Welcome to Crane, one of America’s first and most prestigious schools of music. Our faculty of world class pianists are among the most distinguished, our curriculum is among the most varied and our environment is one the friendliest and most supportive of any music school.

Crane has demonstrated tremendous success at training young pianists to succeed in any of the varied aspects of a career in music. Whether you have your sights set on a performing, teaching or a collaborative career, Crane’s diverse faculty and programs can help you achieve your goals.

The education of pianists at the Crane School of Music emphasizes the development of a standard performance repertory along with a vast array of performance opportunities including two solo recitals, the annual concerto and chamber music competitions, specialized area recitals, master classes and a weekly performance class with your studio teacher.

Courses offered by the department include piano literature, piano pedagogy, piano four-hands and duo repertoire, chamber music and collaborative performance with singers and other instrumentalists. In addition, Crane is the home to the Julia Crane International Piano Competition and the Crane Piano Pedagogy Conference.

Students wishing to focus on teaching may elect to enroll in the piano pedagogy concentration overseen by Dr. Kathryn Sherman. Participants take courses that relate principles of music education to the teaching of piano. This two-year program will provide you with the skills and experience needed to teach students successfully, from children to adults, and to run an independent piano studio.

Students from our performance area have won prizes in the Empire State Competition, MTNA Competition, The Schmidbauer International Competition, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra Competition and The Thousand Islands Competition and have performed in the world’s most prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall and the Shanghai Symphony Hall. Following graduation, Crane piano students have gone on to graduate studies at the country’s best institutions, including Yale, Peabody, New England Conservatory, the University of Maryland, and the University of Michigan.
All-Steinway School

With a 2007 purchase of 141 new Steinway pianos (the largest single purchase of Steinway pianos in the company’s history at that time), Crane officially became an All-Steinway School.

The total current piano inventory is around 150 pianos, 68 of which are grand pianos. The two large performance halls currently have available three Steinway Model D concert grand pianos each, and Wakefield Recital Hall, with a smaller stage and capacity, has one Steinway Model B. Concert grand pianos are also located in the four large rehearsal rooms and in piano faculty studios.

Piano Faculty

Dr. Gary Busch
buschgd@potsdam.edu

Dr. François Germain
germaif@potsdam.edu

Eugenia Tsarov
tarovem@potsdam.edu

Dr. Young-Ah Tak- piano area head
taky@potsdam.edu

Guest Artists

Crane stands out in its efforts to expose our students to world class artistry on campus. A long list of the world’s top pianists have performed and taught master classes to Crane students. Among them are:

- Leon Fleisher
- Emanuel Ax
- Peter Serkin
- Jeffrey Siegel
- Marc Durand
- Christopher O’Riley
- Jeremy Denk
- Martin Katz
- Victoria Mushkatkol
- Jura Margulis
- Claude Frank
- Victoria Jochum

Apply to Crane

You will find complete information about Crane, SUNY Potsdam, and the audition process on our website.

The Crane School of Music offers these degrees:

- BM and MM in Music Education
- BM and MM in Performance
- BM in Musical Studies - Composition
- BM in Musical Studies - Music Theory
- BM in Musical Studies - Music History
- BM, emphasis in Music Business
- BA in Music

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44 Pierrepont Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13676
(315) 267-2812 or 1-877-POTSDAM
Email: crane@potsdam.edu
SUNY Potsdam Office of Admissions Email: admissions@potsdam.edu