

*Undergraduate*  
*MUSIC at YALE*



*Department of Music*

*469 College Street  
New Haven, CT 06511*

*Telephone: (203) 432-2985  
E-mail: [dus.music@yale.edu](mailto:dus.music@yale.edu)*

## **Music at Yale**

For nearly 150 years, the study of music at Yale has produced many famous figures in musical composition, in the performance of music, and in music scholarship. Today the university ranks among the very top institutions that foster music, at the undergraduate level in Yale College, at the post-graduate level in the Yale School of Music, and in the Ph.D. program in music within the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

### **The Department of Music**

The Department of Music in Yale College is the home of undergraduate music majors as well as the source of course work designed for the non-major with minimal preparation in music. For the music major, the Department of Music offers a full-scale, humanities-based program in the composition, history, and theory of music that is intended to provide an extensive background in the art form for students who will go on to professional careers as composers, performers, or scholars, or who may enter fields in which a solid grounding in music is essential, such as arts management, cognitive psychology, music production, publishing, or world music. The study of musical performance for credit toward the music major and the Bachelor of Arts degree is available by an arrangement between Yale College and the Yale School of Music. Completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in music is an excellent basis for post-graduate music study. Students may select Music as a humanities major, just as they would, for example, select English or History.

The Faculty of the Department of Music comprises some twenty full-time members, all of whom are active professionally in various capacities, in addition to fulfilling their primary educational responsibilities within the university. By tradition, each faculty member teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses.

The Yale Department of Music enjoys an international reputation of the highest order; it is regarded as one of the finest music departments in the United States, attracting students from all parts of the country and many from abroad. Its extensive graduate program brings talented young music scholars to Yale, providing yet another dimension of expertise to the undergraduate program in music.

### **Programs of Undergraduate Study**

In addition to the standard music major and the intensive music major, there are additional opportunities for undergraduates to enlarge the scope of their undergraduate education in connection with their music studies. Some students elect a double major, completing the requirements for the music major simultaneously with those for a major in another field. There are two combined degree programs: the combined Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music program, offered in cooperation with the Yale School of Music, and the combined Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts program, offered in cooperation with the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The combined B.A. / M.M. program requires a total of five years of study, while the B.A. / M.A. program, available to specially qualified students, is completed in four years.

### **Performance Study**

Lessons in instrumental and vocal performance are arranged through the Yale School of Music. Music lessons for credit toward the bachelor's degree are available to both majors and non-majors, who qualify by audition, on the basis of their performing ability and their enrollment in a required music theory course. Qualified undergraduates have the opportunity to study with School of Music faculty, subject to their availability. Piano-equipped practice spaces are available in Hendrie Hall as well as in the residential colleges.

## **The YalMusT Lab**

The YalMusT Lab serves a variety of constituencies. Those faculty and students working at the YalMusT Lab focus on the creative interaction between music, video and technology, and the research, performance, and pedagogical impact of that focus. Students enrolled in fundamental musicianship courses, composition classes, music theory courses, music history courses, as well as courses in music, video and technology, use the YalMusT Lab facilities.

## **Libraries and Collections**

The renowned Irving S. Gilmore Music Library, a research facility comprising some 140,000 books and recordings, contains unique collections, such as the Charles Ives and Mellon Chansonnier Collections and provides an invaluable resource for the study of music. In addition, the Sterling Memorial Library serves as the center of the library system, and the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library is the principal repository for literary papers and for early manuscripts and rare books.

## **Extracurricular Musical Activities at Yale**

Extracurricular musical activities at Yale are legendary. Undergraduate performing organizations include the Yale Glee Club, the Yale University Bands, the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Yale College New Music and the Yale Javanese Gamelan - Gamelan Suprabanggo. In addition, there are chamber orchestras within many of the residential colleges, informal chamber music groups, and the Yale singing groups, of which the Whiffenpoofs is the most well known.

## **Supplementary Materials for Admission**

Yale College does not conduct musical auditions for applicants. Music faculty members will review selected audio recordings or scores from advanced musicians, whether or not they wish to major in music as undergraduates.

Please send materials only if your accomplishments are truly outstanding for a high school musician and if your playing or composing is a strong and important part of your application. Submissions that demonstrate an average or merely competent level of ability for a high school musician will not help your application and are discouraged.

All audio recordings must be submitted as .mp3 files at the Office of Admissions online supplementary materials submissions website by the appropriate application deadline (November 1 for Single-Choice Early Action candidates; December 31 for Regular Decision candidates; March 1 for transfer candidates). Musical scores should be submitted as .pdf files at the Office of Admissions online supplementary materials submissions website as well.

The following guidelines must be observed:

1. Submissions from instrumentalists and vocalists should consist of two or three pieces of contrasting styles ( e.g. Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern, etc.) which demonstrate abilities in the areas of tone, technique, and interpretation. Singers should submit at least one piece in a foreign language. Do not present selections from method books. Whole pieces or movements (as opposed to excerpts) are preferred.
2. Submissions from composers should contain scores (.pdf) and matching recordings (.mp3).
3. Submissions of recordings or scores of popular music or jazz at a high level are welcome.
4. Although your recording need not be of professional quality it should be clear enough to enable the evaluator to arrive at a judgment without distracting interference. Live recordings from recitals or performances are fine, so long as the quality is high enough to discern the applicant's musical abilities. Scores must be neat and legible.

5. When uploading individual files onto the supplementary materials website, please indicate the title and composer of each submission, including movements, in the space provided. (For example, "Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35, Scherzo. Frederic Chopin.")
6. Only digital submissions in proper .mp3 format will be considered. Applicants submitting recordings or scores must also check the appropriate box in Section VI of the Yale Supplement to the Common Application, titled "Supplementary Material (Optional)."
7. The Online Supplementary Materials Website site is at:  
<http://www.yale.edu/admit/freshmen/application/supplementary.html>
8. The Online Supplementary Materials Upload page is at:  
<https://application.yale.edu/supplement>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. I am interested in a professional career in music. Will music study at Yale help me achieve that goal?**

**Answer:** *The study of music at Yale College, and particularly the music major, provides a firm foundation in music that is intended to provide an extensive background in the art form for students who will go on to professional careers as composers, performers, or scholars, or who may enter fields in which a solid grounding in music is essential, such as arts management, cognitive psychology, music production, publishing, or world music.*

### **2. Is the Yale College music major a degree in performance?**

**Answer:** *No. The music major is a general music program with studies in composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music history, music technology, music theory, and performance.*

### **3. Are auditions required for admission?**

**Answer:** *Yale College is an academic institution, so there are no auditions for admission. Students are welcome to include composition works or recordings of performances with their application as supplementary material. \*See [Supplementary Materials for Admission](#).*

### **4. Are music scholarships available?**

**Answer:** *There are no specific music scholarships for undergraduates, however, financial assistance is available through the [Office of Financial Aid](#).*

### **5. Can the music major at Yale be combined with my other academic interests?**

**Answer:** *The music major at Yale is pursued as part of a diversified liberal arts program, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Although Yale does not offer minors, students may double major.*

### **6. May I take music lessons and receive academic credit?**

**Answer:** *Yes. Qualified students may apply up to four performance credits toward the thirty-six-credit requirement for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Only two performance credits may apply toward the twelve-credit requirement for the music major. Lessons are offered in cooperation with the Yale School of Music. Placement auditions are held the first week of school every September. Questions? Please contact Professor Sarita Kwok ([sarita.kwok@yale.edu](mailto:sarita.kwok@yale.edu)), the Coordinator of the Undergraduate Lessons Program.*

### **7. May I take music lessons without credit?**

**Answer:** *Yes. A fee is charged. The fee for 6 one-hour lessons is \$350, and \$550 for 12 one-hour lessons per semester. Students are required to audition for non-credit music lessons as well. Questions? Please*

contact Professor Sarita Kwok ([sarita.kwok@yale.edu](mailto:sarita.kwok@yale.edu)), the Coordinator of the Undergraduate Lessons Program.

**8. How should I prepare for placement auditions in September?**

**Answer:** Students hoping to enroll in [performance courses](#), lessons for credit, the [Yale Bands](#), the [Yale Glee Club](#), and the [Yale Symphony Orchestra](#), among others, should arrive at Yale College in September with two pieces of their choice ready for audition. It is best, but not required that these pieces be memorized. Singers may bring music for accompanists, who are provided.

**9. What opportunities are there to perform?**

**Answer:** Many of the [performance opportunities](#) at Yale College are outside the classroom. Yale College is well known for its extracurricular musical activities; both student run and those led by faculty.

**10. Will there be opportunities to play a public solo recital or to participate in a public performance?**

**Answer:** It is possible to arrange performances under the auspices of your residential college, or through the Department of Music. Sudler Hall, a very fine small concert hall, is intended for undergraduate performances. Students may compete in the annual [Friends of Music Recital Competition](#), or the [William Waite Concerto Competition](#) sponsored by the [Yale Symphony Orchestra](#).

**11. Will I be able to play chamber music?**

**Answer:** The Music Department offers Music 220/221, a year-long offering in chamber music performance, which provides professional coaching by faculty members. Additional, informal opportunities to play chamber music are ample. Questions? Please contact Professor Wendy Sharp ([wendy.sharp@yale.edu](mailto:wendy.sharp@yale.edu)) regarding chamber music study in Yale College.

**12. Will I be able to play in the Yale Symphony Orchestra?**

**Answer:** Auditions for the [Yale Symphony Orchestra](#) are held in September each year. Participation is an extra-curricular activity.

**13. I compose. Can I have my own music performed?**

**Answer:** Students may have their works performed under the auspices of [Yale College New Music](#). Many of the Yale College performance ensembles premiere compositions by Yale College composers

**14. Will I be able to study conducting?**

**Answer:** Courses in conducting are offered as electives in the Yale College music curriculum.

**15. Will the music major prepare me to teach music?**

**Answer:** [Yale's Teacher Preparation](#) program allows students to meet the requirements for certification to teach in early childhood education, or in public secondary schools. Teacher Prep is available to majors in music as well as other disciplines.

**16. How do I apply for the B.A. / M.M. program?**

**Answer:** Students in Yale College possessing outstanding ability in composition or performance may apply for the B.A. / M.M program, whether they major in music or another discipline. Interested students should consult Professor Paul Hawkshaw ([paul.hawkshaw@yale.edu](mailto:paul.hawkshaw@yale.edu)) of the Yale School of Music at the beginning of their junior year.

**17. What is the difference between the Yale Department of Music and the Yale School of Music?**

**Answer:** The Yale Department of Music offers curricular instruction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Yale College study towards the B.A. in Music includes courses offered in composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music history, music technology, music theory, and performance. As part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Yale Department of Music offers advanced courses in music theory and musicology leading to the Ph.D. The School of Music is a professional school offering only graduate degrees in composition, conducting, and music performance.

**WWW links for more information**

**Department of Music:** <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/>

**Undergraduate Music Program:** <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/undergraduate/>

**The YalMusT Lab:** <http://yalmust.music.yale.edu/>

**Libraries & Collections:** <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/libraries.html>

**Performance Courses:** <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/undergraduate/performance.html>

**Performance Lessons:** <http://music.yale.edu/academics/lessons.html>

**Performance Opportunities:** <http://www.yale.edu/yalemus/performance.html>

**Yale College:** <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/>

**Admission Information:** <http://www.yale.edu/admit/>

**Supplementary Materials for Admission:**  
<http://www.yale.edu/admit/freshmen/application/supplementary.html>

**Questions may be referred to:**

Jessica Doyle  
Department of Music, Yale University  
469 College Street  
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