



MUSICAL STUDIES THEORY * HISTORY

Bachelor of Music in Musical Studies: Music Theory or Music History

Musical Studies is another way of describing the scholarly study of music. It is often divided into three main branches: historical, comparative (ethnomusicology) and systematic (theory and analysis), but frequently these areas overlap.

Music's relationship to culture and the development of compositional style, criticism and performance traditions throughout history are essential to our knowledge as musicians and educated citizens. Musical Studies may lead to careers in higher education, librarianship, publishing or music criticism.

Through the breadth and depth gained as a result of undergraduate research, students are better prepared to apply to graduate schools, become effective music educators or pursue an advanced performance degree.

All music majors take a four-semester sequence of music theory/aural skills courses as well as three semesters of music history survey courses covering the ancient world to the present. Following this, an array of upper-division electives, selected by Musical Studies students according to their interests, addresses individual areas of study.

Students in the Musical Studies degree will also take private studio lessons on their instrument or voice every semester, and participate in a range of ensembles.



Faculty

- Dr. Gary Busch
- Dr. Erin Brooks
- Evan Campbell
- Dr. Ivette Herryman Rodriguez
- Dr. David Heuser
- Dr. Julie Hunter
- Prof. Ed Komara
- Dr. Erica Levenson
- Dr. Michelle Martin-Atwood
- Dr. John McGinness
- Dr. Andre Mount
- Dr. Philip Salathé
- Dr. Joe Sferra
- Dr. Jerod Sommerfeldt
- Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis
- Dr. Timothy Sullivan
- Dr. Jesse Tyre
- Dr. Michael Vitalino
- Dr. Greg Wanamaker

Guests

Recent guests have included Composer/Writer ***Jan Swafford***, Verdi expert, librarian and musicologist ***Dr. Linda Fairtile***, Indian master percussionist ***Srinivas Krishnan***, West African drumming expert ***Martin Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng***, Benjamin Britten scholar ***Dr. Vicki Stroehrer***, and Ives specialist and musicologist ***Dr. J. Peter Burkholder***.

Apply to Crane

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

Examples of Electives

- European Folk Music
- Jazz Styles and Analysis
- Nineteenth Century Music
- American Musical Theater
- Renaissance Culture and Music
- Introduction to Ethnomusicology
- Analysis of 20th Century Music
- Byzantium Music: Religion and the Arts
- Gender & Music: Cross Cultural Perspectives
- Computer Music Composition
- Post Modernism in Music
- Computer Music Programming
- The Music of the Beatles
- Music, Culture and Politics in West Africa
- German Lied
- Counterpoint
- Class Composition
- Historical Development of Jazz
- Music in America
- Music & Disability Studies
- History of Opera
- Analytical Techniques
- J. S. Bach
- Borrowed Sounds/Musical Sampling
- Beethoven
- Orchestration
- Music in Film
- World Music and Cultures
- Johannes Brahms
- Jazz Improvisation



Individual Projects

As a capstone experience, students pursue their own research of a topic of choice with a faculty advisor. After investigating an idea, they will present their conclusions in a senior thesis. Here is a sampling of just a few of the topics:

- A Study of the Winds in Early French Grand Opera with an Emphasis on the Clarinet
- A Non-Twelve-Tone Pitch Analysis of the First Movement of Luigi Dallapiccola's *Requiescant*
- Meaning and Value in Music Through the Lens of Leonard B. Meyer
- Gender Implications of the Harp
- A Comparative Analysis of Two Composers' Treatment of Sonata Form
- A Study of the Maqam *Al-Dhil* as found in Tunisian Malouf Folk Music

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