

The Crane School of Music • SUNY Potsdam

CRANE

STRINGS

Strings at Crane

Inspired by our tradition of innovation, the members of Crane's string department provide exceptional instruction and inspiration for students. Whether their majors are performance, education or other musical studies, students are expected to reach high levels of performance excellence and scholarship. This excellence is illustrated, in part, in the quality of our large and small ensembles and in the hundreds of works performed in recital by string players each year.

String students learn from our talented faculty, benefitting from their range of experiences as orchestral players, recitalists, chamber musicians and master educators. Following an intensive program of studies, our graduates are well-equipped to find jobs as music professionals and are recognized as fine teachers and performers.



String faculty members seek to create a supportive environment in which players learn to teach each other and themselves, analyzing technical and musical issues so that they can improve their own playing. We believe this is

the best way to create the strongest musicians – musicians who will lead the profession as players and teachers. At the heart of our collective experience is the idea that teachers and pre-professional performers and educators are equal partners in a vibrant string community.

Performance Opportunities

The Crane Symphony Orchestra is the second oldest college orchestra in the United States, and in its long legacy, students at Crane have worked with legendary conductors and musicians, such as Nadia Boulanger, Sarah Caldwell, Aaron Copland, Howard Hanson, Gunther Schuller, and Robert Shaw, to name a few. Each year, the Crane Symphony Orchestra performs with the Crane Chorus in the Spring Festival, working for a week-long residency with internationally renowned conductors. The Crane Symphony Orchestra performs a wide range of orchestral repertoire, from baroque to contemporary music. The mission for Crane Symphony Orchestra is not only pursuing a high-standard of performance. We are also committed to providing students with an excellent ensemble experience as part of the education for future music teachers, performers, scholars, composers, and music industry leaders. The CSO is under the direction of Dr. Ching-chun Lai.

The Crane String Orchestra performs literature written for all sizes of string ensembles, which is exactly that repertoire most useful to school string teachers.

The Crane Opera Orchestra String students at Crane have opportunity to join the opera orchestra, which performs fully-staged operatic works

with the Crane Opera Ensemble. The size of the ensemble depends on specific work being performed, which is drawn from Baroque through contemporary operatic and musical theatre repertoire. The Crane Opera was the winner of the 2015 and 2003 (Division 3), and co-winner of the 2009 (Division 2) National Opera Association Collegiate Production Competitions. The spring 2010 production of *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* was awarded first place in the American Prize in Operatic Performance competition while the 2017 production of *The Tender Land* was awarded 3rd place (both in the College/University Division).

In 2018, Crane premiered *Mayo*, a new opera Crane commissioned from Tom Cipullo through the Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize.

Chamber Music opportunities for string students include string quintets, quartets, and trios, as well as piano quartets and trios, as well as the Crane Viola Ensemble. Student chamber music groups are coached by members of the string faculty.



National String Project

Since 2004, the National String Project's mission is to expand string education opportunities in the North Country while providing teaching experiences for university students at the Crane School. Lessons and ensembles are taught by Crane music education majors with the guidance of Crane music faculty. Our site is part of a National Consortium of String Projects founded in collaboration with the American String Teachers Association.

Our String Faculty

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Apply to Crane

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

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