The Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts

Academic Requirements

Table of Contents

- Residence Requirements
- Entrance Requirements and Prerequisites
- General Curriculum Requirements
- Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and Certificate of Fine Arts
- Master of Fine Arts (MFA) and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts
- Doctor of Musical Arts
- Center for Integrated Media
- Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts General Requirements
  - Core Curriculum: Summary Listing of Requirements
  - Core Curriculum: Elective Options
  - Core Curriculum: A Typical Course Sequence Semester-by-Semester
  - Music Theory and Skills Deadlines (DOs and DON'Ts)
  - Undergraduate Minor in Music Theory
- Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts Requirements
  - Optional Specializations
    - Composition & Experimental Sound Practices
    - Optional Undergraduate Composition Concentrations
  - InstrumentalArts
    - Brass
    - Guitar
    - Harp
    - Percussion
    - Piano/Keyboard
  - Strings
  - Winds
  - Jazz
  - Musical Arts
  - Music Technology: Interaction, Intelligence & Design
  - Performer-Composer Program
  - VoiceArts
  - World Music Performance
- Master of Fine Arts and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts Program Requirements
  - Specializations
    - Composition & Experimental Sound Practices
  - InstrumentalArts
    - Brass
    - Guitar
    - Harp
    - Percussion
    - Piano/Keyboard
    - Collaborative Keyboard
  - Strings
  - Winds
  - Jazz
  - Music Technology: Interaction, Intelligence & Design
  - Performer-Composer
  - VoiceArts
  - World Music Performance
Residence Requirements

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree and the Certificate of Fine Arts programs in The Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts require a minimum of 8.0 semesters of enrollment, while the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts programs require a minimum of 4.0 semesters of enrollment. BFA and MFA degree and Certificate programs require at least 2.0 semesters of full-time residence at CalArts. For all programs, the final 1.0 semester of course enrollment before graduation must be in residence at CalArts, although this requirement may be satisfied by completing consecutive semesters of part-time enrollment at CalArts that total 1.0 semester of residence and culminate in graduation. The Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) program in The Herb Alpert School of Music requires a minimum of three (3) years of full-time residence. (See also Institute residency policies.)

Entrance Requirements and Prerequisites

Music Theory and Musicianship Skills Placement Exams

All entering BFA, Certificate of Fine Arts, MFA, and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts students (with the exception of DMA students) are required to take the Music Theory and Musicianship Skills Placement Exams. These placement exams may be taken only once.

Undergraduate Students

CalArts does not accept transfer credit towards its Core Music Theory or Musicianship Skills requirements. Based on the results of the placement exams, each undergraduate student will be placed at a corresponding level in the core curriculum. If an undergraduate student lacks sufficient background to begin the CORE CURRICULUM sequence, they may be required to take the additional remedial courses, Fundamental Musicianship (MTHY001) and Theory Performance Lab (MTHY002). These courses offer training in skills and musical knowledge considered to be essential preparation for serious undergraduate study in music at CalArts. If required, Fundamental Musicianship must be completed by the end of the first year in residence. Failure to pass Fundamental Musicianship within the first year may result in dismissal from the School of Music.

Graduate Students

Applicants to the MFA program will be required to have attained a BM, BFA, BA or equivalent in music before admittance, or to have a Bachelor's degree in an alternate subject along with skills and knowledge that are appropriate to enter a Master's degree program in a music-related field.

For MFA and Advanced Certificate students, placement exam results may indicate either that a student's prior training and current skill levels are already appropriate for graduate study or that supplemental courses will be required in addition to the normal graduate curriculum.

As an admission requirement, DMA students must enter their degree program with music theory and musicianship skills assessed by faculty to be appropriate for their intended doctoral-level work and teaching assignments, as demonstrated by portfolio review, interview, and teaching demonstration.

Equivalency of Preparation (Graduate Students only)

Entering graduate students are expected to have had prior study that would be appropriate for their declared Specialization at CalArts. By the end of the student's first semester in their program, their undergraduate transcript will be evaluated to ascertain the amount and level of prior study. Students who lack sufficient background as judged by faculty will be required to take additional remedial coursework at CalArts.

Information regarding any additional prerequisites for graduate study in individual programs may be found under the course requirements for each program.

Back to top

General Curriculum Requirements

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and Certificate of Fine Arts

See Institute Degree and Certificate Requirements for BFA and Certificate.

Students must satisfactorily complete the program of studies formulated each semester by the mentor and student, which includes requirements specified in the "Specialization Descriptions" section of this catalog.

Students must attend and have both mid-residence and graduation reviews officially documented. During these reviews, the student's course history is examined, progress is assessed, problems are discussed and changes to the curriculum are considered. Mentors and deans must officially approve any changes to the student's curriculum requirements.

Back to top

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts

All MFA degree candidates must complete a minimum of 60 units.

Students must satisfactorily complete the program of studies formulated each semester by the mentor and student, which includes requirements specified in the "Specialization Descriptions" section of this catalog.

Back to top
By the time they graduate, students will have had opportunity to:

**Breadth of Experience in the Arts**
- Cultures and literature, music theory and practice, performance experiences, making original work, new methods and technologies, professional development.

**BFA Core Curriculum**
- Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts General Requirements
- Doctor of Musical Arts
- Center for Integrated Media

**Doctor of Musical Arts**
- Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts General Requirements
- Doctor of Musical Arts

**Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts General Requirements**
- When students enter the BFA Program in Music, they are regarded as holistic “Music Artists.” As each student gains experience with the spectrum of curriculum offerings available, always in regular consultation with a mentor, they naturally develop particular concentrations of study that best suit their artistic and professional goals.
- The BFA Program in Music contains the following métier components: 1) a Core Curriculum required for all students, 2) a variety of Specialization curricula with required courses, 3) prerequisites intended to prepare students for particular Specializations, and 4) BFA 3-4 Music requirements for students who do not proceed with a Specialization curriculum. In addition, a Music Theory Minor and certain optional Concentrations in Composition are also available for those who wish to pursue them. A single course cannot simultaneously fulfill a requirement in each of the Core Curriculum, a music Specialization, the Music Theory Minor, and an optional concentration in music, but no single course can satisfy more than one requirement within any one of these.
- When students apply to the BFA Program in Music, they have the option of declaring their intention to concentrate their work in a particular curriculum Specialization, or they may be accepted to enter as Undeclared and allow their Specialization to emerge. Undeclared students may subsequently declare their intention to adopt a Specialization, which must be approved by the Director of that Specialization. However, the declaration to adopt a Specialization curriculum must be made prior to the time of the Mid-Residence Review, which takes place before the third year (BFA-3) of study, normally in the BFA-2-2 semester. To be prepared for this, undeclared students must take any necessary prerequisite courses for their Specialization and have a portfolio and performance assessment review approved by Specialization faculty. In special cases, it may be possible to declare more than one or a combination of Specializations, and students may also apply prerequisite coursework to more than one Specialization. When students complete the requirements of their Specialization(s), appropriate notations are placed on their official transcripts. Students who elect not to declare a Specialization, or who are not approved by faculty to proceed with a Specialization curriculum, will be automatically required to adopt the BFA 3-4 Music curriculum. Upon graduation, those students will receive a BFA in Music without a Specialization curriculum indicated on their transcripts.
- Students must maintain close contact with their faculty mentors, who can guide them in selecting courses that will best serve their individual educational and career objectives and prepare them for their intended Specialization(s). Note that all students are required to develop a cumulative portfolio of work each year, which is also reviewed by their mentors and appropriate faculty.

**BFA Core Curriculum**
- All undergraduate music students must take core curriculum courses. These courses are intended to foster the development of skills in the essential areas of music cultures and literature, music theory and practice, performance experiences, making original work, new methods and technologies, professional development, and breadth of experience in the arts.
- **Learning Goals**
  - Develop a forward-looking approach to music-making that is exploratory while recognizing precedent and tradition, and that is appropriate to the challenges and opportunities in today's rapidly developing climate of global music,
  - Engage music from diverse historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts—including new emerging musical forms and musical traditions from around the world,
  - Acquire a broad and strong foundation of technique appropriate to their individual artistic and professional aspirations,
  - Systematically analyze and document in detail the materials and structure of representative musical examples, employing established analytical techniques and vocabulary wherever these are useful,
  - Develop sophisticated musicianship skills, including the ability to identify melodic, rhythmic and harmonic ideas by ear with sufficient clarity and speed for success as a professional musician in their discipline,
  - Perform within ensemble contexts and gain experience with the particular demands and rewards of performing with other musicians,
  - Make distinctive original music reflecting their own creative interests,
  - Explore musical possibilities afforded by current technology and their application to the student's own musical work,
  - Discover collaborative possibilities through engagement with other artistic métiers,
  - Produce and present professional-quality documentation of their artistic work in appropriate media,
  - Acquire skills applicable to planning and sustaining a career in music,
  - Establish strong communication skills and an ability to express musical and scholarly ideas in verbal form,
  - Demonstrate productive self-discipline reflecting an awareness that art is less an end result than a process in which excellence and self-transcendence are pursued constantly.
Core Curriculum: Summary Listing of Requirements

The Core Curriculum requirements listed immediately below are required for all undergraduate students. Courses completed to meet Core Curriculum requirements can be used to meet Specialization Requirements if approved by Dean and Mentor in review.

**MUSIC CULTURES & LITERATURE**
- MAIC100 Survey of 20th & 21st C. Music
- MAIC101 World Music Survey

**MUSIC THEORY & PRACTICE**
- MPRF103 Class Piano (or other approved keyboard course)
- MTHY101 Practical Musicianship A
- MTHY102 Practical Musicianship B
- MTHY111 Tonal Theory & Applications A
- MTHY112 Tonal Theory & Applications B (not required for the Music Technology Specialization)
- MTHY210 Non-Tonal Theories

**PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCES**
- ONE course chosen from:
  - MTEC100 Intro to Concert Production (in BFA2)
  - MTEC101 Concert Production I
- MBLExxx TWO World Music Ensemble electives (see listing below)
- MBLExxx TWO additional ensemble courses

**MAKING ORIGINAL WORK**
- TWO courses chosen from:
  - MCMPI10 Introduction to Composition
  - MCMPI309 Words for Music
  - MCMPI310 Jazz Composition
  - MCMPI314 Jazz Arranging
  - MCMPI330-339 Writing for...
  - MCMPI342 Composition for Film & Video
  - MCMPI465 Composition with Max/MSP
  - MPRF130 TRIG: Electronic Percussion
  - MTEC270 History of Electronic Dance Music
  - MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis
  - MLSNxxx non-required composition lessons

**NEW METHODS & TECHNOLOGIES**
- TWO courses chosen from:
  - ICOM111 Intro to Sound Production
  - ICOM201 Introduction to Programming I
  - ICOM202 Introduction to Programming II
  - ICOM301 Digital Fabrication
  - IDAR201 Videomaking for Digital Artists
  - MCMPI404 Field Recording Workshop
  - MSCM310 Acoustics for Musicians
  - MTEC150 Fundamentals of Computer Music
  - MTEC360 Audio Signal Processing
  - MTEC365 Digital Recording Studio

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
- TWO classes chosen from:
  - AAIC323 Practice & Pedagogy: ArtPilot
  - ICOM101 Media & Web Development
  - MAIC403 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
  - MAIC404 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
  - MINTxxx Internship in Music
  - MPCD350 Career Designs for Musicians
  - MPCD420 Teaching the Voice
  - MPCD460 Creative Entrepreneurship
  - Other professional development coursework as approved by mentor
- MCMP290 Portfolio Review (each Spring Semester, 4 classes)

**BREADTH IN THE ARTS**
- Winter session (4 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
Core Curriculum: World Music Ensemble Options

The following listing of world music ensemble electives is provided for ease of reference.

- MIBLE103 Beg. World Percussion Ensemble
- MIBLE203 Adv. World Percussion Ensemble
- MIBLE104 Tabla Ensemble
- MIBLE201 Beginning African Ensemble
- MIBLE202 Advanced African Ensemble
- MIBLE205 Azoli Highlife Ensemble
- MIBLE206 Talking Drum Ensemble
- MIBLE210 Beginning Javanese Gamelan
- MIBLE211 Advanced Javanese Gamelan
- MIBLE220 Beginning Balinese Gamelan
- MIBLE221 Advanced Balinese Gamelan
- MIBLE222 Gender Wayang Ensemble
- MIBLE223 Balinese Flute Ensemble
- MIBLE224 Kecak Ensemble
- MIBLE230 North Indian Ensemble
- MIBLE235 Japan Ensemble
- MIBLE240 Beginning Persian Ensemble
- MIBLE241 Advanced Persian Ensemble
- MPRF221 African Song
- MIBLE250 African Dance
- MIBLE252 Balinese Dance
- MIBLE254 Javanese Dance (Women)
- MIBLE256 Javanese Dance (Men)
- MIBLE260 The Baltic Voice
- MPRF223 Beginning Shakuhachi Workshop
- MTHY120 Beginning Svar Graam (Vocal)
- MTHY121 Beginning Svar Graam (Instrumental)
- MTHY212 Beginning Svar Graam (Instrumental)
- MTHY322 Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
- MTHY323 Advanced Svar Graam (Instrumental)

Core Curriculum: A Typical Course Sequence Semester-by-Semester

Whichever core courses are required by a student's specialization, there may be some variability as to when they are taken depending on individual placement, experience and development. However, certain strict deadlines do apply (see Music Theory and Skills Deadlines below).

First Year

First Semester (BFA1-1)
- MTHY101 Practical Musicianship A
- MTHY111 Tonal Theory & Applications A
- MAIC100 Survey of 20th & 21st C. Music
- MLSN003 Class Piano (or alternative as approved by instructor; see list of alternatives above)

Second Semester (BFA1-2)
- MTHY102 Practical Musicianship B
- MTHY112 Tonal Theory & Applications B
- MAIC101 World Music Survey

Second Year

First Semester (BFA2-1)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY210 Non-Tonal Theories
- M... World Music Ensemble elective (see the list of ensemble electives above)

Second Semester (BFA2-2)
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D (if required)
Music Theory and Skills Deadlines (DOs and DON’Ts)

⇒ **DO** finish core requirements on time

- MTHY001 (Fundamental Musicianship), if required, must be completed by the end of the first year of residence in order to maintain eligibility to continue as a student in The Herb Alpert School of Music.
- MTHY111 & MTHY112 (Tonal Theory & Applications A & B), and MTHY101 & B (Practical Musicianship A & B) must all be completed by the end of the second year in residence, if required.
- MTHY210 (Non-Tonal Theories) and MTHY203 & MTHY204 (Practical Musicianship C & D), if required, must all be completed by the end of the third year in residence.

⇒ **DON’T** take a vacation from core requirements

- All undergraduate students must take core theory courses each semester until all required courses in the theory sequence MTHY001, MTHY111, MTHY112, MTHY210 are completed. (See Individual Specialization Descriptions below for requirements by specialization.)
- All undergraduate students must take tonal musicianship skills courses each semester until all required courses in the Practical Musicianship sequence MTHY001, MTHY101, MTHY102, MTHY203, MTHY204 are completed. (See the descriptions of BFA Music Specializations below for requirements.)

⇒ **DO** fulfill core Incomplete grades on time

- In any course that constitutes a prerequisite for another required course in the core Music Theory or Skills curriculum, an Incomplete (I) grade must be made up before the student will be allowed to enroll in the next course in the sequence. Instructors are not obliged to permit enrollment in core theory or skills courses after classes begin, so Incomplete grades should be made up before the date on which the following semester’s regular classes commence.

FAILURE TO FULFILL CORE REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO THESE STIPULATIONS MAY RESULT IN ACADEMIC WARNING, INELIGIBILITY TO ADVANCE IN YEAR LEVEL, LOSS OF FINANCIAL AID, AND POSSIBLE DISMISSAL FROM THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC (see Academic Standing Policy).
MTHY108 Transcription Skills (2 units)
MTHY240 Jazz Keyboard Theory (1 unit, may be repeated)
MPRF101 Jazz Improvisation, Group (1 unit, may be repeated)
MPRF102 Jazz Improvisation, 1-on-1 (1 unit, may be repeated)

ALL of the following courses:
- MTHY310 Acoustics for Musicians
- ICOM101 Media & Web Development
- ICOM111 Introduction to Sound Production

TWO courses chosen from:
- MAIC403 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
- MAIC404 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
- MPCD350 Career Designs for Musicians
- MPCD460 Creative Entrepreneurship

FOUR courses chosen from:
- MHST205/206 Western Music History A/B
- MAIC240 Jazz History
- MHST30x Music Cultures
- MHST312 Ethnology of African Music
- MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
- MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
- MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
- MCMP/MHST/MTEC/MTHY4xx Advanced Composition, History, Music Technology or Theory Electives (4 classes not fulfilling any other music requirement)

Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

---

**Undergraduate Minor in Music Theory**

The Minor in Music Theory offers interested eligible undergraduate students a non-degree credential that supplements their Major. If earned, the Minor is noted on CalArts transcripts. Course credit earned by a student can count simultaneously towards the requirements of the Major and the Minor. Interested students must visit the Music Office in order to formally declare in writing their intent to pursue the Minor. However, they must first have fulfilled all of the following prerequisites either by means of placement examination or by course completion with a grade of P or HP.

**Prerequisites to the Music Theory Minor**

- MTHY112 Tonal Theory & Applications B
- MTHY210 Non-Tonal Theories
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C

The Minor is awarded to undergraduate students who formally declare their intention to pursue it before graduation and who complete all of the following course requirements.

**Requirements for the Music Theory Minor**

- MTHY214 Countertpoint
- MTHY240 Jazz Keyboard Theory (2 classes, 2 units in total)
- MTHY310 Acoustics for Musicians
- Music Perception Option: ONE class chosen from
  - MTHY309 Psychoacoustics
  - MTHY403 Intonation Workshop I
  - MTHY404 Intonation Workshop II
- Musical Forms Option: ONE class chosen from
  - MTHY217 Form and Analysis
  - MTHY216 Song Writing & Analysis
- Analytical Survey Option: ONE class chosen from
  - MTHY450 Chamber Thought
  - MTHY451 Orchestral Thought
  - MTHY454 The String Quartet since 1900
  - MTHY455 The Piano since 1900
- Non-Western Theory Options: TWO classes chosen from
  - MTHY216 North Indian Music Theory
  - MTHY228 Journey to the Persian Music
  - MTHY226 Ghanaian Rhythm Theory
  - MTHY224 Java/Bali: Music-Dance-Theory
  - MTHY425 Tala Systems
Approved Electives for the Music Theory Minor

The following courses are applicable to the elective requirements of the Minor in Music Theory. Appropriate course substitutions may be made with the approval of dean and mentor.

- MCM314 Jazz Arranging
- MCM341 Film Music History & Analysis
- MHST467 Music & Surrealism
- MCM416 Concert Theater
- MTH468 Late Beethoven
- MTHY108 Musicianship Skills: Transcription
- MTHY270 Arranging for Guitar
- MTHY273 Lute Tablature Transcription
- MTHY274 Fretboard Theory
- MTHY275 Figured Bass for Guitar & Lute
- MTHY276 Analysis of Guitar Repertoire
- MTHY277 Baroque Accompaniment
- MTHY281 Form and Analysis
- MTHY286 Song Writing & Analysis
- MTHY282 Advanced Harmonic Techniques
- MTHY283 North Indian Theory
- MTHY285 Journey to the Persian Music
- MTHY286 Ghanaian Rhythm Theory
- MTHY287 Java/Bali: Music-Dance-Theory
- MTHY301 Meaningful Interpretation
- MTHY468 Chamber Thought
- MTHY481 Orchestral Thought
- MTHY482 What Is Experimental Music?
- MTHY485 The String Quartet since 1900
- MTHY486 The Piano since 1900
- MTHY487 Tala Systems
- MTHY488 Intonation Workshop I
- MTHY489 Intonation Workshop II
- MTHY480 Electroacoustic Music Analysis
- MTHY506 The Experimenting Ear
- MTHY507 Independent Project in Music Theory & Analysis

Good standing in the Major specialization is required for continued enrollment in the Music Theory Minor. Students on Academic Warning may be suspended from the Minor in Music Theory. Students may be permanently removed from the Minor after more than one semester on Academic Warning, at the recommendation of their Dean.

Back to top
MYHY204 Practical Musicianship D
ICOM111 Introduction to Sound Production
MTHY310 Acoustics for Musicians

Any two of the following four Core Theory Options:
- MTHY217 Form (2 units)
- MTHY214 Counterpoint (2 units)
- MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis (2 units)

Any two units drawn from the following list of jazz courses:
- MTHY108 Transcription Skills (2 units)
- MTHY240 Jazz Keyboard Theory (1 unit, may be repeated)
- MPRF101 Jazz Improvisation, Group (1 unit may be repeated)
- MPRF102 Jazz Improvisation, t-on-1 (1 unit, may be repeated)

One class chosen from
- MCMP369 Production as Composition
- MCMP465 Composition with Max/MSP
- MTEC270 History of Electronic Dance Music
- MTEC360 Audio Signal Processing
- MCMP/MHST/MTHY4xx Advanced Composition, History or Theory Electives (2 classes not fulfilling any other music requirement)
- MCMP490 Graduation Portfolio and Website Review
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MFOR101 Undergraduate Composers' Forum (first Fall semester in residence)
- MCMP105 Music Notation (1 class, in BFA1)
- MCMP210 Instrumental Composition I
- MCMP211 Instrumental Composition II
- MTHY112 Tonal Theory and Applications B
- Approved portfolio assessment for the specialization

Optional Undergraduate Composition Concentrations

Interested undergraduate Composition and Performer-Composer students can earn one or more optional Concentrations within their major by completing additional requirements as indicated below. Earned Concentrations will be noted on CalArts transcripts. Course credits earned towards the core curriculum or towards the BFA composition foundation can also count towards one or more of these Concentrations, and vice versa. Any student interested in pursuing one or more concentrations must declare this during their Graduation Review.

**BFA Composition: Optional Concentration in Avant-Garde Rock & Noise**

- MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis
- MPCD350 Career Designs for Musicians

One class chosen from:
- MCMP308 The Art of the Mix
- MTEC365 Digital Recording Studio
- MCMP369 Production as Composition

Two classes chosen from:
- MAIC316 Blues before 1960
- MHST302 Popular Music: A Social & Analytical History
- MHST405-410 Focus Rock

Three different classes chosen from:
- MBLLE310 Improvisation Ensemble
- MBLLE450 Sonic Boom Ensemble
- MCMP325 Experimental Music Workshop I
- MCMP326 Experimental Music Workshop II
- MCMP336 Writing for Voice
- MPRF217 Learning to Scream
- Critical Studies course in creative poetic writing (mentor approval required)

**BFA Composition: Optional Concentration in Electronic Music**

One class chosen from:
- MTHY411 Electroacoustic Music Analysis
- MHST425 Survey of Sound Art

Two classes chosen from:
- MBLLE415 Networked Music Ensemble
MCMP369 Production as Composition
MCMP465 Composition with Max/MSP
MTEC270 History of Electronic Dance Music

Four classes chosen from:
- ICOM201 Introduction to Programming I
- ICOM202 Introduction to Programming II
- MTEC150 Fundamentals of Computer Music
- MTEC155 Advanced Sound Synthesis
- MTEC3xx-4xx advanced music technology electives

**BFA Composition: Optional Concentration in Experimental Music**
- MCMP325 Experimental Music Workshop I
- MCMP326 Experimental Music Workshop II
- MTHY403 / MTHY404 Intonation Workshop I or Intonation Workshop II
- Three classes chosen from:
  - MBLE415 Networked Music Ensemble
  - MCMP465 Composition with Max/MSP
  - MBLE450 Sonic Boom Ensemble
  - MBLE460 Golia Large Ensemble
  - MBLE310 Improvisation Ensemble
- Two classes chosen from:
  - MCMP343 Experiments in Film Sound
  - MHST350 Stylists and Innovators 1961-Now
  - MHST422 Experimental Music Post-Cage
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
  - MHST472 John Cage: Music & Thought
  - MHST473 John Cage, Sun Ra, Musique Concrete and the Noise Uprising
  - MAIC492 Critical Reading (may be repeated for credit)

**BFA Composition: Optional Concentration in Composition for Film & Video**
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- MPCD350 Career Designs for Musicians
- MPRF307 Conducting I
- One class chosen from:
  - MCMP341 Film Music History & Analysis
  - MCMP343 Experiments in Film Sound
  - MCMP342 Composition for Film & Video
- One class chosen from (taking all of these courses is strongly recommended):
  - FSFV435 Sound Student Technician Course
  - FPFV481 Sound Mixing and Editing
  - MTEC365 Digital Recording Studio
- One class chosen from:
  - MCMP402 Orchestration
  - MTHY451 Orchestral Thought
  - FPFV424 Aesthetics of Sound and Image

**BFA Composition: Optional Concentration in Instrumental Composition**
- MCMP330-339 Writing for ... (2 classes)
- MPRF307 Conducting I
- MPRF408 Conducting II
- MLSN0xx Performance Lessons (2 different orchestral instruments as assigned, 2 courses total)*
- One class chosen from:
  - MTHY450 Chamber Thought
  - MTHY454 The String Quartet since 1900
  - MTHY455 The Piano since 1900
- One class chosen from:
  - MCMP402 Orchestration
  - MTHY451 Orchestral Thought
- Two different classes chosen from:
  - MBLE106 Chamber Music
  - MBLE300 The Ensemble
  - MBLE310 Improvisation Ensemble
  - MBLE450 Sonic Boom Ensemble
II. InstrumentalArts (BFA)

Brass (BFA Requirements)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA3-2. Upon approved declaration, the combined prerequisites and requirements listed below together become the student's degree requirements in Music.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIALIZATION

- Complete CORE CURRICULUM, plus
- MLSN100 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MPRF132 Brass Workshop (each semester)
- MBLE120 Brass Ensemble (each semester)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- MAIC403 Pedagogy I or MAIC404 Pedagogy II
- MTHY316 Meaningful Interpretation
- MFOR102 Forums (2 classes)
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
- MBLExxx Ensembles (each semester) chosen from:
  - MBLE106 Chamber Music
  - MBLE300 The Ensemble
  - MBLE123 Woodwind Ensemble (for hornists)
- MPRF290 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF490 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

PREREQUISITES TO THE SPECIALIZATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF BFA2-2)

Students who have either declared this specialization or who may wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MFORxxx Forums (two classes, recommended in BFA1)
- MPRF132 Brass Workshop (two classes)
- MBLE120 Brass Ensemble (two classes)
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- MBLExxx Ensemble as assigned from (two classes):
  - MBLE106 Chamber Music
  - MBLE300 The Ensemble
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Guitar (BFA Program Requirements)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA3-2. Upon approved declaration, the combined prerequisites and requirements listed below together become the student's degree requirements in Music.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum, plus
- All PREREQUISITES TO THE SPECIALIZATION (completed by the end of BFA2-2), plus the following course requirements.
  - MLSN103 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
  - MFORxxx Forum, as assigned (two classes recommended in BFA-1)
  - MPRF120 Guitar Workshop (each semester)
  - MBLExxx Ensemble, as guitarist (each semester)
Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who have either declared this specialization or who may wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MPRF120 Guitar Workshop (two classes)
- MFORx xxx Forum, as assigned (two classes, recommended in BFA1)
- MBLExxx Ensemble, as guitarist (two classes)
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Harp (BFA Requirements)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA3-2. Upon approved declaration, the combined prerequisites and requirements listed below together become the student's degree requirements in Music.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum, plus
- All PREREQUISITES TO THE SPECIALIZATION (completed by the end of BFA2-2), plus the following course requirements.
- MSLN100 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MPRF123 Harp Studio Class (each semester)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- One class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MHST205 Western Music History I
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
  - MHST300 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
  - MTHY315 Meaningful Interpretation
- MAIC403 Pedagogy I or MAIC404 Pedagogy II
- MFORx xxx Forums (2 classes)
- MBLExxx Ensembles as assigned from (each semester):
  - MBLEx06 Chamber Music
  - MBLEx00 The Ensemble
- MPRF290 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF490 Graduation Jury & Recital
**Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)**

**Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)**

Students who have either declared this specialization or who may wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MPRF123 Harp Studio Class (two classes)
- MFORxxx Forums (two classes, recommended in BFA1)
- MHST206 Western Music History II

- One class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MHST205 Western Music History I
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art

- MBLExxx Ensembles as assigned from (two classes):
  - MBLEx06 Chamber Music
  - MBLEx300 The Ensemble

- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

**Back to top**

**Percussion (BFA Requirements)**

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA3-2. Upon approved declaration, the combined prerequisites and requirements listed below together become the student's degree requirements in Music.

**Requirements for the Specialization**

- Complete core curriculum, plus
- MLSN100 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MLSNxxx Percussion Lesson electives (two classes) from:
  - MLSN025 Latin Percussion
  - MLSN037 Jazz Drums
  - MLSN040 African Drums
  - MLSN041 Persian Music
  - MLSN050-064 Balinese/Javanese Percussion
  - MLSN070 Tabla
  - MLSN079 World Percussion
- MPRF129 Percussion Workshop (each semester)
- MBLE122 Percussion Ensemble (each semester)
- MFORxxx Forums (2 classes)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- MTHY316 Meaningful Interpretation
- MAIC403 Pedagogy I or MAIC404 Pedagogy II

- One class chosen from:
  - MHST205 Western Music History I
  - MHST206 Western Music History II

- One class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
  - MBLEx300 The Ensemble (two classes)
  - MBLExxx World Music Ensembles (two classes in addition to those in the core)
- MPRF290 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF490 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

**Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)**

Students who have either declared this specialization or who may wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MBLE122 Percussion Ensemble (two classes)
Piano/Keyboard (BFA Requirements)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA3-2. Upon approved declaration, the combined prerequisites and requirements listed below together become the student's degree requirements in Music.

Requirements for the specialization

- Complete core curriculum (see above)
- MLSN116 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MPRF119 Piano Workshop (each semester)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- MTHY315 Meaningful Interpretation
- MPCD199 Undergraduate Independent Project: Pedagogy (2 classes)
- MFOxxxx Forums (4 classes)
- MBLExxx Ensemble (as pianist) (each semester)
- One class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
- MPRF290 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF490 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Note: The Core Curriculum MLSN003 Class Piano requirement is waived for Piano/Keyboard majors.

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MPRF119 Piano Workshop (two classes)
- MFOxxxx Forums (two classes, recommended in BFA1)
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- MBLExxx Ensemble (as pianist) (two classes)
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Strings (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum (see above)
- MLSN100 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MPRF128 String Workshop (each semester)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- MTHY315 Meaningful Interpretation
- MAIC403 Pedagogy I or MAIC404 Pedagogy II
- MFOxxxx Forums (4 classes)
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage

MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now

MHST30x Music Cultures

MHST425 Survey of Sound Art

Chamber/Conducted Ensembles as assigned (each semester):
  - MBLE106 Chamber Music
  - MBLE107 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBLE300 The Ensemble
  - MBLE309 Period Instrument Ensemble

MPRF290 Mid-Residence Recital

MPRF490 Graduation Jury & Recital

Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MPRF119 String Workshop (two classes)
- MFORxxx Forums (two classes, recommended in BFA1)
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- Chamber/Conducted Ensembles as assigned (four classes):
  - MBLE106 Chamber Music
  - MBLE107 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBLE300 The Ensemble
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Winds (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum (see above)
- MLSN100 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MPRF222/124/130/131 Studio Class appropriate to major (each semester)
- MPRF133 Woodwind Workshop (each semester)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- MHST205 Western Music History I
- MHST206 Western Music History II
- MTHY316 Meaningful Interpretation
- MAIC403 Pedagogy I or MAIC404 Pedagogy II
- MFORxxx Forums (four classes)
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
- Chamber/Conducted Ensembles as assigned from (each semester)
  - MBLE106 Chamber Music
  - MBLE107 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBLE300 The Ensemble
- MPRF290 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF490 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MPRF222/124/130/131 Studio Class appropriate to major (two classes)
- MPRF133 Woodwind Workshop (two classes)
- MFORxxx Forums (2 classes, recommended in BFA1)
III. Jazz (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum (see above)
- MLSN 182 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MFOR107 Jazz Forum (3 classes)
- MTHY240 Jazz Keyboard Theory
- MTHY108 Transcription Skills
- MBLE201 Beginning African Ensemble
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- Any ONE of the following Theory Options:
  - MTHY214 Counterpoint
  - MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis
  - MTHY217 Form and Analysis
- MPRF101/102 Undergraduate Jazz Improvisation
- MPRF203 Harmonic Improvisation
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MCMP310 Jazz Composition
  - MCMP314 Jazz Arranging
- MAIC240 Jazz History
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
  - MHST371 Jazz and Urban Experimentalism
- MHST30x Music Cultures (1 class)
- MBLE117 Jazz Student Ensemble (each semester)
- MBLE118 Jazz Faculty Ensemble (each semester)
- MPRF490 Graduation Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MFOR107 Jazz Forum
- MTHY108 Transcription Skills
- MPRF101/102 Undergraduate Jazz Improvisation
- MBLE201 Beginning African Ensemble
- MBLE117 Jazz Student Ensemble
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Back to top

IV. MAP/ExPop (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum (see above)
- MLSN083 Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MFOR104 ExPop Forum (3 classes)
MFOR10x Other Forum (1 class)
MHST300E Music Cultures: ExPop
ICOM111 Intro to Sound Production

ONE class chosen from:
- MTEC270 History of Electronic Dance Music
- MCMP369 Production as Composition
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C

ONE vocal elective from:
- MBLE201 Beginning African Ensemble
- MBLE260 The Baltic Voice
- MBLE301 Chamber Singers
- MBLE302 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
- MLSN066 Javanese Voice Lesson
- MPRF217 Learning to Scream
- MPRF221 African Song
- MTHY150 Bach Chorale Singing
- MTHY120 Beginning Svar Graam (Vocal)
- MTHY122 Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
- other vocal elective as approved by mentor

MBLE328 Collaborative Music Ensemble (3 classes)

ONE course chosen from:
- MTHY108 Transcription Skills
- MTHY214 Counterpoint
- MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D

ONE course chosen from:
- MCMP309 Writing Words for Music
- CCST470 Hip Hop Lab
- CCRW211 Hip Hop Poetics Workshop
- CCRW212 Introduction to Creative Writing
- CCRW214 Adventures in Form and Chaos
- CCRW350 Sent Us of the Air
- CCRW362 Work the Document
- other CS course in poetry or creative writing

TWO ensemble courses chosen from (2 classes):
- MCMP325 Experimental Music Workshop I
- MCMP326 Experimental Music Workshop II
- MBLE310 Improvisation Ensemble
- MBLE460 Golia Large Ensemble
- MBLE450 Sonic Boom
- MPRF471 Hip Hop Lab Practicum
- MTEC420 Grids, Beats & Groups

ONE course chosen from:
- MCMP308 The Art of the Mix
- MCMP314 Jazz Arranging
- MCMP33x Writing for ...
- MCMP402 Orchestration
- MTHY450 Chamber Thought
- MTHY461 Orchestral Thought

TWO courses chosen from:
- MAIC240 Jazz History
- MAIC316 Blues before 1960
- MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
- MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
- MHST205 Western Music Survey I
- MHST206 Western Music Survey II
- MHST405–09 Focus Rock
- MHST30x Music Cultures
- MHST425 Survey of Sound Art

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
V. Music Technology: Interaction, Intelligence & Design (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum (except MTHY-112 Tonal Theory & Applications II) (see Core Curriculum Summary above)

AUDIO PRODUCTION

- MTEC101 Concert Production I
- ICOM111 Intro to Sound Production
- TWO courses chosen from:
  - MTEC102 Concert Production II
  - MTEC308 Advanced Production Techniques
  - MCMP369 Production as Composition
  - MCMP404 Field Recording Workshop
  - MTEC365 Digital Recording Studio

CREATIVE COMPUTING AND PROGRAMMING

- ICOM201 Introduction to Programming I
- ICOM202 Introduction to Programming II
- THREE courses chosen from:
  - IDAR419 Immersive Experience Design
  - MTEC415 Visual Programming
  - MTEC418 Generative Art
  - MTEC421 Advanced Creative Coding
  - Other Elective Computer Programming Courses

DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING

- MTEC150 Fundamentals of Computer Music
- ONE course chosen from:
  - MTEC155 Physical Modeling Synthesis
  - MTEC498E AI. Culture. Creativity

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- TWO courses chosen from:
  - MTEC330 Interface Design I
  - MTEC331 Interface Design II
  - MTEC460 Mechatronic Art and Music

BREADTH IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

- MFOR106 Creative Technology Forum (each semester)
- MTEC490 Music Technology BFA Project (2 classes)
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MTE101 Concert Production I
- ICOM111 Intro to Sound Production
- MTEC150 Fundamentals of Computer Music
- MFOR106 Creative Technology Forum (2 classes)
- ICOM201 Introduction to Programming I
- ICOM202 Introduction to Programming II
VI. Performer-Composer (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum, plus
- MLSN090-A Performer-Composer Lessons in Composition & ESP (4 classes, one each semester in BFA1&2)
- MLSN090-B Performer-Composer Lessons in Performance (4 classes, one each semester in BFA1&2)
- MLSN190 Hour Lesson(s) in Composition or Performance (4 classes in BFA3&4)
- MFOR305 Performer-Composer Forum (2 classes, offered each spring semester)
- MCMP105 Music Notation (in first Spring semester in residence)
- MCMP120 Instrumental Composition I
- MCMP121 Instrumental Composition II
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- Any TWO of the following FOUR Core Theory Options:
  - MTHY217 Form and Analysis (2 units)
  - MTHY214 Counterpoint (2 units)
  - MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis (2 units)
  - any 2 units drawn from the following list of jazz courses:
    - MTHY108 Transcription Skills (2 units)
    - MTHY240 Jazz Keyboard Theory (1 unit, may be repeated)
    - MPRF101 Jazz Improvisation, Group (1 unit, may be repeated)
    - MPRF102 Jazz Improvisation, 1-on-1 (1 unit, may be repeated)
- IC0M111 Introduction to Sound Production
- MTHY310 Acoustics for Musicians
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MCMP314 Jazz Arranging
  - MCMP316 Arranging for Experimental Pop
  - MCMP402 Orchestration
  - MTHY451 Orchestral Thought
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MCMP465 Composition with Max/MSP
  - MCMP469 Production as Composition
  - MTEC270 History of Electronic Dance Music
  - MTEC360 Audio Signal Processing
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MBLExxx / MPRFxxx Workshops, Ensembles or Performance studies appropriate to performance emphasis (2 classes)
  - MCMP/MHST/MTHY300-480 Advanced Composition, History or Theory Electives (2 classes not fulfilling any other music requirement)
  - MCMP490 Graduation Portfolio & Website Review (portfolio must include substantial original work)
- Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MFOR305 Performer-Composer Forum
- MCMP105 Music Notation (in first Spring semester in residence)
- MCMP120 Instrumental Composition I
- MCMP121 Instrumental Composition II
- MTHY112 Tonal Theory & Applications B
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Back to top
VII. VoiceArts (BFA)

VoiceArts (BFA Requirements)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization

- Complete core curriculum (see above)
- MLSN122 Voice Lessons, as assigned (each semester)
- MPRF115 VoiceArts Foundation
- MPRF310 Advanced Vocal Coaching
- MFOR103 Voice Forum (2 classes)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY204 Practical Musicianship D
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MHST205 Western Music History I
  - MHST206 Western Music History II
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MAIC240 Jazz History
  - MAIC401 Improvisation: Uses & Lineage
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
  - MHST30x Music Cultures
  - MHST345 Topics in Vocal Literature
  - MHST425 Survey of Sound Art
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MSCMA10 Physiology of the Voice
  - MPCD420 Teaching the Voice
  - MPRF454 Sounding the Voice
- FOUR Vocal Ensembles and/or Vocal Projects chosen from:
  - MBLE201 Beginning African Ensemble
  - MBLE260 The Baltic Voice
  - MBLE301 Chamber Singers
  - MBLE302 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
  - MBLE328 Collaborative Music Ensemble
  - MPRF221 African Song
  - MTHY130 Bach Chorale Singing
  - other vocal ensemble or project as approved by mentor
- Keyboard Requirement (in addition to core) as approved by mentor, chosen from:
  - MLSN016 Piano: Non–Hour Lessons (audition required)
  - MTHY131 Bach Keyboard Pieces
  - MTHY240 Jazz Keyboard Theory
- Techniques (1 class)
  - MCMP110 Introduction to Composition
  - MCMP336 Writing for Voice
  - MLSN565/665 Javanese Voice
  - MLSN573/673 North Indian Voice
  - MPCD420 Teaching the Voice
  - MPRF101 Jazz Improvisation
  - MPRF102 Jazz Improvisation
  - MPRF206 Experimental Voice Workshop
  - MPRF221 African Song
  - MPRF492 Contemporary Vocal Techniques
  - MPRF498B Mic Use for Vocalists
  - MTHY120 Beginning Svar Graam (vocal)
  - MTHY130 Bach Chorale Singing
  - MTHY215 Song Writing & Analysis
  - MTHY305 Advanced Sight-Singing
  - MTHY322 Advanced Svar Graam (vocal)
  - other techniques course as approved by mentor
- Language and Text (2 classes)
  - CCRW212 Intro to Creative Writing
  - CCRW214 Adventures in Form and Chaos (poetry writing)
Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MFOR103 Voice Forum
- MPRF115 VoiceArts Foundation
- MPRF110 Vocal Coaching
- MBLExxx Vocal Ensembles and/or Vocal Projects (2 classes; see listing above under Specialization requirements)
- Approved portfolio & performance assessment for the specialization

Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

VIII. World Music Performance (BFA)

Undergraduate students may be accepted to CalArts with a specialization, or with approval from faculty they may subsequently declare a specialization at any time before their Mid-Residence Review in BFA2-2.

Requirements for the Specialization
Complete core curriculum, plus

- MLSN181 Hour Lesson as assigned (each semester)
- MTHY203 Practical Musicianship C
- MTHY108 Transcription Skills (or other transcription class as approved by mentor)
- MHST30x Music Cultures (2 classes)

- MTHYxxx World Music Theory Electives chosen from (4 classes):
  - MTHY222 North Indian Theory
  - MTHY228 Journey to the Persian Music
  - MTHY226 Ghanaian Rhythm Theory
  - MTHY224 Java/Bali: Music-Dance-Theory
  - MTHY120 Beginning Svar Graam (Vocal)
  - MTHY322 Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
  - MTHY425 Tala Systems

- ONE African Music Ensemble chosen from:
  - MBLE201 Beginning African Ensemble
  - MBLE205 Azoli Highlife Ensemble
  - MBLE206 Talking Drum Ensemble
  - MBLE211 Advanced African Ensemble
  - MPRF221 African Song
  - MBLE250 Beginning African Dance
  - MBLE251 Advanced African Dance

- ONE Balinese/Javanese Ensemble chosen from:
  - MBLE210 Beginning Javanese Gamelan
  - MBLE211 Advanced Javanese Gamelan
  - MBLE220 Beginning Balinese Gamelan
  - MBLE221 Advanced Balinese Gamelan
  - MBLE222 Gender Wayang Ensemble
  - MBLE223 Balinese Flute Ensemble
  - MBLE224 Kecak Ensemble
  - MBLE252 Balinese Dance
  - MBLE254 Javanese Dance (Women)
  - MBLE256 Javanese Dance (Men)

- ONE North Indian Ensemble chosen from:
  - MBLE230 Beginning North Indian Ensemble
  - MBLE430 Advanced North Indian Ensemble
  - MBLE104 Tabla Ensemble

- ONE other World Music Ensemble chosen from:
  - MBLE103 Beg. World Percussion Ensemble
  - MBLE203 Adv. World Percussion Ensemble
  - MPRF223 Beginning Shakuhachi Workshop
  - MPRF328 Latin Percussion
  - MBLE235 Japan Ensemble
  - MBLE240 Beginning Persian Ensemble
  - MBLE241 Advanced Persian Ensemble
  - Other world music ensemble as approved

- MBLE xxx additional World Music Ensembles (8 classes)
  - MBLExxx Ensemble electives outside of World Music Specialization (4 classes) chosen from:
    - MBLE117 Jazz Student Ensemble
    - MBLE118 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
    - MBLE302 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
    - MBLE310 Improvisation Ensemble
    - MBLE327 Multi-Focus Ensemble
    - MBLE328 Collaborative Music Ensemble
    - MBLE450 Sonic Boom Ensemble
    - MBLE460 Golia Large Ensemble
    - Other ensemble outside of world music

- MPRF490 Graduation Recital

Electives (to fulfill 120-unit degree requirement)

Prerequisites to the Specialization for Undeclared Students (to be completed by the end of BFA2-2)

Students who wish to declare this specialization must complete the following requirements by the end of BFA2-2.

- MLSNxxx Lessons (each semester)
- MTHY108 Transcription Skills (or other transcription class as approved by mentor)
Master of Fine Arts and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts Program Requirements

A minimum of 4.0 semesters of enrollment are required for the Master of Fine Arts and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts. Some individualized specializations may require additional semesters of enrollment.

Learning Goals

By the time they graduate, students will have had opportunity to:

- Consolidate a forward-looking approach to music-making that is exploratory while recognizing precedent and tradition, and that is appropriate to the challenges and opportunities in today's rapidly developing climate of global music,
- Develop advanced abilities appropriate to their individual artistic and professional aspirations,
- Offer and receive constructive critique regarding their musical work and thinking from both senior practitioners and peers,
- Discover collaborative possibilities through engagement with other artistic métiers,
- Engage music from diverse historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts—including currently emerging musical forms and musical traditions from around the world,
- Perform within ensemble contexts and gain advanced experience with the particular demands and rewards of performing with other musicians,
- Analyze and communicate in detail the content and contexts of diverse musics,
- Produce and present professional-quality documentation of their artistic work in appropriate media,
- Realize distinctive musical projects reflecting their own artistic interests,
- Demonstrate productive self-discipline reflecting an awareness that art is less an end result than a process in which excellence and self-transcendence are pursued constantly.

I. Composition & Experimental Sound Practices (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN601 Composition Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MFOR501/508 Graduate Composers' or ESP Forum (4 classes in total)
- Composition courses with the prefix MCMP totaling at least 6 units
- Courses in music technology, theory, history, pedagogy, performance or world music (non-MCMP music courses, at least 10 units)
- Courses outside the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MCMP690 Graduation Portfolio Review
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

II. InstrumentalArts (MFA)

Brass (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN600 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF532 Brass Workshop (2 classes)
- MBLExxx Brass Ensemble (4 classes)
- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY/MCMP600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis or Composition (2 classes)
- Chamber/Conducted Ensembles as assigned (each semester, 4 classes):
  - MBLExxx Chamber Music Ensemble
  - MBLE500 The Ensemble
  - MBLE609 Period Instrument Ensemble
- Studies in Extended Techniques, Improvisation, and/or Interpretation: TWO classes chosen from:
  - MBLE500 The Ensemble
  - MBLE607 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBLE610 Improvisation Ensemble
  - MBLE617 Jazz Student Ensemble
Guitar (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN623 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF520 Guitar Workshop (4 classes)
- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY/MCMP600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis or Composition (2 classes)
- MBLExxx Coached Small Ensemble (4 classes) chosen from:
  - MBLEx606 Chamber Music
  - MBLEx617 Jazz Student Ensemble
  - MBLEx618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
  - MBLEx627 Multi-Focus Ensemble
  - MBLEx609 Period Instrument Ensemble
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MPCD603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
  - MPCD604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
  - MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians
  - MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
- Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

Harp (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN600 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF523 Harp Studio Class (4 classes)
- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis (2 classes)
- Studies in Extended Techniques, Improvisation, and/or Interpretation. Two classes chosen from:
  - MBLEx500 The Ensemble
  - MBLEx607 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBLEx610 Improvisation Ensemble
  - MBLEx617 Jazz Student Ensemble

Back to top
MBLE618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
MBLE627 Multi-Focus Ensemble
MBLE650 Sonic Boom Ensemble
MBLE660 Golia Large Ensemble
MHST601 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
MPRF512 Jazz Improvisation (1-on-1)
MTHYS77 Baroque Accompaniment
Chamber/Conducted Ensembles as assigned (each semester, 4 classes):
MBLE606 Chamber Music Ensemble
MBLE500 The Ensemble
MBLE609 Period Instrument Ensemble
MFOR502 Performance Forum (2 classes) (each Spring Semester)
ONE class chosen from:
MPCD603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
MPCD604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians
MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
MPCD699 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy
Courses outside of the School of Music (2 Classes)
MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA1)
Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Percussion (MFA)
Requirements for the Specialization
- MLSN600 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF529 Percussion Workshop (4 classes)
- MBLE622 Percussion Ensemble (4 classes)
- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis (2 classes)
- MBLE Ensembles as assigned (each semester, 4 classes)
- MFOR502/503/505/507 Forums (2 classes)
ONE class chosen from
MPCD603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
MPCD604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians
MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
Studies in Extended Techniques, Improvisation and/or Interpretation: two classes chosen from
MBLE500 The Ensemble
MBLE610 Improvisation Ensemble
MBLE617 Jazz Student Ensemble
MBLE618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
MBLE627 Multi-Focus Ensemble
MBLE650 Sonic Boom Ensemble
MBLE660 Golia Large Ensemble
MHST601 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961–Now
MPRF512 Jazz Improvisation (1-on-1)
MBLExxx World Music Ensemble elective (4 classes, see listing under BFA Core Curriculum above)
Courses in an artistic metier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top
Piano/Keyboard (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN516 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF519 Piano Workshop (each semester, 4 classes)
- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis (2 classes)
- MFOR502 Performance Forum (2 classes) (each Spring Semester)
- Chamber/Conducted Ensembles or Accompanying Project (each semester, 4 classes):
  - MBLE606 Chamber Music Ensemble
  - MBLE500 The Ensemble
  - MBLE609 Period Instrument Ensemble
  - MBLE599 Independent Study
- MLSN500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MFOR502 Performance Forum (2 classes) (each Spring Semester)
- Chamber/Conducted Ensembles or Accompanying Project (each semester, 4 classes):
  - MBLE606 Chamber Music Ensemble
  - MBLE500 The Ensemble
  - MBLE609 Period Instrument Ensemble
  - MBLE599 Independent Study
- MPDC699 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MPDC603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
  - MPDC604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
  - MPDC650 Career Design for Musicians
  - MPDC660 Creative Entrepreneurship
- Movement Class. TWO classes chosen from:
  - DTCH501/503 Institute Dance
  - MBLE552 Balinese Dance
  - MBLE554/556 Javanese Dance
  - MPRF608 Yoga for Musicians
  - TACT514 Movement – Yoga
  - TGEN570/571 Intro to Tai Chi
- Keyboard Studies Electives. TWO classes chosen from:
  - MBLE610 Improvisation Ensemble
  - MBLE617 Jazz Student Ensemble
  - MBLE618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
  - MLSN513/613 Harpsichord Lesson
  - MLSN532/633 Jazz Piano Lesson
  - MTHY540 Jazz Keyboard Theory
  - MTHY577 Baroque Accompaniment
  - Other keyboard studies elective as approved by mentor
  - Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
  - MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA)
  - Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
  - MPRF590 Mid-Residency Recital
  - MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
  - Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

Collaborative Keyboard (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN516 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF604 Special Studies in Collaborative Performance
- MPRF510 Graduate Vocal Repertoire Coaching (minimum 2 classes)
- MHST545 Topics in Vocal Literature
- MLNG601-603 Foreign Language Diction for Singers (minimum 2 classes)
- MPRF599 Independent Study
- MHST/MTHY 600+ advanced Music History/Literature or Theory (3 classes)
- Ensembles as assigned (each semester, 4 classes):
  - MBLE606 Chamber Music Ensemble
  - MBLE500 The Ensemble
  - MBLE607 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MPRF502 Opera Theater
  - MBLE609 Period Instrument Ensemble
  - MFOR502 or MFOR603 Performance Forum or Voice Forum (2 classes minimum)
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MPDC603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
  - MPDC604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians
MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
MPCDS99 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy

Movement class: TWO classes chosen from:
- DTCH501/503 Institute Dance
- MBL550/551 Beginning/Advanced African Dance
- MBL552 Balinese Dance
- MBL554/556 Javanese Dance
- MPRF605 Yoga for Musicians
- TACT514 Movement – Yoga
- TGEN570/571 Intro to Tai Chi

Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty):
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA1)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

Strings (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN 600 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF528 String Workshop (4 classes)
- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis (2 classes)
- Studies in Extended Techniques, Improvisation and/or Interpretation. TWO classes chosen from:
  - MBL600 The Ensemble
  - MBL607 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBL610 Improvisation Ensemble
  - MBL617 Jazz Student Ensemble
  - MBL618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
  - MBL627 Multi-Focus Ensemble
  - MBL650 Sonic Boom Ensemble
  - MBL660 Golia Large Ensemble
  - MHST601 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
  - MHST350 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MPRF512 Jazz Improvisation (1-on-1)
  - MTHY577 Baroque Accompaniment
- MFOR502 Performance Forum (2 classes) (each Spring Semester)
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MPCD603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
  - MPCD604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
  - MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians
  - MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
  - MPCDS99 or ICSE650 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy or Arts Pedagogy
- Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA1)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

Winds (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN 600 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)

- MHST500+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
- MTHY600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis (2 classes)
- Studies in Extended Techniques, Improvisation and/or Interpretation. TWO classes chosen from:
  - MBL606 Chamber Music Ensemble
  - MBL600 The Ensemble
  - MBL609 Period Instrument Ensemble

Back to top
MLBE623 Woodwind Workshop (2 classes)
MPRF522/524/530/531 Studio Class as appropriate to major (4 classes)
MHST600+ Advanced Music History and Literature (2 classes)
MTHY600+ Advanced Theory/Analysis (2 classes)
Studies in Extended Techniques, Improvisation, and/or Interpretation. TWO classes chosen from:
  - MBL500 The Ensemble
  - MBL607 Baroque Chamber Music & Arias
  - MBL610 Improvisation Ensemble
  - MBL617 Jazz Student Ensemble
  - MBL618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble
  - MBL627 Multi-Focus Ensemble
  - MBL650 Sonic Boom Ensemble
  - MBL660 Golia Large Ensemble
  - MHST670 Frontiers of Instrumentation
  - MHST601 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
  - MHST560 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MPRF512 Jazz Improvisation (1-on-1)
  - MTHY577 Baroque Accompaniment
  - MPCD599 or ICSE650 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy or Arts Pedagogy (1 class)
  - Chamber/Conducted Ensembles as assigned (each semester, 4 classes):
    - MBL606 Graduate Chamber Music Ensemble
    - MBL500 The Ensemble
    - MBL609 Period Instrument Ensemble
    - MFOR502 Performance Forum (in Spring Semesters, 2 classes)
  - ONE class chosen from:
    - MPCD603 Pedagogy I: Teaching Artistry
    - MPCD604 Pedagogy II: Best Practices
    - MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians (1 class)
    - MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
  - Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
    - MBLxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA1)
    - Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
    - MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
    - MPRF690 Graduation Jury and Recital
    - Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

III. Jazz (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

These requirements are applicable to the following areas of study: Jazz Bass, Jazz Guitar, Jazz Keyboard, Jazz Drums, Jazz Trumpet, Jazz Trombone, Jazz Reeds, and Jazz Performance.

- MLSN682 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MCMP510 Jazz Composition
- MCMP500+ upper-level composition elective
- MPRF603 Harmonic Improvisation
- MBL618 Jazz Faculty Ensemble (4 classes)
- MBL617 Jazz Student Ensemble (4 classes)
- MFOR507 Jazz Forum (2 classes)
- ONE class chosen from:
  - MHST560 Stylists & Innovators 1961-Now
  - MHST571 Jazz and Urban Experimentalism
  - MHST601 Improvisation: Uses and Lineage
  - MHST/MTHY500+ upper-level history, theory or analysis elective
  - MBL601 Beginning African Music Ensemble
  - Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
  - Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
  - MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
  - MPRF690 Graduation Recital
  - Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)
IV. Music Technology: Interaction, Intelligence & Design Specialization (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MFOR506 Creative Technology Forum (4 classes)
- MTEC685 Teaching in Technology (2 classes)
- MTEC690 Music Technology MFA Project (variable units; must enroll each semester in residence)
- MTEC691 Thesis

CREATIVE COMPUTING AND PROGRAMMING

- MTEC613 Introduction to Programming I
- MTEC614 Introduction to Programming II
- THREE courses chosen from:
  - MTEC616 Visual Programming
  - MTEC618 Generative Art
  - MTEC621 Advanced Creative Coding
  - Other Elective Computer Programming Courses

DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING

- TWO courses chosen from:
  - MTEC650 Sound Synthesis
  - MTEC655 Physical Modeling Synthesis
  - MTEC698C Advanced Electronic Music Production
  - MTEC698E AI, Culture, Creativity

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- MTEC630 Interface Design I
- MTEC631 Interface Design II

DIGITAL CREATIVE PRACTICE / COMPOSITION / INSTALLATION

- TWO courses chosen from:
  - MTEC619 Immersive Experience Design
  - MCMP616 Choreographers & Composers
  - MTEC640 Machine Orchestra
  - MTEC618 Generative Art
  - MTEC620 Grids, Beats, and Groups
  - MTEC5xx/6xx Upper-Division Music Technology electives

BREADTH IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

- Courses outside the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA1)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

V. Performer-Composer (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN690 Hour Lesson(s) in Performance or Composition as assigned (4 classes)
- MLSN504-578 Lesson(s), in Year I, in whichever area (Performance or Composition) the Hour Lesson is not taken (2 classes)
- MFOR505 Performer-Composer Forum (2 classes)
- MFOR501/502/503/506/507/508 Other Graduate forums (2 classes)
- Composition courses (with the prefix MCMP) totaling at least 4 units
- Performance courses (with the prefix MBLE or MPRF) totaling at least 4 units
- Courses in music technology, theory, history, or pedagogy, (with prefix MTEC, MTHY, MHST or MPCD, at least 10 units)
- Courses outside the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA1)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital (must include substantial original work)
- MPRF690 Graduation Jury & Recital (must include substantial original work)
- MCMP690 Graduation Portfolio Review
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top
VI. VoiceArts (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

- MLSN 622 Hour Lessons as assigned (4 classes)
- MPRF510 Graduate Vocal Coaching
- MHTS500–510, 600–699 or MTHY510, 600–699 History/Literature/Theory/Analysis (2 classes)

Four Experimental Voice classes chosen from:

- MCMP625 & 626 Experimental Music Workshop I & II
- MPRF526 Experimental Voice Workshop
- MPRF611 Bodies and Voice
- MPRF651-659 Focused Topics in VoiceArts
- Other experimental voice courses as approved by mentor
- MPRF610 Physiology of the Voice

- Pedagogy Course, chosen from (1 course):
  - MPCD620 Teaching the Voice
  - MPCD599 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy
  - ICSE650 Arts Pedagogy
- MFOR503 Voice Forum (minimum 1 class or as assigned by mentor)

Performance project or ensemble electives, chosen in consultation with mentor chosen from (4 classes):

- MBLE500 The Ensemble
- MBLE560 The Baltic Voice
- MBLE601 Chamber Singers
- MBLE602 Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
- MBLE606 Chamber Music
- MBLE607 Baroque Chamber Music
- MBLE610 Improvisation Ensemble
- MBLE625 Creative Electronic Ensemble
- MBLE628 Collaborative Music Ensemble
- MBLE650 Sonic Boom Ensemble
- MBLE699 Independent Study Ensemble
- MCMP616 Concert Theater
- MCMP650 HyperOpera
- MPRF502 Opera Theater
- MBLE609 Period Instrument Ensemble
- MPRF699 Independent Study
- Other performance project course as approved by mentor

Career preparation course chosen from:

- MPCD650 Career Design for Musicians
- MTEC617 Media and Web Development
- MPCD660 Creative Entrepreneurship
- TGEN750 Entrepreneurship: The Artist as Entrepreneur
- TGEN755 The Business of Art: Entrepreneurial Training for Artists
- Other professional development courses as approved by mentor

Performance theory or practicum classes outside of Music (2 classes)

- CCST510 Theater of the Oppressed
- CCST567 Artists as Participants
- CCST568 Arts of the Invisible
- CMWP630 Performance Theory and Practice
- DCHR501 Institute Dance Composition
- DCHR501 Institute Dance Composition
- DTCH600 Institute Dance Technique
- DTCH603 Institute Dance
- FFDP604 Advanced Acting Workshop
- FVEA608 Voice and Text: A Mosaic
- TACT660 Improvisation
- TACT661 Improvisation
- THST530 Grad Seminar: Adaptation
- THST535 Grad Seminar: Dramaturgy
- THST540 Grad Seminar: Translation
- THST545 Grad Seminar: Theater of Witness
- TGEN591 Institute Acting Techniques I
TGEN515 Institute Acting Techniques II
TGEN520 Institute Directing I
TGEN525 Institute Directing II
TGEN660 Improvisation
TIMM571 Performing Object Lab
- Other performance theory or practicum class as approved by mentor
- Courses in movement techniques (2 classes) chosen from:
  - DCHR601 Graduate Advanced Improvisation
  - DTCH601/503 Institute Dance
  - MBLE552 Balinese Dance
  - MBLE554/556 Javanese Dance
  - MPRF605 Yoga for Musicians
  - TACT514 Movement – Yoga
  - TGEN570/571 Intro to Tai Chi
- Other movement class as approved by mentor
- MBLExxx World Music Ensemble (in MFA4)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF590 Mid-Residence Recital
- MPRF690 Graduation Jury & Recital
- MCM690 Graduation Portfolio Review
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

The VoiceArts specialization requires a review of each student's professional portfolio development each semester as a component of the lesson requirement.

Back to top

VII. World Music Performance (MFA)

African Music and Dance (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization

Two years of intensive study in the field of emphasis are required. A final recital or series of performances is required. Mentors may require a written thesis.

- MLSN681 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MLSN540-578 Lessons (2 classes, as approved by Mentor)
- MHST502 Ethnology of African Music
- MHST500-509 Music Cultures
- MTHY508 Transcription Skills (or other transcription class as approved by mentor)
- TWO classes chosen from:
  - MPRF620 Tabla Accompaniment
  - MTHY520/ MTHY522 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
  - MTHY521/ MTHY523 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Instrumental)
  - MTHY622 North Indian Theory
  - MTHY628 Journey to the Persian Music
  - MTHY626 Ghanaian Rhythm Theory
  - MTHY624 Java/Bali: Music-Dance-Theory
  - MTHY625 Tala Systems
- MBLE502 Advanced African Ensemble (4 classes)
- MBLE World Music Ensembles, outside of African specialization (4 classes) (see list under BFA Core Curriculum)
- MBLE550 African Dance (at least 1 class)
- MPRF621 African Song (at least 1 class)
- MPCR699 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy (2 classes)
- Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF690 Graduation Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

Back to top

Balinese and Javanese Music and Dance (MFA)

Requirements for the Specialization


Two years of intensive study in the field of emphasis are required. A final recital or series of performances is required. Mentors may require a written thesis.

- MLSN681 Graduate Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MLSN640-576 Lessons (2 classes, as approved by Major)
- MHT505-509 Music Cultures (2 classes)
- MTHY508 Transcription Skills (or other transcription class as approved by mentor)

**TWO classes chosen from:**
- MPRF620 Tabla Accompaniment
- MTHY520/ MTHY522 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
- MTHY521/ MTHY523 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Instrumental)
- MTHY622 North Indian Theory
- MTHY628 Journey to the Persian Music
- MTHY626 Ghanaian Rhythm Theory
- MTHY624 Java/Bali: Music-Dance-Theory
- MTHY625 Tala Systems
- MBLExxx World Music Ensembles, outside of major focus (4 classes)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensembles outside of Balinese/Javanese music (4 classes)
- MPCD999 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy (2 classes)
- Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF690 Graduation Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

**North Indian Music (MFA)**

Requirements for the Specialization

Two years of intensive study in the field of emphasis are required. A final recital or series of performances is required. Mentors may require a written thesis.

- MLSN681 Hour Lesson as assigned (4 classes)
- MLSN640-576 Lessons (2 classes, as approved by Mentor)
- MHT505-509 Music Cultures (2 classes)
- MTHY508 Transcription Skills (or other transcription class as approved by mentor)

**FOUR classes chosen from:**
- MPRF620 Tabla Accompaniment
- MTHY520/ MTHY522 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
- MTHY521/ MTHY523 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Instrumental)
- MTHY622 North Indian Theory
- MTHY628 Journey to the Persian Music
- MTHY626 Ghanaian Rhythm Theory
- MTHY624 Java/Bali: Music-Dance-Theory
- MTHY625 Tala Systems
- MBLExxx World Music Ensembles, outside of major focus (4 classes)
- MBLExxx World Music Ensembles outside of Balinese/Javanese music (4 classes)
- MPCD999 Graduate Independent Project: Pedagogy (2 classes)
- Courses in an artistic métier outside of the School of Music (2 classes, not taught by music faculty)
- Wintersession (2 units of coursework with subject code MITM, taken in January)
- MPRF690 Graduation Recital
- Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)

**World Percussion (MFA)**

Requirements for the Specialization

Two years of intensive study in the field of emphasis are required. A final recital or series of performances is required. Mentors may require a written thesis.

- MLSN 679 Hour Lessons as assigned (4 classes)
- MLSN 515/540/556/566/570 Lessons (2 classes, as approved by Mentor)
- MHT505-509 Music Cultures (2 classes)
- MTHY508 Transcription Skills (or other transcription class as approved by mentor)

**FOUR classes chosen from:**
- MPRF620 Latin Percussion
- MPRF620 Tabla Accompaniment
- MTHY520/ MTHY522 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Vocal)
- MTHY521/ MTHY523 Beginning/Advanced Svar Graam (Instrumental)
- MTHY622 North Indian Theory
Doctor of Musical Arts Program Requirements

I. Performer-Composer (DMA)

Learning Goals

Upon attainment of the DMA degree, students should have demonstrated an original and coherent artistic vision that fuses performance and composition in unique and compelling ways, and should manifest excellence as educators and advocates for evolutionary and exploratory art. Specifically, they should demonstrate:

- A high level of critically aware artistic production demonstrated by a substantial body of mature, well-documented artworks and performances that articulate a unique creative voice;
- Advanced technical and performance skills facilitating the consummate execution of diverse artistic projects;
- The scholarly ability to effectively contextualize and conceptualize their work and that of other artists, supported by broad historical and theoretical knowledge relevant to their artistic milieu;
- Persuasive written and oral communication skills enabling advocacy to diverse audiences of their own artistic ideas and practices, as well as of other exploratory art;
- Outstanding pedagogical and assessment skills and experience, including the employment of interactive and experiential learning modalities;
- Strong organizational and collaborative skills that complement entrepreneurial vision and expertise, including the ability to plan, promote and realize public events;
- A command of both traditional and emerging approaches to the delivery of scholarly and creative work, including professional development methods and strategies (e.g., media distribution formats, website preparation and Internet usage, grant-writing skills, production and management techniques, etc.).

DMA Program Requirements

DMA Students must satisfy all program requirements and must satisfactorily complete the program of studies formulated each semester by the student and their faculty Mentor, as well as all requirements specified in this section of this catalog.

The DMA program requires a minimum of 60 credit units in total, with a minimum enrollment of 10 units per semester, and a minimum residence of six full-time semesters. The course requirements for the DMA program are as follows.

- MLSN701/MLSN704-799 Composition and/or Performance Lessons (each semester in residence)
- MCMP700 Doctoral Seminar (each semester in residence)
- MHST703 Performer-Composer: History & Aesthetics
- MPCD701 Teaching the Teacher
- MPCD704 Professional Development
- MPCD740 Teaching Practicum (5 classes)
- MTHY750 Topic-Driven Research and Exploration (6 classes minimum with at least 3 different instructors)
- MPRF790 Performance Project (2 classes)
- MCMP790 Doctoral Project (2 classes)
- Approved Electives (3 classes, approved by mentor as relevant to the student's research direction)
- Free Electives (to fulfill 60-unit degree requirement)
- MCMP791 DMA First-Year Review
- MCMP792 DMA Qualifying Examination
- MCMP794 DMA Final Review

DMA students must pass a First Year Review (MCMP791). This review is conducted by the student's Doctoral Examining Committee. This Committee comprises a total of 3-4 faculty members and must include the student's Mentor and MTHY750 (Topic-Driven Research) instructors. During this review, the student's artistic, intellectual, academic, professional and pedagogical development is examined, progress is assessed, problems are discussed, and changes to the curriculum are considered. DMA students must pass Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations (MCMP792) before advancing to degree candidacy. The Qualifying Examinations are administered by the student's Doctoral Examining Committee. In preparation for the Qualifying Examinations, the student must enroll in MTHY750 (Topic-Driven Research) at least 6 times with a minimum of 3 different DEC members addressing 3 respective topic areas. This typically takes place over the course of the student's second year in the DMA program. The MTHY750 topic areas are agreed upon by the student and the MTHY750 instructors in light of the student's professional and artistic goals and are subject to approval by the Doctoral Policy Committee. The DMA Qualifying Examinations can be repeated at most once. Any second trial must occur within four months of the first trial. Unsatisfactory performance at the second trial is grounds for dismissal from the Herb Alpert School of Music.

Before the awarding of the degree each DMA student must pass a Final Review (MCMP794), conducted by their Doctoral Examining Committee. This review assesses the student's artistic, intellectual, academic, professional, and pedagogical standing in relation to the Learning Goals and Rubrics for the DMA program, and includes detailed evaluation of all components of the student's Doctoral Project (MCMP790), and particularly of the student's Professional Portfolio.
Office of the Registrar
661-253-7842
registrar@calarts.edu
Room F303
9am-5pm weekdays (during academic year)