Music

The Macalester Music Department offers courses and performance opportunities in Western concert music, jazz, pop, African music, Chinese music, Scottish piping, and other musical traditions. Individual instruction at all levels and musical ensembles by audition are available for all interested students. Students may major or minor in music.

Faculty

Victoria Malawey, associate professor and chair, holds a PhD in music theory from Indiana University. Her articles have appeared in The Journal of the Royal Musical Association, Music Theory Online, Popular Music, and Indiana Theory Review. She teaches courses in music theory, ear training, popular music studies, and gender and music.

Randall Bauer, associate professor, teaches music theory, ear training, and composition, as well as courses on jazz and improvisation. He holds a PhD from Princeton University, where he completed a dissertation on Keith Jarrett. Bauer is a recognized composer in both Western classical and jazz idioms.

Mark Mandarano, assistant professor, is the conductor of the Macalester Orchestra and director of instrumental music. He has conducted numerous orchestras across the U.S. and abroad and has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center. He has conducted premières by composers such as John Corigliano, Melinda Wagner, and Karel Husa, and has conducted recordings for Bridge Records and Arabesque Recordings. He holds degrees from the Peabody Institute and Cornell University.

Mark Mazullo, professor, is a musicologist and pianist. His writing on wide-ranging subjects has appeared in The Yale Review, The Musical Quarterly, American Music, Popular Music, and other publications. His book, Shostakovich’s Preludes and Fugues: Contexts, Style, Performance, was published by Yale University Press in 2010. Mazullo appears regularly as a pianist in solo, chamber, and concerto settings in the Twin Cities. He teaches piano as well as courses in the history of Western art music and American popular music.

Michael McGaghie, assistant professor, conducts the Macalester Concert Choir and Macalester Chorale. He also serves as chorus master to the Minnesota Bach Ensemble and conductor of the Harvard Glee Club Alumni Chorus. The American Choral Directors Association has honored his work with an International Conductors Exchange fellowship and the Julius Herford Prize. He holds degrees from Harvard University and Boston University.

Laura Nichols, visiting assistant professor, teaches private voice lessons and runs the opera workshop. An active performer, she was a student of legendary teacher Jan DeGaetani at the Eastman School of Music, and has sung with the Minnesota Opera, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Duluth Symphony Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and many other institutions. She recently released a CD of never-before-recorded songs by Anton Rubinstein and St. Paul composer Justin Busch. She holds a PhD in music education from the University of Minnesota.

Chuen-Fung Wong, associate professor, studies the music and culture of the Uyghur people in northwest China. He is recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship. Wong teaches courses in ethnomusicology and world music, and directs the Macalester Asian Music Ensemble.

Full-Time Continuing Staff

Michael Breidenbach is the director of piping at Macalester College and is the pipe major of the Grade III competition band. He has been a full-time bagpipe teacher and performer since 1999 and is now recognized as an accomplished Grade I piper.

Sowah Mensah is the director of the African Music Ensemble and teaches African music. He is an ethnomusicologist, composer, and master drummer from Ghana. He also gives private lessons in African drumming, xylophones, singing, and flute.

Part-Time Continuing Staff

Cléa Galhano directs the Early Music Ensemble. Galhano studied in Brazil at Faculdade Santa Marcelina, the Royal Conservatory (The Hague), and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, earning a Fulbright scholarship and support from the Dutch government.

Joan Griffith directs MacJazz (big band). She performs professionally as a freelance artist on guitar, bass, and mandolin, and has appeared on NPR’s A Prairie Home Companion.

Shelley Hanson, director of the Wind Ensemble, is a composer, arranger, teacher, and professional musician, with an affinity for writing and performing folk music. Her band, Klezmer and All That Jazz, recorded traditional and original music for the audiobook version of the Yiddish play The Dybbuk. She holds a PhD in performance, music theory, and music literature from Michigan State University.

Peter Hennig, director of the Jazz and Pop Music Combos, has been a freelance musician and music educator based in the Twin Cities since 2001. Peter is a founding member of the Atlantis Quartet, which received a Twin Cities Best Jazz Award in 2011 and a McKnight Fellowship grant in 2015. He is also a recipient of a Minnesota Emerging Composers Award.
The Music Major

The music major provides preparation for graduate study in music and for many music- and arts-related jobs and professions. Required courses include the music theory sequence and courses in the history of diverse musical traditions. Elective courses may focus on the student’s area of musical emphasis. The capstone project, required for majors, usually takes the form of a senior recital.

Performance

Private lessons are offered on all Western instruments, as well as many African, Chinese, and Indian instruments. Ensembles include Orchestra, Concert Choir, MacJazz, Pipe Band, African Music Ensemble, Jazz and Pop Combos, Macalester Chorale, Early Music Ensemble, Asian Music Ensemble, and chamber ensembles.

Scottish Heritage

Macalester's Highland Pipe Band competes nationally and internationally and performs at college events. The college provides uniforms for Pipe Band members as well as instruments and free lessons for Macalester students.

Honors Projects

Yihao Zhou ’16 (Beijing, China), "Mozart’s Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in B-Flat Major, K. 450: A Performance and Formal Analysis"

Jan Cervenka ’13 (Ostrava, Czech Republic), “Orchestral Conducting: Study and In-Concert Performance of Orchestral Works by Haydn, Strauss, and Martinu”

Sam Tygiel ’13 (San Francisco), “Earthless: A Sonic Exploration of the Space Between Death and Life, Composed in Five Movements for Chamber Ensemble”

Special Opportunities

Macalester's urban location offers opportunities to hear the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, and Minnesota Opera, and to visit jazz clubs, blues bars, and nightspots featuring local and touring rock groups. The Music Department hosts guest musicians and students take advantage of internships and work experience with local arts groups and media outlets.

Concerto/Aria Performances with Orchestra

The orchestra's annual concert features student soloists chosen by audition. Recent performers have presented concertos by Grieg, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Lalo, and Gershwin.

Touring

The Concert Choir tours annually, recently to Seattle, New York, and Japan. The Orchestra has visited Duluth, Milwaukee and Chicago. MacJazz has toured in the Midwest, and annually participates in the Eau Claire Jazz Festival. The Pipe Band regularly travels to Winnipeg for the Highland Games, and the African Music Ensemble has toured to Ann Arbor (Mich.), New Orleans, New York and other cities.

Facilities

The music building includes a beautiful concert hall, large ensemble rehearsal rooms, faculty offices, classrooms, and an inviting commons area for the entire campus community.

Internships

Jacob Essig-Beatty ’16 (Lewisburg, W.Va.) was a booking intern at the Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis.

Vincy Chan ’15 (Hong Kong) interned at the Dakota Jazz Club in Minneapolis.

Jonas Yela ’14 (San Francisco), Vincy Chan ’15 (Hong Kong), and Elizabeth Hildebrandt ’17 (Longmont, Colo.) interned as recording and production assistants at Waterbury Music + Sound, Minneapolis.

After Macalester

Elliot Pena ’16 (Round Rock, Texas) works at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School.

Yihao Zhou ’16 (Beijing, China) is entering a master’s program in piano performance at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in the fall of 2016.

Vincy Chan ’15 (Hong Kong) works in graphic design and marketing at the Dakota Jazz Club in Minneapolis.

Kaarin Evens ’15 (Duluth, Minn.) is pursuing a PhD in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Samantha Horn ’14 (Niceville, Fla.) is pursuing an MA/PhD in musicology at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

Honza Cervenka ’13 (Ostrava, Czech Republic) works as a legal analyst at McAllister Olivarius in London.

Aaron Dawson ’13 (Haverford, Pa.) is pursuing a master of music technology degree at New York University.

Johanna Kvam ’13 (Rochester, Minn.) completed a master’s degree in vocal accompanying at the Peabody Conservatory.

Emma Rose Lynn ’13 (Seattle) is pursuing a master’s degree in vocal performance at the University of Oregon.

San Tygiel ’13 (San Francisco) is a composer in St. Paul and works as marketing coordinator for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

John Verruilen ’13 (Green Bay, Wis.) is pursuing a master’s degree in vocal performance at the University of Oregon.

Luis Gabriel Mesa-Martinez ’07 (Pasto, Colombia) completed a PhD in musicology at the University of Granada, Spain; he is now a professor of musicology in his native Colombia.

Printed August 2016

macalester.edu/music