



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Department of Music offers a broad-based undergraduate major that combines the study of history, theory, composition and performance. The core of the program consists of two years of theory and musicianship skills, three semesters of music history, participation in university ensembles and electives chosen from a broad array of topics. Students who wish to focus on a particular area within the music major may opt for one of five specialized tracks: composition, cultural studies, history, performance or musical theater performance. The department also offers M.A. and Ph.D. programs in composition and musicology.

What makes the program distinctive?

Music students at Brandeis receive individualized attention from faculty members, who are acclaimed world-wide for scholarly publications, musical compositions and artistic performances. Students have the opportunity to study chamber music

with the renowned Lydian String Quartet, to compose original works in the state-of-the-art Brandeis Electro-Acoustic Music Studio, and to use the extensive collection of authentic instruments housed in the Jencks Early Music Room.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 69

Number of faculty: 14

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major: composition, cultural studies, history, musical theater performance, performance

Popular second majors: biology, German studies, psychology

Website: brandeis.edu/departments/music

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Performance opportunities

Students perform in a variety of groups, including orchestra, wind ensemble, chorus, jazz ensemble, early music ensemble and small chamber ensembles. Additional performance opportunities include Brandeis' annual concerto competition, opera scenes and the Friday Recital Series.

Academic and research opportunities

The music department offers courses on topics ranging from medieval to contemporary global. Advanced music majors may take classes alongside graduate students, pursue independent study opportunities with music faculty, or complete a senior thesis, composition or recital as an honors project.

Special events

Each year, music students may participate in the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts, a weeklong extravaganza showcasing the talents of music, art and theater students. Students are invited to apply for grants in support of their festival projects.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Student awards

Each year, music students are eligible to receive a variety of awards and grants, including Remis grants for summer study, arts festival grants and numerous departmental awards for outstanding artistic and academic achievement.

Leonard Bernstein Fellowship

Each year, the music department awards fellowships to select entering violinists, violists, cellists and pianists based on a supplemental music recording submitted with the Brandeis application. Fellowships provide free private lessons, chamber ensemble coaching, recital opportunities and individualized mentorship by members of the Lydian String Quartet.

Faculty awards

Music faculty members have received distinctions including the Pulitzer Prize, the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Koussevitzky Prize, the Aaron Copland Award, the Charles Ives Fellowship, the Naumburg Award for Excellence in Chamber Music and Grammy nominations.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Performance

Music students participate in a variety of extracurricular performance ensembles, including the Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra, the Klezmer Ensemble, the pep band, the Undergraduate Theater Collective and a cappella groups.

Study abroad

Numerous music students elect to spend time abroad. Recent Brandeis music students have studied in Tanzania, Australia, China, Austria, England and Ireland.

Internships

Music students have the opportunity to complete internships in a music-related field for academic credit. Rani Schloss '10, a music and education double major, spent a semester working at WGBH, one of Boston's all-classical radio stations, digitally editing and cataloging music.

World Music Series

MusicUnitesUS, a program that furthers the appreciation of diverse cultures through music, brings artists from across the world to campus. Recently, students have taken workshops with Amazones: Women Master Drummers of Guinea as well as Afro-Cuban ensemble Obbini Tumbao.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Graduate study

Brandeis music alumni often pursue master's and doctoral degrees in performance, composition, musicology, music production and technology, and education. At Brandeis, Gil Harel '06 is a candidate in the Ph.D. program in musicology, while Andrew Davis '09 is pursuing an M.F.A. in music composition.

Diverse career fields

Brandeis music alumni have gone on to become music professors, arts administrators, opera singers, cantors, composers, conductors, TV and record producers, media and digital arts specialists, doctors, attorneys and clinical psychologists.

Notable alumni

Pianist Adam Marks '00, who has been praised as an "excellent pianist" with "titanic force" by The New York Times, directs the contemporary music group Fifth House Ensemble and teaches at Carthage College in Wisconsin.

"We believe that music is a common medium that can help us to unite diverse cultures in our own neighborhoods and transcend boundaries in the global community."

Professor Judith Eissenberg, violinist in the Lydian String Quartet and director of MusicUnitesUS



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