THE PROGRAM

Dating back to 1887, Gonzaga University has a long and truly outstanding tradition in the formal study of music. Serving over 600 students each semester, the Music Department allows students at all levels of music proficiency to pursue their interests. Students also receive personal attention in small classes that often have fewer than ten students. This environment maximizes creativity and inspires students to truly reach their full musical potential.

Both majors and non-majors have access to the Department’s Music and Technology Labs, which feature state of the art music technology. Technology interfaces instrumental keyboards with computers, allowing students to compose, edit, arrange, and record music.

The Music Department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

MUSIC DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts in Music Education
Of the 28 Jesuit universities in the nation, Gonzaga is one of three that offers a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. This degree certifies the graduate to teach music in elementary and secondary schools in the state of Washington and 46 reciprocating states.

Bachelor of Arts in Music
Performance Concentration
The degree focus is breadth of general studies combined with studies in musicianship, with an emphasis in performance. This option provides a degree of flexibility for the student to best pursue his or her particular talent and interest within the context of a liberal arts Music degree. A Junior and Senior Recital are required to complete the degree.

Composition Concentration
A B.A. in Music with a composition concentration prepares students to learn the craft of composing music through means of clear strategies and objectives. The methodology follows that of Nadia Boulanger, the French composition instructor for several noted American composers including Roy Harris, Aaron Copland, and Philip Glass. During four or more semesters of private and classroom instruction, a student’s compositions are performed publicly and become part of the Junior Portfolio and the Senior Portfolio, which are required to complete the degree.

General Studies in Music Concentration
The degree focus is on providing a breadth of general studies in music combined with studies in musicianship. It is designed to provide students with a broad knowledge of all fields of music, a specialized course of study suited to the specific interests of the student, and the research tools necessary to continue their scholarly study beyond their degree at Gonzaga. A thesis and oral comprehensive exam are required to complete the degree.

Minors in Music
• General Music Minor
• Jazz Performance Minor
• Conducting Minor
The Performance Ensembles

Ensemble participation serves as the primary performance vehicle for Gonzaga music students and is required of all music majors and minors. Recitals, ensemble tours, and other departmental programs offer students a variety of challenging performance opportunities and experiences.

With over 30 performances each semester, Gonzaga's ensembles perform in a number of venues, including Spokane's premier performance venue, the Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, and on Gonzaga's campus in the University Chapel and St. Aloysius Church.

All Gonzaga students, regardless of major, are invited to audition for the performing ensembles and pursue private vocal and instrumental lessons.

Gonzaga University Choirs

The Gonzaga Choirs take pride in their mission: choral artistry and excellence rooted in the Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic tradition. They seek to perform diverse music that invigorates and inspires audiences, and their innovative programs explore intersections between society, culture, and music. The choir ensembles perform a wide variety of sacred and secular repertoire from the Medieval to Modern periods. Their choral literature includes unaccompanied works and pieces performed with a professional orchestra. Membership is open to singers of all abilities based on a placement audition, and the choirs consist of music majors and non-majors, undergraduate and graduate students, and Gonzaga faculty and friends.

Gonzaga University Choir - Gonzaga’s Flagship Choir
- Consists of 45-55 students
- Performs regularly on Gonzaga’s campus
- Tours annually in the Pacific Northwest
- Traditions include performances at Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, annual choir retreat, and annual Candlelight Christmas Concert
- Tours nationally and internationally

Gonzaga Chamber Singers - Gonzaga’s Premiere Choral Ensemble
- Consists of 26-28 students drawn from the University Choir
- Recent international tours include Austria and Germany (2013) and China (2010)
- Performance honors include the Idaho Bach Festival and Northwest Bach Festival

- Guest conductors include Jeffrey Thomas (2012) and Gunther Schuller (2013)
- Stages dramatic performances, including John Blow’s Venus & Adonis with period Baroque instruments

Gonzaga Men’s Chorus
- 15-30 voice male ensemble
- Special focus on singing technique for men
- Performs unique repertoire for male chorus in Gonzaga concerts
- Performs with annual Gonzaga Glee Club Alumni Reunion

Gonzaga Women’s Chorus
- 40-50 voices consisting of students and faculty
- Special focus on singing technique for women
- Performs unique repertoire for female chorus, unaccompanied and accompanied by professional chamber orchestra

Vocal Performance at Gonzaga includes regular opportunities for students to perform as soloists at major choral-orchestra concerts. The applied voice studios host regular master classes with internationally renowned singers and collaborative pianists, through which voice students have numerous opportunities for professional coaching. Students take coursework in diction, vocal pedagogy, and weekly studio classes.

Gonzaga University Instrumental Ensembles

Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra is comprised of students, faculty, community members, and professionals from the greater Spokane community. Open to all students by audition, the Orchestra performs regularly at The Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox in downtown Spokane. It has a long tradition as one of the finest orchestras in the region, and its repertoire includes some of the most demanding pieces in orchestral music. It hosts soloists of regional and national reputation. Solo artists have included such luminaries as soprano Arianna Zukerman; violinists Kurt Nikkanen, Elmira Darvarova, Kyung Sun Lee, JinJoo Cho, and Tim Fain; violist Paul Coletti; cellists Daniel Gaisford, Sung-Won Yang, and Amit Peled; double bassist Gary Karr; and pianists Simone Dinnerstein, Awadagin Pratt, Natasha Paremski, and Navah Perlman. It also hosts the prestigious Young Artists’ Concerto and Aria Competition for university students.
Gonzaga Chamber String Ensemble is open to all students by audition. The ensemble meets weekly to rehearse and perform the chamber orchestral repertoire.

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

Chamber Ensemble is available to all students by audition. A variety of chamber ensembles may be formed each semester, such as brass choir, woodwind quintet, chamber wind ensemble, saxophone quartet, and percussion ensembles.

Gonzaga Jazz Ensemble is one of the most popular musical groups on campus. This 18-piece big band gives students the opportunity to perform some of the best big band literature since the 1930s. The jazz ensemble performs on campus each semester to a standing-room-only audience and also provides music for Gonzaga’s winter formal dance, Charity Ball. The Jazz Program hosts several jazz educators each year to perform with the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, provide jazz theory clinics, or instrumental master classes. Among the guest artists Gonzaga has hosted in the past are John Clayton, Shelly Berg, Pete Christleib, Bobby Shew, and Conrad Herwig.

Jazz Workshop Combos provide students the opportunity to play in a small jazz combo setting. Students develop improvisational skills, become familiar with performance etiquette, and learn to transcribe/arrange tunes using the music notation program Sibelius. The Gonzaga Jazz Combos perform publicly several times 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 all men’s and women’s home basketball games during the academic year. Pre-season rehearsals are minimal and the focus of the band is to support and provide music for the basketball teams …and, of course, fun! The Bulldog Band and GU Drum Line travel with the Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams to the WCC Conference (Las Vegas, NV) as well as the Men’s and Women’s NCAA Tournaments in March each year.

GU Drumline is featured as a separate ensemble and performs with the Bulldog Band at all 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.

Boone Street Band is a popular music group made up of the rhythm section and lead players from the Gonzaga Jazz Ensemble: Lead Alto Sax (and Baritone Saxophone), Lead Tenor Sax, Lead Trumpet, Lead Trombone, Piano, Guitar, Bass, and Drums. The Boone Street Band offers jazz ensemble students the opportunity to perform popular music from artists including Earth, Wind and Fire, Stevie Wonder, Kool and the Gang, Tower of Power, Toto, Average White Band, Corinne Bailey Rae, Rob Thomas, Cheryl Lynn, and Blood, Sweat, and Tears. The Boone Street Band meets during the normal Jazz Ensemble class and performs on and off campus several times throughout each semester. On campus performances in the past have included Gonzaga’s 125th Anniversary Celebration, Madonnastock, GEL Weekend, and the President’s Christmas party.
THE PEOPLE

Music faculty members perform extensively as soloists and in ensembles both in the Spokane community and beyond. They are sought after as guest instructors and adjudicators at music festivals and competitions and can be seen and heard on local radio and television broadcasts.

Faculty members also compose and record their own unique musical compositions ranging from piano solos to more comprehensive works. Active in professional organizations, the music faculty remain current in their fields and continue their own learning as dynamic educators in the field of music.

Contact information for individual faculty members can be found on the Music Department website: www.gonzaga.edu/music.

Department Chair
Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah | Professor of Music | hekmatpanah@gonzaga.edu

Choral Ensembles
Dr. Timothy Westerhaus | Assistant Professor of Music, Conductor, Gonzaga University Choir, Chambers Singers, Women’s & Men’s Choruses | westerhaus@gonzaga.edu

Instrumental Ensembles
Dr. Robert Spittal | Professor of Music, Conductor, Wind Symphony, Chamber Ensemble | spittal@gonzaga.edu
Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah | Professor of Music, Conductor, Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra, String Ensemble | hekmatpanah@gonzaga.edu
David Fague | Senior Lecturer, Director of Jazz Program, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Bulldog Band | fague@gonzaga.edu
Brian McCann | Jazz Combos
Daniel Cox | GU Drumline

Composition
Fr. J. Kevin Waters, S.J. | Professor of Music, Composition Program Director | waters@gonzaga.edu

Music Education
Dr. Peter Hamlin | Assistant Professor of Music | hamlin@gonzaga.edu

Voice
Darnelle Preston | Applied Voice, Class Voice
Amy Porter | Applied Voice

Keyboard
John Bodinger | Applied Organ
Dr. Colleen Hunter | Applied Piano
Greg Presley | Applied Piano
Margee Webster | Applied Piano

Winds
Sheri Jacobson | Applied Flute
Gary Plowman | Applied Oboe
Chip Philips | Applied Clarinet
Christopher Parkin | Applied Saxophone
Erin Foster | Applied Bassoon
Christopher Cook | Applied Trumpet
Jennifer Scriggins Brummett | Applied French Horn
Ross Holcombe | Applied Low Brass

Strings
Amanda Howard | Applied Violin
Nick Carper | Applied Viola
Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah | Applied Cello
Kim Plewniak | Applied Bass
Earecka Tregenza Moody | Applied Harp

Percussion
Chris Grant | Applied Percussion

Guitar
Dr. Paul Grove | Applied Guitar
Michael Millham | Applied Guitar
Mellad Abeid | Applied Guitar

Jazz Studies
Rachel Aldridge | Applied Jazz Voice
Christopher Parkin | Applied Jazz Improvisation
Brian McCann | Applied Jazz Bass
Daniel Cox | Applied Jazz Drum Set
Mellad Abeid | Applied Jazz Guitar