Music

The Shepherd School of Music

Dean
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Professors
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Desmond Hoebig
Thomas I. Jaber
Pierre Jalbert
Benjamin C. Kamins
Kathleen Kaun
Stephen King
Richard Lavenda
Cho-Liang Lin
Susanne Mentzer
Jon Kimura Parker
Timothy Pitts
Larry Rachleff
Robert Roux
Marie Speziale
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William VerMeulen
Michael Webster
Kathleen Winkler

Associate Professors
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Walter B. Bailey
Gregory Barnett

Allen Barnhill
Anthony K. Brandt
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David Ferris
Phillip Freeman
David E. Kirk
Thomas LeGrand
Paula Page
Brinton Smith
Kurt Stallmann

Assistant Professor
Peter V. Loewen

Artist Teachers
Brian Connelly
Joan DerHovsepian
Debra Dickinson
Jeanne Kierman Fischer
Christopher French
Hans Graf
Eric Halen
Grant Loehnig
Sohyoun Park
Janet Rarick
C. Dean Shank Jr.

Lecturers
Nancy Gisbrecht Bailey
Rachel Buchman
Susan Dunn
Robert Gross
Phillip Kloekner
Cornelia Watkins

Adjunct Professor
C. Richard Stasney

Degrees Offered: BA, BMus, BMus/MMus, MMus, DMA

At the undergraduate level, The Shepherd School of Music offers both professional training and a broad liberal arts curriculum. Degree programs include a BA degree in music and a BMus degree in performance, composition, music history, and music theory. Acceptance into a five-year honors program leads to the simultaneous awarding of the BMus and MMus degrees.

At the graduate level, the school offers professional music training for qualified students who concentrate on music composition, performance, or research that is supported by lab or performing ensembles. This training includes theory and history seminars. Advanced degree programs include a MMus degree
in composition, choral and instrumental conducting, historical musicology, performance, and music theory and a DMA degree in composition and selected areas of performance.

Requirements for All Music Majors

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements. All students majoring in music must participate in core music, applied music, and other required music courses as well as in chamber music and large ensembles, plus electives. They are entitled to one hour of private lessons each week of each semester they are enrolled as a music major; private or group lessons beyond this may result in additional fees. Students in the BA program who wish to continue taking private lessons beyond the required four semesters of instrumental or vocal study must obtain permission from the dean of the Shepherd School.

Examinations—At the end of each semester, a jury examination in applied music may be given over the material studied during the semester. All degree candidates except BA students must demonstrate keyboard proficiency by examination. If students have little or no knowledge of the keyboard, they should enroll in secondary piano at the beginning of their first semester and continue study until they can meet the examination requirements.

Performance—Students are expected to perform frequently during their residence at Rice. Performance majors must present at least two full recitals. Composition and conducting students should present recitals as specified by their degree programs. Students are expected to attend both faculty and student recitals. In addition, all music majors must participate in the school’s conducted ensembles as assigned.

Degree Requirements for BA in Music, BMus, and BMus/MMus

Admission—An audition, either in person or recorded, is required of each undergraduate applicant. The Shepherd School faculty and the university’s Committee on Admission jointly determine admission, the latter basing its evaluation on successful academic achievement and other standards of college admission. Transfer applicants from other colleges, conservatories, and universities also must provide an audition, personal or recorded, and take placement exams in both music history and music theory. Once admitted, their prior preparation in music is assessed, which may reduce the required period of study at Rice.

BA and BMus Program—For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements.

For either bachelor’s degree, students majoring in music must have a total of at least 120 semester hours at graduation. The complete curriculum for each major in music is available in the Shepherd School Student Handbook or in the undergraduate music office on the second floor of Alice Pratt Brown Hall. While the number of required hours vary according to major area, all music students must take the following core courses (those in the BA program are not required to take MUSI 331, 332, and 431).

- **Music Theory:** MUSI 211, 212, 311, 312, and a theory elective chosen from MUSI 416, 512, 513, or 613.
- **Music History:** MUSI 222, 321, 322, and 421.
- **Aural Skills and Performance Techniques:** MUSI 231, 232, 331, 332, and 431.
**BMus/MMus Honors Program**—The same general university requirements apply, but students seeking the combined BMus/MMus degree must complete a total of at least 150 semester hours by graduation. The number of required hours varies according to major area.

The first five semesters of course work in this program parallel the core curriculum of the bachelor’s degrees. The sixth semester is a transitional semester during which students qualify for admission to the combined program. For further information, including application procedures, see the *Shepherd School Student Handbook*.

**Degree Requirements for MMus and DMA in Music**

**Admission**—For instrumental, voice, and conducting applicants, an audition is required. Composition majors must submit portfolios, and musicology and theory majors must provide samples of their written work. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of graduate applicants in musicology and theory. Musicology applicants also must complete the advanced music tests.

**Requirements**—For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees. For the MMus degree, candidates must complete at least two semesters of full–time study at Rice. Semester hour minimums for the MMus degree vary according to major area. For the DMA, candidates must complete a total of 90 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, attending Rice full time for at least four semesters after receiving their MMus degree.

**Thesis**—A thesis is required of both music history and music theory majors. In lieu of a thesis, composition majors must produce an original work of extended scope, and conducting majors must present an extended composition or project.

**Academic Standards**

**Curriculum and Degree Requirements**—Further information on curricular requirements for all majors and degree programs is available from the Shepherd School of Music.

**Grading Policy**—A minimum grade of “B−” is expected of all music students in their major applied area. A grade of “C+” or lower is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated in the following manner:

A music major who receives a grade of “C+” or lower in their major applied area will be placed on music probation. Music probation signifies that the student’s work has been sufficiently unsatisfactory to preclude graduation unless marked improvement is achieved promptly. A student on music probation may be absent from class only for extraordinary reasons and may not represent the school in any public function not directly a part of a degree program.

If a student receives a second semester of “C+” or lower in their major applied area, whether for consecutive semesters or not, the student will be discontinued as a music performance major and merit scholarship from the Shepherd School will be discontinued.

**NOTE:** For music history and musicology majors a grade of “C+” or lower in any music history course is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated as above.

**Graduate degree requirement: a grade point average of 2.67 is necessary for graduation.**
Leaves of Absence and Voluntary Withdrawal—Music majors must obtain permission in writing from the dean of the Shepherd School before requesting a leave of absence from the university. Requests must be in the dean's office before the first day of classes in the semester for which leave is requested.

Music majors taking voluntary withdrawal from the university are not guaranteed readmission into the Shepherd School and may be asked to reapply/reaudition. Students should explain the reasons for their withdrawal to the dean before leaving campus.

Other Musical Opportunities

For Nonmajors—Students who are not music majors may take the following courses designed for the general student (other music courses require the permission of the instructor and the approval of the dean of the Shepherd School).

- MUSI 112 Great Literature in Great Music
- MUSI 117/118 Fundamentals of Music I and II
- MUSI 141–197 for individual instruction in all instruments
- MUSI 225 Bridging the Gap between Pop and Art Music—Radiohead and Bjork
- MUSI 240 Unity and Variety in Music
- MUSI 317/318 Theory for Nonmajors I and II
- MUSI 327/328 Music Literature for Nonmajors I and II
- MUSI 334/335 Campanile Orchestra and Rice Chorale
- MUSI 340 Concert Band
- MUSI 342 Jazz Ensemble
- MUSI 345 Jazz Improvisation
- MUSI 415 Band Arranging

Lectures and Performances—A visiting lecturer series, a professional concert series, and numerous distinguished visiting musicians contribute to the Shepherd School environment. The Houston Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Houston Grand Opera, Texas Opera Theater, Houston Ballet, Houston Masterworks Chorus, Da Camera, Context, and Houston Friends of Music, as well as the activities of other institutions of higher learning in the area, also provide exceptional opportunities for students to enjoy a wide spectrum of music.

See MUSI in the Courses of Instruction section.