



Music

Gonzaga's students and faculty integrate musical excellence and innovation through a liberal arts education that includes performances, festivals, tours, interdisciplinary collaborations, and research. Majors and non-majors alike combine their passion for music with pursuing lives of leadership and service for the common good. Musical artists enable our community, nation, and world to inspire others, to creatively seek new solutions, and to build bridges among diverse people.

THE PROGRAM

Over 500 students enroll in Music courses, ensembles, and lessons each semester. Gonzaga values student-mentor relationships and students benefit from small classes, leadership opportunities, and faculty-sponsored internships and research fellowships. All students enrolled in ensembles or lessons have access to newly refurbished practice rooms and a technology lab with keyboard interfaces, allowing students to compose, edit, and arrange music. Gonzaga's music alumni are successful music educators, performers, church musicians, composers, and arts administrators, and many continue studying in prestigious graduate programs.

Gonzaga University is accredited as full member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Gonzaga is the only Jesuit university on the West Coast that offers both a Bachelor of Arts in Music and in Music Education. Students can minor in Music with a flexible curriculum that incorporates music knowledge, creation, and performance. Students can also minor in Conducting and/or Interdisciplinary Arts (curriculum includes courses in Music, Theatre, and Dance).

Bachelor of Arts in Music

B.A. in Music degree includes courses in:

- Music Theory
- Conducting
- Creative Music and Composition
- Music History
- Music Technology

Students will select one or more concentrations:

- Composition
- General Studies
- Jazz
- Performance
- Sacred Music

Bachelor of Arts in Music Education

Of the 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the nation, Gonzaga is one of three that offers a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. This degree certifies the graduate to teach music in elementary and secondary schools in the state of Washington and 48 reciprocating states. Students may focus in choral/general or instrumental/general music education.

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

With over 60 performances each semester, the Music Department offers many choral, instrumental, and jazz ensembles. All ensembles are open to students through placement which takes place during welcome weekend and at the beginning of each semester.

PERFORMANCE VENUES

- Gonzaga's Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
 - 750-seat Concert Hall
 - 150-seat Recital Hall
- Gonzaga University Chapel & St. Aloysius Church
- Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox
- Hemmingson Center
- St. John's Cathedral



Choral Ensembles

Gonzaga University choirs seek artistic expression through choral excellence to deliver passionate, imaginative performances that move audiences, spark the imagination, and create a sense of awe and wonder. We advocate for choral arts among singers of all ages because we believe that choral music inspires creativity, connects humans together in community, and builds bridges between cultures.

Vocal Arts Ensemble

- Select SATB ensemble
- Staged productions, Renaissance and Baroque music, chamber music, and modern compositions
- Biannual international tours: Austria, China, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

Concert Choir

- Select SATB ensemble
- Repertoire ranges from classical to global and musical premieres
- Annual regional tours
- Annual masterworks with professional orchestra

Discantus Treble Choir

- SSAA ensemble
- Specializes in a wide variety of music, from traditional to contemporary and world music
- Special focus on music written by underrepresented composers and poets

Glee Club

- TTBB ensemble
- Music spans barbershop to pop acapella and traditional choral music
- Annual Glee Club Reunion

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

- SATB ensemble
- Rhythm section dedicated to learning and performing jazz music

Big Bing Theory (BBT)

- Select SATB pop acappella ensemble
- Student led with guidance from choral faculty
- Repertoire ranges from the latest popular songs to classical hits

Instrumental Ensembles

Jazz Ensembles

These big bands provide students the opportunity to perform some of the best big band literature from classic big bands like the Count Basie and Stan Kenton Orchestras to more modern writers such as Maria Schneider. Jazz I regularly reconfigures into a smaller, more specialized ensemble, incorporating more electronic instruments to perform fusion-based music by bands such as Snarky Puppy.

Jazz Combos

These small jazz groups (4-7 players) develop improvisational skills, become familiar with performance etiquette, and learn to transcribe/arrange tunes using the music notation program Sibelius. Jazz Combos focus 50% on traditional live performances and 50% on learning how to record audio and video, mix and master audio, video edit, and present a competent visual/aural representation of their music in an online format.

Symphony Orchestra

Comprised of students, faculty, and community members, the orchestra hosts nationally distinguished soloists, the Young Artists' Concerto, and Aria Competition for students.

Chamber Ensembles

Open to all students by audition, these small ensembles include a variety of instrumental combinations that include string, wind, and percussion players.

Wind Ensemble

As the premier ensemble for woodwind, brass, and percussion students at Gonzaga University, this ensemble has a flexible instrumentation and performs the finest chamber and symphonic repertoire for winds and percussion. The Wind Ensemble is known for its innovative programs, frequently performs with guest soloists and conductors, and has collaborated with composers on the premiere of several new works.

Bulldog Band

Bulldog Band is a non-auditioned, all-volunteer, non-credit ensemble of 90+ members including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and amplified bass that plays for men's and women's home Basketball games during the academic year. Minimal pre-season rehearsals focus the band to play for Basketball games. The Bulldog Band and GU Drum Line travel with the men's and women's Basketball teams to the WCC Conference (Las Vegas) and the men's and women's NCAA Tournaments.

GU Drum Line

GU Drum Line performs with the Bulldog Band at men's and women's home Basketball games. The GU Drum Line is a 1 credit class.

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

The center includes a 750-seat concert hall and 150-seat recital hall with cutting-edge acoustics and architectural design inspired by the natural beauty of the Northwest. The MWPAC serves as a center for musical excellence and interdisciplinary performance among students, faculty, and communities across the Inland Northwest.



MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

All Gonzaga students are eligible for Music Scholarships, regardless of major/minor. Students applying for the 2024-2025 academic year can submit one scholarship application and audition online at gonzaga.edu/music.

The application deadline is February 9th, 2026.

Lyle C. Moore Choral Scholarship

Choral students are eligible for the merit-based Lyle C. Moore Choral Scholarships based on their musical excellence and academic success. Recipients need not be music majors. **These scholarships are layered on top of departmental scholarships and total \$5,000 each year. This award is renewable for four years.**

Merwin Music Dept. Scholarship

This one-time award is designated for current Gonzaga students in honor of Gordon Merwin, a member of the Gonzaga Men's Glee Club from 1935-1939. Any student enrolled in a music course is eligible to apply. Winners are selected in November based on their contributions to the Gonzaga Music Department and academic achievement.

Music Scholarship Awards

These awards are offered to instrumental and/or vocal students regardless of major. Offers cover the cost of private lessons and ensemble lab fees involved with ensemble participation, with remaining funds applied to general tuition costs. **All awards are renewable for four years.**



INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Gonzaga's choral ensembles tour internationally every two years. Recent tours include:

- Austria
- China
- Colombia
- Germany
- Italy
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Dr. Peter Hamlin

DEPARTMENT CHAIR, MUSIC EDUCATION & BANDS
HAMLIN@GONZAGA.EDU

David Fague

JAZZ STUDIES
FAGUE@GONZAGA.EDU

Dr. Kevin Hekmatpanah

ORCHESTRA & STRINGS
HEKMATPANAH@GONZAGA.EDU

Dr. Michael Kropf

MUSIC THEORY & COMPOSITION
KROPF@GONZAGA.EDU

Dr. Robert Spittal

MUSIC THEORY & CONDUCTING
SPITTAL@GONZAGA.EDU

Dr. Meg Stohlmann

CHORAL AND VOCAL ACTIVITIES
STOHLMANN@GONZAGA.EDU

Dr. Jadrian Tarver

APPLIED VOICE
TARVER@GONZAGA.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
gonzaga.edu/music



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