Music

The Gonzaga Music Department is a center of vibrant performance and creative study for music majors, minors, and non-majors from all disciplines. Gonzaga’s students and faculty integrate musical excellence and innovation through a liberal arts education that includes performances, festivals, tours, interdisciplinary collaborations, and research. Majors and non-majors alike combine their passion for music with pursuing lives of leadership and service for the common good. Musical artists enable our community, nation, and world to inspire others, to creatively seek new solutions, and to build bridges among diverse people. Therefore, we welcome all students, regardless of major, to participate in music ensembles and private lessons.

THE PROGRAM
Over 700 students enroll in music courses, ensembles, and lessons each semester. Gonzaga University’s distinguished tradition dates to 1887 and focuses entirely on undergraduate students.

Gonzaga values student-mentor relationships, and students benefit from small classes, music leadership opportunities, and faculty-sponsored internships and research fellowships.

All students enrolled in ensembles or lessons have access to newly refurbished practice rooms and a technology lab with keyboard interfaces, allowing students to compose, edit, and arrange music.

The Music Department is accredited as an associate member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

MUSIC DEGREES
Gonzaga is the only Jesuit university on the West Coast that offers both a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Music Education. Gonzaga’s music alumni are successful music educators, performers, church musicians, composers, and arts administrators, and many continue studying in prestigious graduate programs.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC
The B.A. in Music degree includes courses in Music Theory (4 semesters), Music History (2), Conducting, New Music Ensemble, Music History Seminar, and lessons & ensembles.

Performance Concentration
The performance concentration fosters excellence through additional courses in pedagogy, repertoire, and a Junior and Senior Recital. Students study privately with one of Gonzaga’s distinguished faculty, who perform actively both internationally and locally with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, Spokane Jazz Orchestra, Civic Theatre, and Kantorei Choir.

Composition Concentration
The composition concentration prepares students to learn the craft of composing music through individual study and seminars. Throughout four semesters of composition coursework, students’ compositions are performed publicly and become part of the Junior and Senior Portfolios.

General Music Studies
In addition to the B.A. in Music curriculum, this degree offers two capstone options. The research track involves faculty-directed study in an area of particular interest to the student. The internship track enables seniors to apply music skills to a professional setting, such as at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Gonzaga’s Foley Library Music Collection, and Spokane Public Radio.

Minors in Music
- Music Minor - General
- Jazz Performance Minor
- Conducting Minor
- Interdisciplinary Arts Minor - Theatre & Dance
PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES
The Music Department offers 15 choral, instrumental, and jazz ensembles. These ensembles are open to all students through ensemble placement, which takes place during orientation and at the beginning of each semester. With over 40 performances each semester, venues include the Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, St. John’s Cathedral, and on-campus in Gonzaga’s University Chapel, Hemmingson Center, and St. Aloysius Church.

Gonzaga Choral Ensembles
Mission: Gonzaga University Choirs seek artistic expression through choral excellence to deliver passionate, imaginative performances that move audiences, spark the imagination, and create a sense of awe and wonder. We advocate for choral arts among singers of all ages because we believe that choral music inspires creativity, it bonds humans together in community, and it builds bridges between cultures.

Comprised of over 150 students, Gonzaga Choirs have been featured performers of the American Choral Directors Association and Washington Music Educators Association. Highlights include Fall Family Weekend Concerts, Candlelight Christmas Concerts, and a celebration of Black History Month.

Gonzaga Concert Choir
- SATB choir of 65 voices
- Annual tours in Seattle, Portland
- Annual masterworks with professional orchestra

Gonzaga Chamber Chorus
- SATB choir of 28 voices
- Staged dramatic performances: operas, musicals, dance productions

Gonzaga Men’s Chorus
- TTBB choir of 15-20 voices
- Music spans barbershop to acapella
- Annual Gonzaga Glee Club Reunion

Gonzaga Women’s Chorus
- SSAA choir of 40-50 voices
- Annual winter retreat
- Women Composers Concert

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
All Gonzaga students are eligible for Music Scholarships, regardless of major. Students apply for all music scholarships through one application and audition.

Music Major Awards range from $3,000 to $5,000. Renewable for four years.

Lyle. C. Moore Choral Scholarship
Choral students are eligible for the merit-based Lyle C. Moore Choral Scholarships based on their musical excellence and academic success. Recipients need not be music majors. These scholarships are layered on top of departmental scholarships and are awarded for four years at the level of $5,000 each year.

Lesson Awards are offered to music minors and non-majors. These awards cover the cost of private lessons and ensemble lab fees involved in ensemble participation and range from $750-$2,000. Renewable for four years.

Vocal Studies
Vocal studies include diction, pedagogy, and song literature; professional master classes; weekly studio classes, recitals; and solo performances with professional orchestra.

Gonzaga Instrumental Ensembles
Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra is comprised of students, faculty, and community members. Open to all students by audition, it performs at The Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox in downtown Spokane. It hosts nationally distinguished soloists and the Young Artists’ Concerto and Aria Competition for Gonzaga students.

Gonzaga Chamber String Ensemble is open to all students by audition. The ensemble rehearses weekly and performs the chamber repertoire of piano trios and string quartets.

Gonzaga Wind Ensemble is Gonzaga’s premier wind ensemble, open to all Gonzaga students by audition. The ensemble performs traditional and contemporary wind band repertoire and performs with nationally-renowned guest soloists and conductors.

Chamber Ensembles are open to all students by audition. Ensembles include brass choir, woodwind quintet, chamber winds, saxophone quartet, and percussion ensembles.

Gonzaga Jazz Ensemble is an 18-piece Big Band that performs music of the 1930s to today. Highlights include the winter formal dance (Charity Ball) and Christmas jazz concert. The Jazz Program hosts jazz educators each year to perform with Gonzaga students, provide jazz theory clinics, and lead master classes. Past guest artists include John Clayton, Shelly Berg, Pete Christleib, Bobby Shew, and Conrad Herwig.

Jazz Workshop Combos provide small jazz combo opportunities. Students develop improvisational skills and transcribe and arrange tunes using Sibelius music notation. Jazz Combos perform publicly each semester on- and off-campus.

Bulldog Band is a non-auditioned 90+ member all-volunteer, non-credit ensemble of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and amplified bass that plays for men’s and women’s home basketball games during the academic year. Minimal pre-season rehearsals focus the band to play for basketball games. The Bulldog Band and GU Drum Line travel with the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams to the WCC Conference (Las Vegas, NV) and the Men's and Women’s NCAA March Tournaments.
GU Drumline performs with the Bulldog Band at men’s and women’s home basketball games. The GU Drum Line is a 1-credit class that meets twice per week in the Fall and once per week in the Spring.

**INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

Gonzaga offers a five-week summer study abroad program in Graz, Austria. This program includes German language study and an in-depth exploration of Austro-German music in Vienna, Graz, and Eisenstadt with two faculty in German and Music.

Gonzaga’s choral ensembles tour internationally every two years. Recent tours include China, Austria, Germany, Colombia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

**WOLDSON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

Gonzaga embarks on a new chapter with a modern $40-million performing arts center for music, theatre, and dance. The center includes a 750-seat concert hall and 150-seat recital hall with cutting edge acoustics and architectural design inspired by the natural beauty of the Northwest. The WPAC will serve as a center for musical excellence and interdisciplinary performance among students, faculty, and communities across the Inland Northwest.

**Merwin Music Dept. Scholarship**

This one-time award is designated for current Gonzaga students in honor of Gordon Merwin, a member of the Gonzaga Men’s Glee Club from 1935-1939. Students are selected in October based on their contributions to the Gonzaga Music Department and academic achievement.
FACULTY & SPECIALTIES

CHORAL ENSEMBLES
Dr. Timothy Westerhaus | Dept. Chair
Assistant Professor
Concert Choir, Chamber Chorus, Women’s Chorus
westerhaus@gonzaga.edu

Dr. Keith Whitlock
Conductor, Men’s Chorus

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES
Christopher Grant
GU Drumline

Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah
Professor
Conductor, Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra, String Ensemble
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Dr. Robert Spittal
Professor
Wind Symphony, Chamber Winds
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COMPOSITION
Dr. Dawn Sonntag
Lecturer
Theory & Composition
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MUSIC EDUCATION
Dr. Peter Hamlin
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Gonzaga Band
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VOICE
Amy Porter
Applied Voice, Vocal Pedagogy

Darnelle Preston
Applied Voice, Vocal Diction

KEYBOARD
Dr. Janet Ahrend
Applied Organ

Dr. Colleen Hunter
Applied Piano

Greg Presley
Applied Piano

Mary Webster
Applied Piano

WINDS
Christopher Cook
Applied Trumpet

Erin Foster
Applied Bassoon

Ross Holcombe
Applied Low Brass

Sheri Jacobson
Applied Flute

Cameron LaPlante
Applied Saxophone

Chip Philips
Applied Clarinet

Sheila McNally
Applied Oboe

Jennifer Scriggins-Brummet
Applied French Horn

STRINGS
Jason Bell
Applied Violin

Nick Carper
Applied Viola

Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah
Applied Cello

Amanda Howard-Philips
Applied Violin

Kim Plewniak
Applied Bass

Earecka Tregenza Moody
Applied Harp

PERCUSSION
Chris Grant
Applied Percussion

GUITAR
Mellad Abeid
Applied Guitar, Applied Jazz Guitar

Dr. Paul Grove
Applied Guitar

Michael Millham
Applied Guitar

JAZZ STUDIES & ENSEMBLES
David Fague
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Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Bulldog Band
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Rachel Aldridge
Applied Jazz Voice

Daniel Cox
Applied Jazz Drum Set

Cameron LaPlante
Applied Jazz Improvisation

Brian McCann
Jazz Combos, Applied Jazz Bass