer: *[Yale's Teacher Preparation](#) program allows students to meet the requirements for certification to teach in early childhood education, or in public secondary schools. Teacher Prep is available to majors in music as well as other disciplines.*

16. How do I apply for the B.A./M.M. program?

Answer: *Students in Yale College possessing outstanding ability in composition or performance may apply for the B.A./M.M program, whether they major in music or another discipline. Interested students should consult their principal teacher at the beginning of their junior year.*

17. What is the difference between the Yale Department of Music and the Yale School of Music?

Answer: *The Yale Department of Music offers curricular instruction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Yale College study towards the B.A. in Music includes courses offered in composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music history, music theory, and performance. As part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Yale Department of Music offers advanced courses in music theory and musicology leading to the Ph.D. The School of Music is a professional school offering only graduate degrees in composition, conducting, and music performance.*

WWW links for more information

Department of Music: <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/>

Undergraduate Music Program: <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/undergraduate/>

Libraries & Collections: <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/libraries.html>

The YalMusT Lab: <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/yalmustlab/>

Performance Opportunities: <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/performance.html>

Admission Information: <http://www.yale.edu/admit/>

Yale College: <http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege>

Questions may be referred to:

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