Music

Professors: Bothwell, Evans, Ludwa, Koehler (Chair), Moon, Schumaker

The music department seeks to cultivate an understanding of the language and history of music and to nurture artistic skill and musicianship. All music performance opportunities, both solo and ensemble, are available to majors and non-majors alike. Academic courses in music theory, music history, and practical musicianship combine with music performance to provide an integrated approach to the discipline.

The major or minor in music intensifies this integrated approach to create highly creative, analytical thinkers with self-discipline and independent organizational skills. They are welcomed by graduate schools and employers alike.

Requirements for the Major in Music

Number of Units
Eleven units are required in addition to the prerequisite. AP credit accepted to meet prerequisite only.

Required Courses
Prerequisite: MUSC 105 completed with a grade of C or above. This prerequisite may also be met by examination or an AP score of 4 or 5.
MUSC 130, 135, and 235 Music Theory Sequence
MUSC 150 and 155 Music History Sequence
MUSC 148 Music of World Cultures
MUSC 490 Senior Seminar

Electives
Four elective courses in the student's focus area (see "About Focus Area" for more information) selected from:
Ensembles (at least one of the four electives must be an ensemble; see "About Music Ensembles" for more information)
Applied Music (see "About Applied Music" for more information)
MUSC 161, 162, or 163 Instrumental Methods
MUSC 165 Jazz Explorations
MUSC 205 Music and Identity (Sophomore Seminar)
MUSC 207 Listening Across Cultures (Sophomore Seminar)
MUSC 260 Conducting
MUSC 315 Sound and Culture in the Middle East
MUSC 320 Arts Entrepreneurship
MUSC 465 Music Education Seminar

Additional Expectations
In order to successfully complete the Music Major, students must also pass a comprehensive integrative exam (administered as part of the Senior Seminar), and demonstrate aural and basic keyboard proficiency (accomplished through labs attached to the three-course theory sequence). With few exceptions, transfer courses and coursework completed abroad may not count towards the Major. Majors who plan advanced music studies in graduate school or who aspire to professional careers are strongly encouraged to complete their senior individualized project in the department. Majors are also encouraged to participate in an ensemble beyond their one required unit, and to study applied music in each quarter of residency. With few exceptions, a full unit of applied music credited toward the Major must be achieved by the study in the same instrument. Musical performances on campus should be attended by Music Majors, including concerts by invited guests, by Music Department Faculty, and by fellow music students.

About Focus Areas
Music Majors and Minors, in consultation with their advisors, are encouraged to choose electives that combine to form a focused approach to a musical sub-discipline, such as - but certainly not limited to - Education, Performance, Jazz, Musicology, or Composition/Theory. Where appropriate, taking cognates in other fields (Business courses for those interested in arts administration or Psychology courses for those interested in Education or Music Therapy, for example) can strengthen the experience of the Music Major.

In addition, Majors may consider incorporating three recommended programs available to all students at the College into their own musical K Plan:
**Requirements for the Minor in Music**

**Number of Units**
A minimum of six units in addition to the prerequisite are required for the minor in music. AP credit accepted to meet prerequisite only.

**Required Courses**
*Prerequisite: MUSC 105 completed with a grade of C or above. This prerequisite may also be met by examination or an AP score of 4 or 5.*

- At least one unit from MUSC 130, 135, or 235 Music Theory Sequence
- At least one unit from MUSC 148 World Music, MUSC 150, or 155 Music History Sequence

**Electives**
Four elective courses in the student's focus area (See "About Focus Area" above for more information) selected from additional courses in the required list and/or:
- Ensembles (See "About Music Ensembles" for more information)
- Applied Music (See "About Applied Music" for more information)
- MUSC 161, 162, or 163 Instrumental Methods
- MUSC 165 Jazz Explorations
- MUSC 205 Music and Identity (Sophomore Seminar)
- MUSC 207 Listening Across Cultures (Sophomore Seminar)
- MUSC 260 Conducting
- MUSC 315 Sound and Culture in the Middle East
- MUSC 320 Arts Entrepreneurship
- MUSC 465 Music Education Seminar

**Additional Expectations**
With few exceptions, transfer courses and coursework completed abroad may not count toward the Minor, and each full unit of applied music credited toward the Minor must be achieved by study in the same instrument. Music Minors are encouraged to participate in an ensemble and to study applied music in each quarter of residency. Musical performances on campus should be attended by Music Minors, including concerts by invited guests, by Music Department Faculty, and by fellow music students.

**Music courses**

**MUSC 100 Program Music: Stories in Sound**
Program music is instrumental music influenced by an extra-musical source. In other words, the music contains a "program" or story. The program can be drawn from any source, but is usually taken from literature, myths, legends, landscapes, paintings, or personal dramas. Therefore, in addition to studying the music, this course will examine the extra-musical influences associated with the music. To further enhance your understanding and appreciation of this genre, you will produce four programmatic works of your own by creating multimedia presentations using music and images in support of an original story or borrowed program. No prior training or experience in music is assumed or necessary, and the course is intended for non-majors. The cultivation of intelligent and perceptive responses to programmatic music will be the primary focus as we explore the many aspects of this genre, be they cultural, mechanical, or expressive.

**MUSC 105 Introduction to Music**
Study of the language, power, and communicative properties of music in the Western tradition. Students will acquire basic skills in music literacy, theory, and aural comprehension. In addition, selected works, both popular and classical and ranging in time from the Middle Ages to the present, will be listened to and discussed with an emphasis on their musical style and cultural-social context. Class activities will include guest performances, concert attendance (on and off campus), and behind-the-scenes looks at what goes into making music. Students considering a major in Music should enroll in MUSC 105 in the winter quarter of their first year. No prior music reading or basic theory knowledge is expected. Advanced students may request to test out of MUSC-105; please consult the Department Chair.

**MUSC 130 Western Music Theory and Analysis I**
Building upon the skills acquired in MUSC 105, students use two voice counterpoint as a gateway to fluency in writing complete four-part phrases in tonal harmony. They will discover how these principles of voice-leading and harmonic grammar form the foundation of historic and contemporary musical styles. Aural comprehension skills are acquired from the concurrent lab for the course.

Prerequisite: MUSC-105 or permission

MUSC 135 Western Music Theory and Analysis II
Building upon the skills acquired in MUSC 130, students will study techniques of modulation, as well as expressive and coloristic devices leading to late 19th century chromaticism, leading into 20th century practices. These elements will be part of further study of popular and art song form, theme and variations, rondo and sonata. Class meetings will include both lecture and workshops. Coordinated aural comprehension skills are acquired from the concurrent lab for this course.

Prerequisite: MUSC-130 or permission

MUSC 148 Music of World Cultures
Study of music of various cultures within their social contexts. The course includes folk, traditional, classical, and popular music from selected traditions in Africa, India, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. It presents music as an evolving process and the performance of music as an expression of individual and cultural identity. Using readings, discussions, guest lectures and performances, CDs, and films, the course provides a framework for comparison of musical cultures from different parts of the world. No music reading or basic theory knowledge required.

MUSC 150 Western Music Before 1750
Study of the developments in musical style from the Middle Ages through the Baroque including sacred and secular music of Italy, Germany, France, England, and the Netherlands. Representative works from all topics will be presented in their stylistic and cultural contexts.

Prerequisite: Music reading and basic theory knowledge is expected

MUSC 155 Western Art Music After 1750
A historical and textual survey of the music produced during the Classical, Romantic and Modern ears. Representative works - among the topics considered will be Lied, Opera, Symphony, Programmatic Music, Atonal and Serial Music - will be presented in their stylistic and cultural contexts.

Prerequisite: Music reading and basic theory knowledge is expected

MUSC 161 Beginning Band Methods: Brass
Basic techniques of playing orchestra and band instruments; emphasis on understanding the principles and problems of playing brass. No music reading or basic theory knowledge is required.

MUSC 162 Beginning Band Methods: Woodwinds
Basic techniques of playing orchestra and band instruments; emphasis on understanding the principles and problems of playing woodwinds. No music reading or basic theory knowledge is required.

MUSC 163 Instrumental Music Methods: Strings
Basic techniques of playing the four orchestral stringed instruments. No music reading or basic theory knowledge is required.

MUSC 165 Jazz: A Creative and Cultural Exploration
This course is intended to introduce students to the cultural context, instrumentation, theory, form, and analysis of jazz from its early West African roots to contemporary times. Emphasis will be placed on listening to various artists and styles. No music reading or basic theory knowledge is required.

MUSC 205/SEMN 256 Music and Identity
Music serves multiple roles: a force for social transformation, a flag of resistance, a proclamation of cultural identity, a catalyst for expressing emotion, an avenue to experiencing the sacred. Students will look at identity through the lens of contemporary and traditional American music and will consider how race, ethnicity, age, gender, national identity, and other factors express themselves in and are shaped by music. The ability to read music or understand basic music theory is not required; a love of music and an interest in American culture are essential. This course is a Shared Passages Sophomore Seminar.

Prerequisite: Sophomores only

MUSC 207/SEMN 210 Listening Across Cultures
What does it mean to be a knowledgeable music listener? An expert listener? A native listener? Hip hop has its “heads,” French opera had claqueurs, and Syrian tarab has the sammi’a (expert listeners), but is the act of listening the same across cultures, or is there something to the local perception of music that goes beyond style and genre? Questioning the adage that “Music is the universal language,” this course will examine how people assign meaning and power to music. Analyzing music from around the world, we will attune our ears to the ways in which people across cultural borders conceptualize music, sound and the act of listening. No music reading or basic theory knowledge is required.

Prerequisite: Sophomores Only

MUSC 235 Music Theory & Analysis III
Building upon the skills acquired in MUSC135, students will refine their facility with the extended tonal harmony of the late-19th and early 20th centuries through analysis and model composition in multiple styles, including jazz and popular music. Students will also explore post-tonal and non-common practice repertories (including serialism, process music, spectralism, indeterminacy, electroacoustic music, rock and
pop) through set theory and extended harmonic methods as well as analytic paradigms centered on rhythm and timbre. Coordinated aural comprehension skills are acquired from the concurrent lab for this course.

**Prerequisite:** MUSC-135

**MUSC 260 Conducting**

A study of the general rudiments of ensemble conducting through an emphasis on the orchestral literature. After an introduction to critical score-reading concepts (analysis skills, transposition, special terms, historical background), the remainder of the course is dedicated to practical application, with students receiving weekly podium time in front of a small laboratory ensemble. Offered spring quarter, even years

**Prerequisite:** MUSC-105 or permission

**MUSC 295 Social Transformation Through US Arts**

How have the arts stimulated and informed social transformation in America over the last 100 years? This interdisciplinary course will involve a brief period of individual research and discussion of student findings which forms the basis for an original performance-art piece incorporating spoken word, song, dance, and/or visual art to tell this story through an engaging final performance at the Arcus Center, a local high school, and a local non-profit targeting underserved populations who might benefit from the performance. Designed to accommodate students who enjoy creative activity in a variety of disciplines.

**MUSC 320 Arts Entrepreneurship**

A look at the relationship between art, artists, presenters, audience, and funding in the 21st Century. Explore themes of entrepreneurship through case studies of successful artistic ventures and investigate the lessons learned from failed arts organizations. This course will be centered around the discussions of what it means to be an artist in the 21st century, what will engage future audiences, and how students with art degrees will pursue viable careers in the arts. Concepts studied will include but not be limited to: networking, non-profit leadership, organizational structure, non-linear career paths, fundraising, and audience engagement.

**MUSC 465 Music Education Seminar**

An examination of the philosophy, methods, and materials for teaching instrumental, vocal, and general music, K-12. The course is designed to prepare students for successful careers in music education. Topics include rehearsal techniques, budgeting time and money, classroom methods and management, developing and maintaining an inventory, recruitment strategies, library acquisition and management, and networking skills. As part of the course of study, each student will be assigned to a large ensemble to serve as an assistant to the director. Each student will also engage in off-campus classroom observation. Offered by request.

**Prerequisite:** MUSC-105 or permission; junior or senior standing.

**MUSC 490 Senior Seminar**

Upper-division course whose objective is to encourage integration and discovery of relationships between such areas as academics, performance, career development, the SIP, and careers in music. Research and analysis skills will be connected to contemporary issues in musical life, themes in music history, and alternative perspectives in style analysis.

**Prerequisite:** MUSC-148, MUSC-150, MUSC-155, AND MUSC-235; junior or senior standing

**MUSC 593 Senior Individualized Project**

Each program or department sets its own requirements for Senior Individualized Projects done in that department, including the range of acceptable projects, the required background of students doing projects, the format of the SIP, and the expected scope and depth of projects. See the Kalamazoo Curriculum -> Senior Individualized Project section of the Academic Catalog for more details.

**Prerequisite:** Permission of department and SIP supervisor required.

**About Music Ensembles**

All students at Kalamazoo College may participate in ensembles. Generally meeting twice a week for periods of an hour and a half, ensembles should not conflict with the regular course schedule. A student may earn up to 5 full units in music ensembles and applied music (See "About Applied Music") combined toward graduation; as many as three of those may be applied to the Major or Minor, and at least one unit of ensemble credit is required for the Major.

**Music Ensembles**

**MUSC 200A College Singers**

The largest choral organization on campus emphasizing diverse repertoire and varied performance experiences, including a major performance each quarter.

**Prerequisite:** Vocal evaluation

**MUSC 200B Chamber Choir**

Participation by advanced choral singers with good sight-reading and ensemble skills; varied choral experiences.

**Prerequisite:** Audition

**MUSC 200BI IS Chamber Choir**
MUSC 200C Bach Festival Chorus  
Participation in the annual College Festival in conjunction with the Kalamazoo community.  
*Prerequisite: Audition*

MUSC 200D Symphonic Band  
Emphasizing a variety of music for brass, woodwinds, and percussion; ability to play a band instrument required. Previous band experience expected.

MUSC 200F International Percussion Ensemble  
Performance and study of International percussion traditions from around the world. Students may choose to participate in West African drumming, Japanese Taiko, South Indian classical drumming (mridangam), Caribbean steel "pan" drumming, or marimba ensemble. One college concert is presented each quarter.

MUSC 200G Jazz Band  
Performance of standard and contemporary jazz arrangements for band and/or small combo; music reading required, but no previous improvisational or jazz band experience needed.  
*Prerequisite: Audition*

MUSC 200H Kalamazoo Philharmonia  
A full symphonic orchestra that rehearses once weekly and performs at least one full program each quarter. Philharmonia members include community members and professional leaders in addition to students. Registered students also are required to participate in additional sectional rehearsals. Proficient string, wind, brass, and percussion players are invited to audition; previous experience is preferred.  
*Prerequisite: Audition*

MUSC 200I Improvisation Workshop  
For the inquisitive musician who desires to learn the why and how of jazz improvisation, theory, and composition, juxtaposed with intimate jazz ensemble playing with emphasis on improvisation.

MUSC 200J Accompanying  
Performance opportunities open to advanced keyboardists by audition.

MUSC 200K Pit Orchestra  
Offered spring quarter, odd years.

**About Applied Music**

Professional performers and teachers from the community join with the regular faculty of Kalamazoo College to teach individual lessons for a wide range of instruments and voice. These courses are open to all students, regardless of level, and each accruces 1/5 unit per quarter of participation. A student may earn up to 5 full units in music ensembles (see "About Music Ensembles") and applied music combined toward graduation; as many as three of those may be applied to the Major or Minor. With few exceptions, each full unit of applied music credit toward the Major or Minor must be achieved by study in the same instrument.

At the end of each quarter, every student taking applied music must play a hearing before a group of music faculty members. Attendance at two performance area classes and the applied music recital each quarter is also required of students enrolled in applied music.

Upon the recommendation of the instructor, very advanced students may present a department-sponsored recital.

An extra fee is charged for applied music instruction. Please see the section of the catalog entitled "Policies: Expenses, Refund Policies, Fees" for more information.

**Applied Music courses**

MUSC 201 Chamber Music  
Instrumental and/or vocal ensembles arranged with the music faculty. Offered by request.

MUSC 210 Group Guitar Fundamentals

MUSC 213 Group Music Production Fundamentals

MUSC 214 Music Production  
*Prerequisite: MUSC-213 or MUSC-214 or Permission*

MUSC 221 Composition

MUSC 221J Jazz Arranging and Composition

MUSC 222 Piano
MUSC 222J Jazz Piano
MUSC 224 Harp
MUSC 225 Organ
MUSC 230 Voice
MUSC 230J Jazz Voice
MUSC 240 Viola
MUSC 240A Violin
MUSC 241 Cello
MUSC 242 String Bass
MUSC 242J Jazz Bass
MUSC 243 Guitar
MUSC 243J Jazz Guitar
MUSC 250 Clarinet
MUSC 252 Flute
MUSC 253 Oboe
MUSC 254 Bassoon
MUSC 255 Saxophone
MUSC 261 Advanced Conducting
Prerequisite: MUSC-260
MUSC 270 Trumpet
MUSC 271 Trombone
MUSC 272 French Horn
MUSC 273 Tuba
MUSC 274 Euphonium
MUSC 280 Percussion

The Academic Catalog contains the most accurate information available at the time of publication. Statements contained therein are not contractual obligations, and verbal or other representations that are inconsistent with or not contained within the catalogues' offerings or policies are not binding. Kalamazoo College reserves the right to change, without specific notice, offerings, policies, procedures, qualifications, fees, and other conditions.

This content was last updated on October 27 2017.