

Music Department
Student Handbook

Spring 2018

Mount 
Saint Mary's
University
Los Angeles

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Important Dates & Department Event Information

Music Department Events

All music majors and minors are required to participate in an ensemble each semester and meet requirements for recital classes and concert attendance.

Check music department concert series on the department web page for most recent updates:
msmu.edu/undergraduate-bachelor-programs/music/music-department-concert-series/

MUS 5 Performance Class

Scholarship Auditions

High School Choral Festival

Women in Music Festival, with Rhiannon Giddens

MUS 5 Performance Class

Spring Juries

Mount Chorus & Singers Spring Sing

Please check the music department website for the most up to date schedule.

Departmental Faculty & Staff Contact Information

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Applied Music Faculty

Leif Woodward - Cello

Andrew Leonard - Clarinet

Amy Tatum - Flute

Johanna Borenstein - Flute

Mak Grgic - Guitar

Julius Reder Carlson - Guitar

Yuri Inoo - Percussion

Hak Soon Swiatkowski - Piano

Chet Swiatkowski - Piano

Noah Gladstone - Trombone

Adam Bhatia - Trumpet

Benjamin Sorrell - Violin

Colleen Coomber - Violin

Therese Fassnacht - Voice

Janelle DeStefano - Voice

Theory Placement Test

All incoming (freshman and transfer) students are given a theory placement test to determine their level of proficiency.

*Credit is not awarded on the basis of this test; it is used only to place the student in the correct music class.

Piano Proficiency Requirement

- All non-keyboard music majors are expected to demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency at the piano. This level of proficiency will be determined by means of an examination.
- Students must enroll in MUS 8 (Piano Class, 1 unit) or MUS 11 (Functional Keyboard Skills, 1 unit). These courses may be taken for credit for four semesters only. If the piano proficiency test is not passed by that time, the student may continue the course until the test is passed, but without credit.

Policies for Applied Music Instructions

Lessons

- Applied music instruction, MUS 13/113 or MUS 15/115, is private instruction in any instrument or voice. MUS 13/113 is the correct course number for non-music majors, or for a second instrument for music education majors; MUS 15/115 is the correct course number for the principal instrument for music majors.
- Applied music is taken for one unit. A minimum of 14 one-hour lessons are required for one unit of credit for majors, and 12 one-hour lessons are required for minors.
- It is required that a student practice daily for each unit for which they have registered. E.g., if a student registers for one unit of credit then at least one hour daily practice is required.
- Students enrolled in applied music study with the applied music faculty at Mount St. Mary's University Los Angeles. Only lessons with designated applied faculty will be eligible for academic credit, financial support (as applicable), and other benefits of being within the MSMU music program.

Policies for Applied Music Instruction, continued

- Students are charged an applied music fee when they enroll for either MUS 13/113 or 15/115. The fee is included in their tuition and fees.
- Applied teachers meet with students on campus either in H505 or other available classrooms or practice rooms on the 5th floor.
- Applied music fees:
 - Music majors \$679 per semester (14 lessons)
 - Music minors \$583 per semester (12 lessons)
 - Non-music majors/minors \$750 per semester (10 lessons)

What if I need to cancel a lesson?

If you will not be able to attend your lesson, contact your teacher, and notify the music department chair as soon as you know. Common courtesy dictates that you will not fail to show up for a lesson without adequate explanation and advance notice. At the discretion of your teacher, you may be offered a make-up lesson later in the semester, depending on the circumstances that led to your cancellation.

*Students who repeatedly fail to show up for scheduled lessons will not meet the semester requirement for applied music and may be asked to withdraw

What if my teacher cancels?

Occasionally conflicts may arise for your teacher. In such a case, you are entitled to a make-up lesson. The make-up lesson will have to be at a different time from your usual weekly meeting, since that is when your normal lessons are. In coordination with you and the department chair, your teacher will identify a make-up time that fits your schedule, and you will be contacted with that information.

Jury Exams

- Music majors and minors are required to take jury exams at the end of each semester.
- Students should be prepared to perform from memory **two works studied** during the semester. The exam will last no
- longer than 15 minutes.
- The faculty on the jury panel critiques the performance with written comments. A copy of these comments is given to the student, a copy is sent to the his/her teacher, and the original is kept in the student's file in the music department.

Performance Requirements

- The music department has designated specific dates for music department performances during the fall and spring semester. These dates are usually in the context of MUS 5/105 Practicum class.
- All students are expected to perform at least twice a semester
- Students should turn in their repertoire to the music department before their scheduled performance date.

Accompanist

Applied music students (depending on the instrument and repertoire) meet weekly for 30 minutes with the staff accompanist to review their repertoire.

Students are responsible for bringing a copy of their repertoire for the accompanist.

*Students will experience progress during these sessions if they have practiced beforehand and are prepared to make music. **It is not the accompanist's role to teach you your music.**

Performance Classes

Performance classes are informal presentations that provide an excellent opportunity to gain more experience performing in a low-pressure situation. They are usually held in Hannon Theatre and attended primarily by the other students who will be performing.

A few of the music department's applied faculty arrange performance classes of their own students on a monthly basis.

Senior Recitals

All music majors with a performance emphasis are required to give a junior recital before graduation.

- Junior recitals are 30 minutes performance time in length.
- Performance majors giving a senior recital are excused from jury exams the semester of their recital.
- Junior recital programs must be approved by the music department chairperson at least two weeks before the recital date. Forms for this approval are available in the music department office.
- Dates for junior recitals are scheduled through the music department.
- All expenses for junior recitals (e.g. programs, piano tuning, reception, etc.) are the responsibility of the students.
- If a reception is desired after the recital, please inquire with the music department for facility clearance and any other pertinent information.

Students With an Emphasis Other Than Performance

Information regarding senior projects for music majors with an emphasis in music education, music scoring for multimedia, and music history can be found on the music department website.

<http://www.msmu.edu/undergraduate-bachelor-programs/music/>

Practice Rooms

There are three practice rooms located on the 5th floor of the Humanities building. These rooms are reserved for music majors and minors.

Keys to the practice rooms are located in the music library (H530). Rooms are locked when not in use. Please sign out the key when using the room. A sign-out folder can be found in the music library. Be sure to return keys to the music library, as there is only one copy of each.

Instrument Rooms A & B

These rooms are located just outside of H505. If you have a large instrument, you may store your instrument in instrument rooms A or B. The keys to the rooms are located in the storage closet, just outside H525.

Music Technology/Piano Lab

The lab contains eight electric Clavinova keyboards fitted with a MacBook that contains the most updated versions of music composition software including Pro Tools, Garage Band, and Sibelius, as well as MacGamut for aural skills.

Class Piano, Mus 8A, 8B, C, and MUS 3 are taught in the lab. Tech lab hours are posted each semester.

H505

This room is set aside for classroom instruction, applied lessons, private coaching, and chamber music. Please check with the music department chair before using this room. A schedule will be posted on the door noting lesson and course times.

Ensemble Requirement

Music majors and minors are required to be enrolled in an ensemble during each semester of study. The following ensembles are part of the music department:

MUS 19/119 Mount Chorus (0-1)

MUS 21/121 Mount Singers (0-1)

MUS 23/123 Chamber Ensemble (0-1)

MUS 60/160 Mount Orchestra (0-1)

If enrolling for credit puts you into an overload situation, you may be enrolled for 0 credits. Check the catalog for credit requirements.

***Students receiving a music scholarship are typically required to participate in more than one ensemble.**