Music

The Department of Music offers programs of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music and the Master of Arts (AM) in Music, with emphasis in either musicology or music theory. Each graduate program combines a course of advanced studies in one area of music studies with supporting studies in related fields of music. The number of graduate students admitted each year is small so that each student is assured individual attention. There is traditionally a close rapport and mutually supportive interaction among graduate students in all areas of study.

The AM and PhD programs in musicology offer concentrations in historical musicology and ethnomusicology. Department faculty interests cover all eras of European art music, American popular musics, film and theatre music, jazz, and African and African diasporic musics. Methodological approaches cover a range of critical perspectives, placing music within its cultural and historical contexts and developing the student's ability to think and write about music and music-making. Intensive study in music theory is a required component of the program, and diverse opportunities for performance are offered as well.

The AM and PhD programs in music theory focus on the creative analysis and critical examination of assumptions about music and musical discourse. The graduate program prepares students to undertake research in musical analysis and in the language and methodology of music theory. Preparation includes guiding each student in developing their own modes of thought and expression. Faculty interests include improvisation and intermedia, texture and form, music cognition and computational modeling, composition, Schenker, and the interplay of text and music in German art song.

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Faculty

Chair

Patrick Burke (https://music.wustl.edu/people/patrick-burke/)
PhD, University of Wisconsin

Endowed Professors

Todd Decker (https://music.wustl.edu/people/todd-decker/)
Paul Tietjens Professor of Music
PhD, University of Michigan

Dolores Pesce (https://music.wustl.edu/people/dolores-pesce/)
Avis Blewett Professor of Music
PhD, University of Maryland

Professor

Jeffrey Kurtzman (https://music.wustl.edu/people/jeffrey-kurtzman/)
PhD, University of Illinois

Associate Professors

Patrick Burke (https://music.wustl.edu/people/patrick-burke/)
PhD, University of Wisconsin

Ben Duane (https://music.wustl.edu/people/ben-duane/)
PhD, Northwestern University

Robert Snarrenberg (https://music.wustl.edu/people/robert-snarrenberg/)
PhD, University of Michigan

Christopher Stark (https://music.wustl.edu/people/christopher-stark/)
DMA, Cornell University

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PhD, Eastman School of Music

Paul Steinbeck (https://music.wustl.edu/people/paul-steinbeck/)
PhD, Columbia University

Assistant Professors

Lauren Eldridge Stewart (https://music.wustl.edu/people/lauren-eldridge-stewart/)
PhD, University of Chicago

Esther Kurtz (https://music.wustl.edu/people/esther-kurtz/)
PhD, Brown University

Professor of the Practice

William Lenihan (https://music.wustl.edu/people/william-lenihan/)
BMus, University of Missouri-Columbia

Senior Lecturers

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Bulletin 2021-22
Music (10/13/21)

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MFA, Princeton University

Professors Emeriti
Hugh Macdonald
PhD, Cambridge University
Craig Monson
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Robert Wykes
DMA, University of Illinois

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in Music (Musicology)
The Master of Arts in musicology requires 36 units of graduate study, including 12 units of music history and bibliography, 6 units of music theory, 18 units of electives, keyboard proficiency, reading knowledge of one foreign language, a written general examination, and a thesis.

PhD in Music (Musicology)
The PhD degree in musicology requires a total of 72 units of graduate study: 33 units of music history and bibliography, 12 units of music theory, 6 units outside music, and 20 units of electives and dissertation research. Also required are keyboard proficiency, reading knowledge of two foreign languages (German and either French or Italian; a computer language may be substituted for the second language, according to the student's needs), a written general examination, six to eight semesters of mentored teaching, the dissertation, and the final oral defense of the dissertation. Students who have completed a master's degree at another institution may receive up to 24 units of transfer credit toward the PhD.

Master of Arts in Music (Music Theory)
The Master of Arts in music theory requires 36 units of graduate study, including 15 units of music theory, 9 units of music history and bibliography, 12 units of electives, keyboard proficiency, reading knowledge of one foreign language, a written general examination, and a thesis.

PhD in Music (Music Theory)
The PhD degree in music theory requires a total of 72 units of graduate study: 30 units of music theory, 15 units of music history and bibliography, 6 units of composition, 6 units outside music, 6 units of qualifying projects, and 9 units of electives or dissertation research. Also required are keyboard proficiency, reading knowledge of two foreign languages (German and either French or Italian; a computer language may be substituted for the second language, according to the student's needs), a written general examination, six to eight semesters of mentored teaching, the dissertation, and the final oral defense of the dissertation. Students who have completed a master's degree at another institution may receive up to 24 units of transfer credit toward the PhD.