Music

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.

THE PROGRAM

Over 500 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.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Gonzaga is the only Jesuit university on the West Coast that offers both a Bachelor of Arts in Music and in Music Education. Students can minor in music with a flexible curriculum that incorporates music knowledge, creation, and performance. Students can also minor in Conducting and Interdisciplinary Arts (Music, Theatre & Dance). 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

B.A. in Music degree includes courses in:

- Music Theory
- Conducting
- Creative Music and Composition
- Music History
- Music Technology

Students select one or more concentrations:

- Composition
- General Studies (Research or Internship)
- Jazz
- Performance
- Sacred Music

Bachelor of Arts in Music Education

Of the 27 Jesuit universities in the nation, Gonzaga is one of 3 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 47 reciprocating states. Students may focus in choral or instrumental music education.
Choral Ensembles
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, bonds humans together in community, and builds bridges between cultures.

Chamber Chorus
- SATB of 28 voices
- Staged dramatic performances: dance productions, musicals, operas
- Biannual international tours: Austria, China, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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

Discantus Treble Choir
- SSAA choir of 40-50 voices
- Annual winter retreat
- Women Composers Concert

Glee Club
- TTBB choir of 15-20 voices
- Music spans barbershop to acapella
- Annual Glee Club Reunion

Vocal Studies
- Diction
- Pedagogy
- Professional master classes
- Solo performances with professional orchestra

Instrumental Ensembles
Symphony Orchestra
Comprised of students, faculty, and community members. The orchestra hosts nationally distinguished soloists and the Young Artists’ Concerto and Aria Competition for students.

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

Chamber String Ensemble
The string ensemble performs the chamber repertoire of piano trios and string quartets.

Jazz Ensembles
18-piece big bands that perform the best of jazz ensemble literature from classics by Count Basie and Duke Ellington to modern fusion by Snarky Puppy and everything in between.

Jazz Combos
5-7 piece small groups that explore jazz and other genres rooted in the African-American music tradition. Students develop improvisational skills, transcribe and arrange music using Sibelius music notation software, and learn to audio/video record, mix, edit, and produce content using programs such as Ableton Live and Adobe Premiere Pro.

Wind Ensemble
The premier ensemble for woodwind, brass, and percussion students at Gonzaga University. The ensemble has a flexible instrumentation and performs the finest chamber and symphonic repertoire for winds and percussion. The Wind Ensemble is known for its innovative programs, frequently performs with guest soloists and conductors, and has collaborated with composers on the premier of several new works.

Bulldog Band
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) and the Men’s and Women’s NCAA Tournaments.

GU Drum Line
GU Drum Line 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.

Performance Ensembles
With over 40 performances each semester, the Music Department offers 15 choral, instrumental, and jazz ensembles. All ensembles are open to students through ensemble placement which takes place during orientation and at the beginning of each semester.

Performance Venues
- Gonzaga’s Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
  - 750-seat Concert Hall
  - 150-seat Recital Hall
- University Chapel & St. Aloysius Church
- Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox
- Hemmingson Center
Myrtle 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 MWPAC serves as a center for musical excellence and interdisciplinary performance among students, faculty, and communities across the Inland Northwest.

Scholarship Applications

All Gonzaga students are eligible for Music Scholarships, regardless of major. Students applying for the 2022-2023 academic year can submit one scholarship application and audition online at www.gonzaga.edu/music.

The application deadline is February 22, 2022.

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 total $5,000 each year. This award is renewable for four years.

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 November based on their contributions to the Gonzaga Music Department and academic achievement.

Music Major, Minor, and Non-Major Awards

These awards (at minimum) cover the cost of private lessons and ensemble lab fees involved with ensemble participation. For majors, these awards can range up to $5,000. For minors and non-majors, these awards can range up to $3,000. All awards are renewable for four years.
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:
- Austria
- China
- Colombia
- Germany
- Italy
- Zambia

The People

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For more information:
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