Music performance is a degree program focused on the mastery of performance skills. Ohio State offers three tracks within the Bachelor of Music in Music Performance: orchestral instruments, piano and voice.

Pursuing Music – Performance (Orchestral Instruments) at Ohio State

Students interested in music performance should develop performance skills in preparation for the entrance audition. Piano lessons are also recommended, if available.

All students planning to pursue a music major must complete an entrance audition and the Theory Placement Exam (TPE). Normally students do this during the senior year in high school on a scheduled Audition Day. Transfer students and students already at Ohio State should also plan to complete an audition and the TPE. For additional information about auditions, visit music.osu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-procedures or contact School of Music Undergraduate Admissions at music-ug@osu.edu or 614-292-2870.

Acceptance into a music performance degree program is contingent upon approval of the applied music faculty.

Music – Performance (Orchestral Instruments)

Requirements

Core courses:
- Music theory
- Music aural training
- Music history and world music
- Large and small ensembles
- Secondary piano
- Conducting

Required major courses:
- Applied music
- Advanced theory courses
- Junior and senior recitals

Educational Objectives

Students majoring in music performance will achieve the following learning outcomes:
- Students must demonstrate achievement of professional, entry-level competence in the area of specialization, including significant technical mastery, capability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, and a coherent set of artistic/intellectual goals that are evident in their work.
- Students will engage in applied studies each semester that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare students for graduate programs and professional careers in the field. They will demonstrate an understanding of a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students will complete courses in music theory, music history, and area-specific literature and pedagogy that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to prepare them for professional careers in the field. These courses will represent a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students will have the ability to communicate musical ideas, concepts and requirements to professionals and lay persons related to the practice of the major field. Such communication may involve musical, oral, written and visual media.
- Students will complete curricular requirements that include courses designed to develop oral and written communication skills.
- Students will gain knowledge and experience in pedagogical methodologies in their area of specialization.
- Students will gain an understanding of the nature of the music field in the professional world, particularly related to organizational structures, work ethics, technological resources, and entrepreneurial skills required for advancing their careers.
- Students will prepare numerous assignments in music theory and music history courses employing a wide range of software and Web-based sources.
- Students will build workplace skills through independent studies with applied faculty and ensemble directions.
- Students will gain experiences in general studies sufficient to prepare them for a range of career options.
- Students will gain skills sufficient for clear and effective verbal and written communication.
- Students will include a broad range of general studies courses in their curricula appropriate for complementing degree requirements that address their specific music concentrations.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students.

Whether students intend to enter the job market upon graduation or apply to graduate school, internships provide the experience students need to differentiate themselves from other candidates. Employers and graduate school committees are looking for graduates that have already taken the “next step” to becoming professionals in their field.

For more information, check these websites:

School of Music: music.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Internships provide the direct, field-related experience and application of classroom knowledge that is necessary to advance career goals. Ohio State’s career placement office provides a database of available internships, as well as internship advisors. For more information, visit asccareerservices.osu.edu/internships.

Honors & Scholars Opportunities
Through the Ohio State Honors and Scholars programs students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options. Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Music – Performance (Orchestral Instruments)
Students in music performance have a variety of career opportunities. Some graduates establish private studios for giving music lessons or perform professionally either as soloists or in groups as opportunities arise. Some take professional auditions or participate in performance competitions. Others pursue musical performance opportunities in armed forces bands, orchestras or choirs. Some graduates move into business and industry careers or other music-related careers, such as arts management.

Those interested in pursuing a professional career as a performer in a symphony, chamber orchestra or on the stage often continue directly into graduate study upon completion of the undergraduate degree. The same is true of students interested in securing a position as an applied music teacher at a college or university. In addition, some music performance majors continue into graduate school in another music field, such as conducting, music history or music theory.

Ohio State’s career and job placement offices offer help in career planning, writing resumes and application letters, and job placement. These offices can help students match interests and strengths with a promising career. Ohio State recognizes that students’ needs for career support services vary and offers special services for disabled students, veterans, minority students and international students. For more information, visit asccareerservices.osu.edu.

Revised September 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the orchestral performance program, visit music.osu.edu.