Music

The Shepherd School of Music

Dean
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Professors
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Arthur Gottschalk
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Jon Kimura Parker
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Assistant Professors
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David L. Waters
Michael Webster

Artist Teachers
Anthony K. Brandt
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David Ferris
Pierre Jalbert

Adjunct Lecturers
C. Richard Stasney
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Degrees Offered: B.A., B.Mus., B.Mus./M.Mus., M.Mus., D.M.A.

At the undergraduate level, the Shepherd School of Music offers both professional training and a broad liberal arts curriculum. Degree programs include a B.A. degree in music and a B.Mus. degree in performance, composition, music history, and music theory. Acceptance into a five-year honors program leads to the simultaneous awarding of the B.Mus. and M.Mus 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 M.Mus. degree in composition, choral and instrumental conducting, historical musicology, performance, and music theory and a D.M.A. degree in composition and selected areas of performance.
Requirements for All Music Majors

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, taking nonmusic courses as specified by the university 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 B.A. 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 is given over the material studied during the semester. (All degree candidates except B.A. students must demonstrate keyboard proficiency in an 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 2 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 B.A. in Music, B.Mus., and B.Mus./M.Mus.

Admission. An audition, either in person or on tape, 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 upon successful academic achievement and other standards of college admission. Transfer applicants from other colleges, conservatories, and universities must also provide an audition, personal or taped, 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.

B.A. and B.Mus. Program. For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–18). Note that MUSI 222 and 321 may be counted towards partial fulfillment of the Group I (humanities) distribution requirement, and that MUSI 311 and 312 may be counted towards partial fulfillment of the Group III (natural science/engineering) distribution requirement.

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 B.A. program do not need to take MUSI 331, 332 and 431).

- **Music Theory:** MUSI 211, 212, 311, 312, and a theory elective chosen from MUSI 412, 416, 513, or 613.
- **Music History:** MUSI 222, 321, 322, and 421
- **Aural Skills and Performance Techniques:** MUSI 231, 232, 331, 332, and 431

B.Mus./M.Mus. Honors Program. The same general university requirements apply, but students seeking the combined B.Mus./M.Mus. 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 M.Mus. and D.M.A. in Music

**Admission.** For instrumental 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, theory, and composition. Musicology applicants must also complete the advanced music tests.

**Requirements.** For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 60–65). For the M.Mus. degree, candidates must complete at least two semesters of full–time study at Rice. Semester hour minimums for the M.Mus. degree vary according to major area. For the D.M.A., 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 M.Mus. 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.** All music students must make at least a B- in course work in their major applied area. Students who receive a C+ or lower in their major applied area are placed on music probation. Students on music probation may not graduate unless they show prompt and marked improvement. While on probation, they may not be absent from class except for extraordinary reasons, and they may not represent the school in any public function that is not directly part of a degree program. After receiving a second C+ or lower in their major area, whether in consecutive semesters or not, students are discontinued as music majors.

**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 re-admission into the Shepherd School and may be asked to re-apply/re-audition. (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 117/118 Fundamentals of Music I and II
• MUSI 307 Composition for Nonmajors
• 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 141–197 for individual instruction in all instruments
• 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 Oratorio Society, 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 (pages 470–483) in the Courses of Instruction section.