

Dear Prospective Music Student,

American University has a long and rich tradition in the Washington, D.C., arts area. With the exciting ground breaking of the Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre in the spring of 2003 and the Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen Arts Center (2005), many new opportunities await the music scholar. American University looks forward to continuing its legacy of excellence of music education and preparation in an outstanding liberal arts environment. With the nation's capital as a backdrop, an array of exciting opportunity awaits the American University music student.

Our performing arts program offers a unique blend of classroom work and performance experience. Each semester, the Department of Performing Arts (a unique multi-disciplinary environment of music, music theatre, theatre, dance and arts management) presents unparalleled offerings of plays, musicals, dance performances, orchestra, choral and jazz concerts augment classroom learning with actual experience. Similarly, the arts management program provides hands-on experience through field studies and an internship with a local or national arts organization. A dynamic interaction of performance experience, theoretical and historical understanding, and exposure to well-established professionals is designed to prepare our students for professional careers in the arts.

What better place exists to study music? The Washington, D.C., area is the home of many of the best arts organizations in the nation, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Washington Ballet, the Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts, the National Symphony, Arena Stage and the finest US Service Bands, Choruses and Orchestras. In addition, Washington, D.C., hosts many international artists and performing arts groups: students have countless opportunities to experience and attend various performances, take part in master classes with area professionals or intern at one of these wonderful local arts organizations. Whether it be a world-class orchestra, a concert at the National Cathedral, or participating in musical activities at the embassies of Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, France, Poland, or Russia, Washington, D.C., has it! Guest artists at American University have included Erick Hawkins, Twyla Tharp, Nina Wiener, Heidi Latsky, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Leon Fleischer, Herb Edleman, Cliff Fannin Baker, the Tokyo String Quartet, Nurit Bar-Josef and many others. This environment provides an excellent climate for nurturing the creative spirit.

We have enclosed a breakdown of course offerings for our music major and minor as well as a complete list of our teaching and applied music faculty. Please feel free to contact me directly at 202-885-3872 if you have any additional questions about our program.

We look forward to hearing your audition!

Sincerely,
Nancy Jo Snider
Music Program Director

Audition and Entrance Requirements

Entrance requirements vary according to the student's music field of study. In order to matriculate as a Bachelor of Arts student, the applicant must demonstrate an appropriate level of performance proficiency, ability to read music, and rudimentary knowledge of music theory.

Please Note: Admission to the music degree program is a two-step process. In order to receive full admission to the B. A. in Music program students must also be accepted by American University and must also complete a successful audition and interview with the Department of Performing Arts music program faculty. For an Undergraduate Application please contact Undergraduate Admissions at (202) 885-6000. Students may also apply to the University via the World Wide Web (<http://www.american.edu/prospective/freshmen/indep.htm>)

To schedule an audition, please complete the enclosed Music Program Supplemental Application and return to the indicated address. Students are not required to audition with an accompanist, but you may bring your own if you desire. **Audition tapes will be accepted from students who reside more than 100 miles from American University.** Compact discs, high quality cassettes, or videotapes are acceptable (tapes must be received prior to the final audition date).

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

GUITAR: CLASSICAL

Two selections drawn from any period of the solo guitar, lute or vihuela repertoire, or other methods and materials. The audition pieces should demonstrate a minimal technical level equivalent to that of the "50 Exercises Progressing in Difficulty", found in the Carcassi Classical Guitar Method

GUITAR: JAZZ

1. Prepared two standards of contrasting styles (i.e. swing or latin or ballad, etc.). Be prepared to play the single line melody at pitch, comp harmonies, and improvise.
2. Scales: two octaves each (major and all minor forms).
3. Some basic sightreading.
4. Optional: Prepared jazz etude, transcription, or chord solo.

HARP

1. Movement of a concerto or solo work, performed from memory.
2. Movement from a solo work or etude in a style that contrasts with the first selection.
3. Two orchestral or operatic excerpts of the auditionee's choice from the standard repertoire. One preferably to include a cadenza.

PERCUSSION

1. Selections for the audition may be drawn from the solo repertoire, or other methods and materials, which will demonstrate the applicant's potential. Snare drum solo comparable to repertoire from any State Festival List of repertoire.
2. Rudiments, open to closed: Single Strokes: Long roll: five and seven stroke rolls: flams, drags, and four – stroke ruffs.
3. One Timpani or marimba or xylophone solo.

PIANO

1. J.S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue from WTC book 1 or Toccata, or a single movement from any Bach suite, or Partita.
2. A movement from a sonata (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven)
3. A contrasting piece of your choice

ORCHESTRAL STRINGS

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

1. Movement of an unaccompanied work by Bach
2. First movement of a standard major concerto, or comparable single-movement work

VOICE

Two contrasting songs chosen from solo vocal literature (arias of composers such as Gluck, Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Schubert, Faurè, Barber, or Rorem). *Note: For voice students an accompanist will be provided. Please bring an additional copy of music for the pianist.*

WINDS

Woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon

Brass: Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Two compositions of contrasting style, one of which must be selected from the solo literature; the other may be an etude or study.

Please return the supplemental application no later than two weeks prior to your requested audition date.

American University
Music Program Supplemental Application
Please return no later than two weeks prior to your requested audition date

Name: _____
last first middle initial

Social Security Number: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____
street

_____ *city state zip code country*

Email: _____

Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent's or Guardian's Name in Full: _____

Have you applied for admission to American University? _____

Have you been notified of your acceptance by the Admissions Office? _____

Are you currently enrolled at American University? Major: _____ Credits Earned: _____ GPA: _____

Have you auditioned for the Department of Performing Arts? _____

In which semester do you plan to enroll in the Dept. of Performing Arts? _____
semester year

What is your intended major? _____

Musical Experience: Primary Instrument or Voice Type _____

Instructor(s) Name(s) _____

Years of Private Study _____

Secondary Instrument or Voice Type _____

Instructor(s) Name(s) _____

Years of Private Study _____

Music Ensemble Experience: _____

Ensemble Conductor/Director Yrs.

_____ *Ensemble Conductor/Director Yrs.*

High School(s) Attended: _____

Name Location

_____ *Name Location*

Date of Graduation: _____ Grade Point Average: _____ SAT Scores: V: _____ M: _____

College(s) Attended:

Name *Location*

Name *Location*

Are you presently receiving any merit or talent based aid? _____

Please list any academic honors, awards or music distinctions received (feel free to attach addition pages as needed):

Please list the names of other institutions to which you are applying: _____

What factors will influence your choice of school? _____

Please feel free to provide any further information that may be of interest to the audition committee on an attached sheet.

Recommendations: Please list below two persons the Music Program may contact for a music recommendation.

Name

Name

Position

Position

Institution

Telephone

Institution

Telephone

Repertoire Sheet

*Please attach a list of the most significant solo repertory you have studied for your primary instrument or voice.
Please include technical studies where appropriate.*

Audition Repertoire

Please list the specific repertoire you will present at your audition.

Title:

Composer:

Audition Date Request

Please circle one of the following dates

Saturday, November 15, 2008

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Late Audition: February 21, 2009

Auditions are scheduled in the order in which applications are received.

You will be notified of your audition time and location.

Again, students who live farther than 100 miles from AU are welcome to mail an audition tape.

(Tapes must be received prior to the final audition date)

Department of Performing Arts

Music Program - Katzen Arts Center

4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20016-8053 Fax 202-885-1092