Music

Dan School Ensembles

All Queen's students are welcome to audition for any of the ensembles run through the Dan School. Our ensembles 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, Polyphymna Vocal Ensemble, Choral Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble.

For detailed information about our ensembles, please see sdm.queensu.ca.

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

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.

Why study in Kingston?

For over 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 the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university with the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates.

In addition to Harrison-LeCaine Hall and Theological Hall, students can take classes, rehearse, and perform in the highly acclaimed Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts on Lake Ontario.

Students can apply to undertake practical internships in areas such as music education or arts administration.

Originally an orchestral musician, Steven London, BMus ‘94, studied composition and conducting with 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.

Dan School of Drama and 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 western classical music, while pursuing a wide variety of courses in applied study (performance), ethnomusicology, theory and composition, and music education. Music students have many opportunities to become engaged in Drama studies especially in the areas of Music Theatre and Opera. Music students practice and perform in the fantastic Rehearsal Hall and Concert Hall of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

Click to access the full map (PDF) and explore the top 4 reasons to study Music and view the full Major Map text.
GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

1ST YEAR
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).
Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about plan options.

2ND YEAR
Start going deeper into the discipline of Music, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Music Industry, Entrepreneurship and Innovation certificate.
Attend Degree 1 in the Fall term to learn more about Certificate and Internship options.
Consider enrolling in a Drama or Music Theatre course to broaden your knowledge of the Arts.

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.

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

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 Musical Theatre, Queen’s Music Club (QMC), QUSMEA, Hart School, and MusicMates.
Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.
Volunteer as an usher at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures and/or practicing or improving your language skills.
For musicians, Italian, French and German are particularly useful.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grasping with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Career Advising and Resource Area, such as Great Jobs for Music Majors.
Check out summer performance programs such as FAVA, COS, Opera Nuova, and CAMMAC.

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 increased improved attention, memory, and problem-solving
• 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 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. In addition, our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
• Audio consultants
• Concert production
• Digital artist
• Instrument repair
• Syllabus writer
• Music journalist
• 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.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps for the online version with links!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Major Map using our online My Major Map tool.