



Stony Brook
University

The Music Major

From its beginnings more than a half-century ago, Stony Brook University has been characterized by innovation, energy, and progress, transforming the lives of people who earn degrees, work, and make groundbreaking discoveries here. A dramatic trajectory of growth has turned what was once a small teachers college into an internationally recognized research institution that is changing the world

Today Stony Brook is one of only 62 members of the prestigious, invitation-only Association of American Universities and the London *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* lists Stony Brook in the top 1 percent of the world's universities.

The undergraduate program in music balances musical studies in performance, theory, musicianship, and history with the broad, general education of a liberal arts degree. The Music Major Core Curriculum includes: four semesters of musicianship, lessons, and ensemble; five semesters of theory and analysis; a three semester history sequence; three semesters of keyboard harmony, two upper division electives. Students also take additional electives in their areas of interest in performance, composition, history/theory, pre-music education, and pre-music therapy. The undergraduate program is relatively small, with only 100 students.

Completion of the major prepares students for professional careers in performance, teaching, composition, and scholarship. Recent graduates have won national prizes in performance or have

gone on to graduate study at such institutions as the University of Chicago, Yale University, Florida State University, the University of Miami, UCLA, Mannes School of Music, among others. Students have also pursued certification in music education and teach at many public and private schools throughout New York State. Still other students have gone on to programs in music therapy, arts management, or other sectors of the music business. The department also welcomes students into the major whose career plans will take them into such diverse fields as health care and business; double majors in most areas are feasible.

The department also administers a Computer Music Studio, an Electronic Music Studio, and a Multi-Media Laboratory for Technology and the Arts. The E-Media Sinc Site, an interdisciplinary

studio operated by the Music, Art, and Theatre Arts departments, offers a state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory with multi-media hardware and software and internet access. First-year students in the Department of Music are typically affiliated with the College of Arts, Culture, and Humanities, with resident students living in the same complex, which has an arts center with practice rooms, a 300-seat theater, art gallery, computer site, and café, as well as a variety of arts-related programs and courses.

Note: An audition is required for admission to the music major. Students who perform successfully in the audition and their theory placement and musicianship exams will be admitted to the music major upon admission to the University. In addition, students participating in this audition process may be considered for scholarship offers and the opportunity to study with Performance Faculty.

www.stonybrook.edu/admissions



Priority Application Deadline:
January 15

E-mail: enroll@stonybrook.edu
Phone: (631) 632-6868



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY'S MUSIC MAJOR

What should I prepare for the audition?

The following list of pieces is “advisory” only. Students should prepare pieces in their repertoire that they feel best demonstrate their technical skill and musical artistry. In all cases except voice and percussion, performers may present two or three movements or pieces in contrasting character and historical period as a demonstration of their musical proficiency.

Piano: Students should be ready to present two-three “excerpts” from a full and representative recital program.

Harpsichord:

- a) J.S. Bach- a prelude and fugue from the Well-Tempered Clavier, or a toccata;
- b) D. Scarlatti – 2 contrasting sonatas or a representative Italian 17th century work;
- c) 2 contrasting movements from an F. Couperin Ordre or a 20th century work.

Violin and Viola:

- a) The first movement of a standard concerto or sonata;
- b) One or two works of contrasting nature and style: etudes, a slow movement, a Bach suite movement, etc.

Cello:

- a) An advanced etude: Popper, Grutzmacher, Piatti, etc.;
- b) the first movement of a concerto – such as those by Schumann, Haydn (D Major) or Dvorak – or a movement of a sonata or work of comparable difficulty;
- c) one or two contrasting movements from a Bach suite.

Bass: A representative sonata or concerto, or two or three contrasting movements from different pieces, short works, or orchestral solos.

Woodwinds:

- a) a slow and fast movement from a sonata or concerto;
- b) a technical etude.

Brass:

- a) Two contrasting movements from a piece or two contrasting solo pieces;
- b) a few standard orchestral excerpts.

Percussion:

- a) timpani solo;
- b) a snare drum solo;
- c) a mallet solo.

Guitar:

- a) Two movements from one of the Bach suites;
- b) one etude by Villa-Lobos (not #1);
- c) one major contemporary work.

Voice: Two songs from the classical repertoire in two different languages. One may be in English.

How long is the audition?

Each audition will not exceed 10 minutes in duration. Please plan or repertoire accordingly.

What will I have to do when I come to audition?

To become a music major at Stony Brook, students must pass an audition, as well as show competence in rudimentary music theory and rudimentary musicianship (ear-training). On the day you come to Stony Brook, you will audition as well as take a one-hour exam in rudimentary music theory and musicianship. Students who do not pass either the theory or musicianship parts of the exam may take preparatory courses their first year at Stony Brook that, if successfully completed, will permit entry to the major in their second year. Students who enter the music program in their second year can still graduate in four years total.

Must I audition in person?

Auditions are only held at Stony Brook University. Students who live outside a 250-mile radius, or have extenuating circumstances that prevent them from being present at Stony Brook on the day of the auditions, may include a CD with their application materials in lieu of an audition.

If I am accepted as a music major, will I study with performance faculty?

Stony Brook has a large and distinguished

graduate program, about two-and-a-half times the size of our undergraduate program. Our performance faculty are performing musicians who are in great demand as performers and as teachers, and attract hundreds of graduate applicants per year. Many are part time, and devote most of their energies to graduate teaching. While some promising students are admitted for study with performance faculty, the majority of undergraduate students study with our very fine graduate students, many of whom are returning to school while in the midst of impressive performing careers. Students who do not study with performance faculty will still have access to them through coachings and master classes. Your acceptance letter will explicitly state whether you will be studying with performance faculty or one of our many fine graduate students.

Will auditioning at Stony Brook automatically qualify me for a Music Department Scholarship?

Yes, by filling out the Department of Music one-page application, you will automatically be considered for a scholarship. The Department of Music has limited funds to offer small four-year scholarships for students talented in performance, composition, or music history (up to \$2000 a year), and also nominates qualified students for scholarships through the University Scholarship Office. These latter scholarships are typically for full tuition and fees for four years. To be eligible, students must be academically high achieving (as evidenced by high school grade point average and SAT scores), and demonstrate exceptional talent as performers. (Sometimes, exceptionally gifted performers receive these scholarships, even if their academic qualifications are less exceptional.)

Where can I learn more?

Please visit the department's Web site www.stonybrook.edu/music for more information and to print out the Music Major Application Form.