

Music

Sample Courses

Introduction to Music Analysis and Criticism

This course aims to develop students' analytical and critical tools by focusing on works drawn from the Western European and American concert tradition. Students explore such topics as compositional strategy and the conditions of musical performance.

Issues in Film Music

Students will learn to define the role music plays as source music and as underscoring. The 20 films covered in the course have included classical Hollywood cinema, documentaries, foreign films, experimental films, musicals, and cartoons.

Jazz Theory and Improvisation

This course focuses on the knowledge necessary to improvise over the chord changes of standard jazz tunes. Students cover basic jazz terminology and chord symbols, scale-to-chord relationships, connection devices, and turnaround patterns.

Rock

Students are encouraged, through readings and listening, to contextualize rock within a broad field of popular/vernacular music-making in the 20th century. This course considers some critical accounts of the music industry, of subcultures, and of mass media aesthetics.

Harmony and Voice Leading

This three-quarter sequence serves as an introduction to the materials and structure of Western tonal music. The sequence builds from the fundamentals of scales and chords in the first term to classical form, chromatic harmony, and modulation in the third term.



Through on-campus ensembles led by expert musicians, music students can practice their craft in performance settings.



Students learn the concepts behind composition and musical styles through course work.

The Department of Music at the University of Chicago, enhanced by the rich artistic life in the city of Chicago, offers an extraordinary environment for the study, performance, creation, contemplation, and enjoyment of music. UChicago's thriving cocurricular performance program involves musicians from all corners of the University and draws from the musical traditions of every corner of the globe. The academic curriculum ranges from introductory to highly specialized courses taught by distinguished scholars and composers, and focuses in the areas of music history, music theory, ethnomusicology, and composition. The University of Chicago Presents concert series provides listeners with world-class concert opportunities in chamber music, early music, contemporary music, jazz, and world music—all right on campus.

Academic Studies

The Department of Music employs UChicago's unique interdisciplinary approach, combining music with literature, religion, politics, and other disciplines. UChicago students choose from a wide array of music

courses which build upon and enhance their previous music study. Courses in music history range from broad introductory surveys to specialized courses on a single composer, genre, region, or period. Ethnomusicology courses focus on the social and cultural aspects



of music, and explore the musical practices of different geographic areas of the world. Students interested in composition may take courses in orchestration and computer music, as well as private composition lessons. Courses in music theory and analysis investigate the structure and organization of tonal and post-tonal music, and feature specialized studies of art song and music cognition. Students have many opportunities to work closely with faculty members, who represent the highest level of current scholarship in opera, aesthetics, criticism, tonal theory, jazz music, and more. As a capstone to their studies, students may choose to work closely with a member of the faculty on a composition or senior essay, developed in part through an honors seminar offered each year. Music majors completing their course work also have opportunities to take graduate classes in the history and theory of music, composition, and ethnomusicology.

Music majors from UChicago have been accepted to top graduate programs, and many have gone on to secure faculty positions at leading colleges and universities. Other graduates have gone on to careers as singers, instrumentalists, and composers.

Performance Program

More than 600 talented musicians from throughout the University community (including students, faculty, staff, and alumni) participate in the Department of Music's 13 cocurricular performance ensembles, which collectively present more than 100 concerts each season. All students, regardless of major, are invited to audition for the ensembles at the beginning of each academic year.

The **Central Javanese Gamelan**, which focuses on authentic performance practice of Java, presents contemporary Indonesian and American compositions as well as traditional gamelan gendhing in collaboration with the Friends of the Gamelan.

The **Early Music Ensemble** is a historically oriented performance and study group led by members of the Newberry Consort. Private lessons and coaching in voice and early instruments are available.

The **Jazz X-tet** is the University's premier jazz ensemble; it performs jazz standards as well as contemporary works. It also explores new performance techniques and styles of notation, often along with professional soloists.

The **Middle East Music Ensemble**, which explores a variety of classical, neo-classical, and popular forms of music from across the Middle East, presents workshops and concerts throughout the year.

The **Motet Choir** is a select ensemble of 28 to 36 singers that presents a variety of a cappella literature from the Renaissance to the present. The Motet Choir goes on tour every second year during the University's spring break.

The **New Music Ensemble** has a flexible membership of accomplished instrumentalists and singers who present an eclectic mix of music from the late 20th and 21st centuries, including multimedia events.

The **Rockefeller Chapel Choir** primarily performs for Sunday morning worship services at the chapel during the academic year.

The **South Asian Vocal Workshop** explores a variety of classical, vernacular, and popular song repertoires from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The workshop focuses on the vocal techniques, improvisational practices, and performance conventions characteristic of South Asian musical genres.

The 30-member **University Chamber Orchestra** specializes in baroque, early classical, and 20th-century chamber ensemble literature.

The 120-member **University Chorus** presents large-scale choral masterworks, including an annual *Messiah* performance and a year-end collaboration with the University Symphony Orchestra.

The 100-member **University Symphony Orchestra** presents an ambitious season of six major concerts each year, featuring a wide assortment of 19th- and 20th-century orchestral literature and varied concert formats, often involving guest soloists.

The **University Wind Ensemble** focuses on traditional and innovative wind ensemble literature presented in formal and informal concert settings three times each year.

The comprehensive **Chamber Music Program** includes student string quartets, trios, and mixed chamber ensembles, often involving piano.

Student pianists can enhance their talent and experience through master classes, quarterly Piano Showcase concerts, and numerous other opportunities offered by the **Piano Program**.

Student Organizations

In addition to the Performance Program ensembles that students may participate in, there are many student organizations on campus that involve music. The Pep Band performs at athletic and special events throughout the year. The University of Chicago has a long history of excellence in its many vocal organizations: Men in Drag, Ransom Notes, Chicago Men's A Cappella, Unaccompanied Women, Voices in Your Head, Make a Joyful Noise, and Run for Cover. The Music Production Organization and Student Composer Alliance are devoted to helping students interested in making music, and the Woodlawn Free School for Music, which provides a musical education for underserved community members on the South Side, is an opportunity for University of Chicago students to share their love of music with the community.

ADM 12 002



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