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.

**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.

**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 across cultures.

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