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 western classical music from the ancient to the postmodern, while pursuing a wide variety of courses in applied study (performance), musicology/ethnomusicology, music education, and theory and composition. A highlight for music students is the chance to practice and perform in the fantastic rehearsal hall and concert hall of Queen’s Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

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.

Note that degree requirements are revised regularly. The most current requirements, including course lists and options, are found in the Academic Calendar at: QUarts.com/academic-calendar
MUSIC MAJOR MAP

MAJOR: BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS)

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.

See the back page for specific courses to consider.

Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen's Bands, Queen's Musical Theatre, QUSMEA, and Shine On.

Attend concerts, masterclasses, and workshops. Check out events at The Isabel and the Grand Theatre.

See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as Queen's Music Club (QMC), QUSMEA, H'art School, and MusicMates.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multicultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate.

Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

2ND YEAR

Start going deeper into the discipline of Music, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Global Action and Engagement. Attend Degree + in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options.

Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Talk to the department, Queen's Community Music or Career Services about summer jobs through SWEP or Work-Study.

Consider running for Department Student Council executive. Think about applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society. Volunteer at local schools through approved programs.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

Volunteer as an audition buddy. Usher concerts at The Isabel and the Dan School of Drama and Music.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Career Advising and Resource Area, such as Great Jobs for Music Majors. For more information connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

Check out summer performance programs such as FAVA, COSI, Opera NUOVA, and CAMMAC.

3RD YEAR

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Music. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year — for some ideas, see the back page.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Work towards the Concerto Aria competition. Contact professors about grading positions. Attend concerts, masterclasses and workshops. 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 CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

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 DSC. Join a local band or choir, and perform in the community.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills (especially Italian, French, and German for musicians).

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 get help thinking about Grad School from Career Services. Take any courses relevant to your future career (e.g. Lyric Dictions, Music Education, Composition, Musicology, Applied Study).

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate 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 RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Consider joining professional associations like SOCAN, CFMTA, SEM, and the SMT.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Music.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions.

Attend the post-graduate information session at the School in September or October.

What will I learn?

A degree in Music can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Understanding of musical form and organization
- Ability to compose music
- High-level performance on an instrument or voice
- Use of sound equipment
- Oral communication for confident public speaking
- Presentation and performance skills and stage presence
- Self-discipline and time management
- Ability to work independently and as a team
- Creative and critical thinking
- Written and oral communication
- Research skills
- Increased working memory and IQ leading to improved pattern recognition, memorization and improvisation
- Increased adaptability

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. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Audio consulting
- Concert production
- Digital artist
- Instrument repair
- Lyrical
- Music journalism
- Music therapy
- Piano accompanist
- Songwriting
- 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.