why you belong here

Are you passionate about music? Do you want to develop your musicianship and deepen your knowledge? If so, Chatham University wants you to know that we welcome both performers and composers into our music program.

Chatham’s music department combines the benefits of a smaller institution, such as the ability to work one-on-one with faculty in lessons and courses, with the advantages of living in a city that offers resources and opportunities at larger neighboring institutions.

Even if you have other career goals in mind, Chatham University makes it easy to double major in music and another subject, and still graduate in four years. An accelerated three-year music degree is also possible for well-prepared students.

what you can expect

In order to gain admission to our music program, you must perform for our faculty or, if you are planning to focus on composition, submit a portfolio. Once admitted, you will thrive in an artistic environment that offers ample performance opportunities, both on and off campus, and the chance to work individually with some of the region’s best musicians as they help you to develop your strengths.
what you will learn

While our theory and musicianship curriculum has been redesigned so that students with less prior musical experience have an easier entry to the subject matter, it still matches closely with the curricula found at larger institutions.

As a student of our music program, you will engage with music from many perspectives while developing critical thinking and communication skills through the undergraduate college’s liberal arts environment. All music students receive a strong foundation in musicianship, music theory, and music history, and participate in private vocal or instrumental instruction with some of the region’s best performers, including members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Our program also enables you to connect with music in less traditional ways, through courses in popular music, jazz, ethnomusicology, technology, and interdisciplinary subjects. Additionally, you can create acoustic and/or electronic music through individual composition study.

where it will take you

As a graduate of our music program, you will be fully prepared to work professionally or enter graduate school. You can choose to teach privately, or if can enter our collaborative program in music education with Carnegie Mellon University, you’ll graduate with state teacher certification along with a music degree from Chatham.

Internship experience builds related skills that will be helpful to your career in music and the arts. Music majors have interned with Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Jazz Society, and Pittsburgh Concert Society.

learn more

Read faculty bios, view admission requirements, and find a link to the Chatham Music Blog at chatham.edu/music.

“Chatham University's music program is both thorough and flexible. We provide performance and composition students with a firm grounding in their own area of specialty as well as music history and theory, while allowing them to customize their course of study to fit their own interests.”

— Michael Boyd, assistant professor of music

trending now

- As an instrumental student, you are encouraged to audition for the University of Pittsburgh’s Symphony Orchestra, which is conducted by our violin teacher, Roger Zahab.
  You can also form smaller chamber ensembles on campus or audition for other off-campus bands and ensembles. Professional musicians perform frequently at the University as part of the Friday Afternoon Musicale and Chamber Music concert series.
- The Chatham Choir, which sponsors the all-campus winter celebration and the annual “Cabaret Benefit,” can be heard at the Opening and Closing Convocations, the Spring Concert, and the Choir Tour. The choir has performed in New York City, Baltimore, Washington D.C., and West Virginia, while select members have performed with Marvin Hamlisch and the Pittsburgh Symphony Pop’s All-Star College Chorus.