Music

Queen's Music has earned a reputation across Canada for producing some of the best-prepared graduates: musicians who excel as scholars, composers, teachers and performers. Students in the DAN School of Drama and Music obtain a solid education in music, while pursuing a wide variety of courses in performance, music and culture, digital music, theory and composition, and music education. Music students at Queen's benefit from small class sizes, individual attention and become part of a tight-knit community. Students are encouraged to foster their own unique musical identities.

Degree Plans

BACHELOR OF MUSIC (BMUS)
is specifically focused on all aspects of Music including required solo performance and ensemble courses. Audition is required for first year admission.

BACHELOR OF ARTS in MUSIC (BAH/BA) is a much more broadly based and flexible degree with music performance opportunities being electives. Admission to program begins in second year.

Alumni Story

Originally an orchestral musician, Steven London, BMus '94, studied composition and conducting with Canada's music elite: John Burge and Kristi Allik. In 1995, he received a certificate from the world renowned 'Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television' program at the University of Southern California. The opportunity to study in L.A. with such composers as Jerry Goldsmith was invaluable and integral to his development as a serious composer for film and television.


That is a degree from Queen's.
2022-2023

Music MAJOR MAP
BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Music along with some electives.
For BMus students, courses will be pre-loaded from Musicology, Music Theory, Music Education, Musicianship, and Applied Study (Performance).

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Experienced singers or instrumentalists are invited to audition to take private lessons for credit in any year of their program. Additional fees required.
Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as Queen's Musical Theatre, Queen's Music Club (OCMI), QUSMEA and Hart School.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Explore courses in global music, inter-cultural arts, music and gender and Indigenous musical traditions.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grapple with program decisions? Go to Major Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
In any year of your studies, make an appointment to meet with the DAN School Undergraduate Program and Events Coordinator and Student Advisor.

2ND YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
Explore the discipline of Music, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Entrepreneurship and Innovation Certificate, Attend Degree 2 in the Fall term to learn more about Certificate, and Internship options.
Consider enrolling in a Drama (DRAM) or Music/Theatre (MUTH) course to broaden your knowledge of the arts.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen's Bands, Queen's Musical Theatre and QUSMEA.
Attend concerts, masterclasses, and workshops. Check out events at The Isabel and the Grand Theatre.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Explore courses in global musics, inter-cultural research and teaching assistant positions. Consider investigating a summer internship position for credit. Play in a pit band for one of Queen's music theatre groups. If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF).

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and seek advice from Career Services. Take any courses relevant to your future career (e.g. Lyric Diction, Music Education, Composition, Musicology, Applied Study).

3RD YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
Third year is a chance to really focus on the subject areas that most interest you or to explore a broader selection of topics in Music. Meet with a DAN School Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Position yourself for performance and scholarship competitions. Contact professors about grading, research and teaching assistant positions. Consider investigating a summer internship position for credit. Play in a pit band for one of Queen's music theatre groups. If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF).

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen's Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.
Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSUS. Join a local band or choir, and perform in the community.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and seek advice from Career Services. Take any courses relevant to your future career (e.g. Lyric Diction, Music Education, Composition, Musicology, Applied Study).

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Grad School or to your future career path.
Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.
Explore non-music elective courses that complement your degree and offer education in intercultural competencies, such as courses in Development Studies, Black Studies, Languages, etc.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Connect with Queen’s Career Services to get help with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions. Attend the post-graduate information sessions held at the Queen's Entrepreneurs at Queen's (QUEE).

What will I learn?
A degree in Music can equip you with:
• Understanding a variety of musical forms and styles
• High level of performance on an instrument
• Ability to compose music
• Increased working memory and IQ leading to improved pattern recognition, memorization and improvisation
• Ability to adapt to new or changing situations
• Oral communication for confident public speaking
• Presentation, performance skills, and stage presence
• Creative and critical thinking
• Use of sound equipment
• Ability to work independently or as a team
• Self-discipline and time management

Where can I go?
A degree in Music can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s Degree, Law, Medicine, Education, etc. In addition, our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
• Audio consulting
• Concert production
• Digital archiving
• Film scoring
• Instrument repair
• Lyric writing
• Music journalism
• Music therapy
• Piano accompaniment
• Songwriting
• Sound engineering
• Talent scouting

Taking time to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Music

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

DAN School Ensembles

All Queen’s students are welcome to audition for any DAN School ensembles which run from September to April and are full year credit courses. Credit (1.5 units per ensemble) is attained through regular attendance at weekly rehearsals or coaching sessions, active participation and ample preparation. All of our ensembles have the opportunity to rehearse and perform in the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, our multi-million dollar performing arts facility located right on the shores of Lake Ontario. The DAN School has access to the Rehearsal Hall, the Studio Theatre and the main Concert Hall which seats over 500 audience members!

Our ensembles include Chamber Ensembles, Clarinet Choir, Flute Choir, Cello Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Polyhymnia Vocal Ensemble, Choral Ensemble, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Music Theatre Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.