Faculty of Music
University of Toronto

"Established in 1918, The University of Toronto’s Faculty of Music offers a vibrant and welcoming learning environment to a diverse and talented group of students.

The U of T provides exciting opportunities to study composition, performance, music education, music history & culture, and music theory with an internationally renowned and dedicated faculty. We offer a rich array of courses and programs rooted in inclusive excellence that prepare students for a variety of careers. Our beautiful concert halls, superb music library, and student-centred teaching offer an exceptionally strong educational experience in one of the world’s greatest cities. - Ellie Hisama, Dean

We Value:

- Excellence and equity of opportunity, developing individuals to the best of their and our ability
- The transculturally transformative power of music
- Diversity and fostering individuality in our students, faculty, and staff
- Tradition and innovation, reaffirming fundamental practices while creating new ones
- Education and the responsibility to create positive change
- Academic and artistic freedom of expression

#1 University in Canada and 18th in the world according to the 2021 Times Higher Education World University Rankings

Join us in our pursuit of musical excellence!
Be a part of our city's living mosaic, which draws the best and the brightest who come here seeking world-class business, culture, and education in one of the safest cities in North America. The city has, at its very core, exceptional diversity: nearly half of Toronto's 2.8 million residents were born outside of Canada.

The City of Toronto:
- One of the world's most vibrant, multicultural, and arts-oriented cities
- Ranked world's best city (Economist's 2015 Global Liveability Ranking)
- 10,000 theatrical performances in Toronto's 90 theatres annually
- Over 140 languages and dialects spoken
- Immerse yourself in a multitude of cultural experiences across the city such as Nuit Blanche, Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival and North America's largest Pride Week, or take in the beauty and history of the Art Gallery of Ontario and Royal Ontario Museum.
- Get outside to explore Toronto's many eclectic neighborhoods, take a hike on some of the city's 373 miles of trails, and join in community festivals.

In the heart of the city, UofT Music is a part of the Bloor Street Cultural Corridor. Many of our Faculty are active members of some of the world's finest ensembles, including Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, National Ballet Orchestra, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & Chamber Choir, Esprit Orchestra.

“I LOVE BEING DOWNTOWN. THERE’S A CONSISTENTLY LIVELY ENVIRONMENT IN THE AREA SURROUNDING UOFT, AND THERE ARE ALWAYS OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE ART. BEING IN TORONTO HAS IMPACTED MY STUDIES BY GIVING ME SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATCHING CONCERTS AND PLAYING EXTRACURRICULAR SHOWS.”

Exceptional Student Experiences

UofT Music offers small class sizes and a closely-knit community within the vast resources of Canada’s largest university.

Build relationships with outstanding faculty and connect with other like-minded and engaged students

Experience a flexible, personalized and enhanced educational experience in an environment that nurtures creativity and encourages students to achieve their best

Student life is central to the University of Toronto experience. There is a multitude of different social, cultural, recreational and wellness initiatives to help students reach their full potential.

“AS A STUDENT AT UOFT, YOU GET ACCESS TO THE UNPARALLELED RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE LARGEST UNIVERSITY AND CITY IN CANADA. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU GET THE ATMOSPHERE AND SUPPORT OF A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY IN THE FACULTY OF MUSIC, WHERE THE FACULTY AND STAFF KNOW YOU BY NAME AND A FRIEND IS ALWAYS NEARBY. MY PROFESSORS HAVE BEEN AN UNWAVERING SOURCE OF POSITIVITY, INSPIRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT. WE ARE SO LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH CARING PROFESSORS. UOFT MUSIC IS THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.”

– Sophia Wang, Mus.Bac. Music Education 2018
“IN A CITY AS ATTRACTION AS TORONTO, WE EXPERIENCE MANY CONCERTS FROM WORLD-CLASS MUSICIANS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM GREAT MUSICIANS. AT UOFT MUSIC, I HAVE GREAT TEACHERS AND MENTORS. PERFORMANCES HAPPEN ON A REGULAR BASIS, WITH MANY OF THEM INVOLVING COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS AND VOCALISTS. BEING SURROUNDED BY fellow MUSICIANS PROVIDES INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION TO KEEP WORKING HARD.”

– Chris Soong, Mus.Bac.Perf. 2016, M.Mus. 2018

Our People

Our faculty members are among the finest in their fields.

Our faculty members include musicians who perform on the world’s most prestigious stages and record for major labels, scholars who present at leading international conferences and publish with top presses, educators who offer workshops and masterclasses at universities and conservatories worldwide, and composers whose works are performed by renowned ensembles and commissioned by acclaimed musicians and arts organizations. Visit “Our People” at music.utoronto.ca to read profiles of our outstanding faculty members – nearly sixty full-time and one hundred part-time – models and mentors to support a broad range of music-related careers.

Each year, the Visiting Artists & Scholars program provides our community with rich opportunities for interaction with the world’s leading scholars, composers, educators, and performers. Recent visitors have included:

Atar Arad (violist)  
John Beckwith (composer)  
Suzanne Cusick (musicologist)  
Sir Andrew Davis (conductor)  
Johannes Debus (conductor)  
Sir James Galway (flautist)  
Paul Griffiths (music critic and opera librettist)  
Barbara Hannigan (soprano and conductor)  
Ben Heppner (tenor)

Steven Isserlis (cellist)  
Vijay Iyer (jazz pianist)  
Warren Jones (pianist)  
Laurence Lesser (cellist)  
Dave Liebman (jazz saxophonist)  
Stephen Lord (conductor)  
Menahem Pressler (pianist)  
Sondra Radvanovsky (soprano)  
Alexander Reichling (music theorist)  
Stephen Wadsworth (opera director)  
Norma Winstone (jazz vocalist)

In addition, recent resident and visiting ensembles include the Gryphon Trio, St. Lawrence String Quartet, New Orford String Quartet, Festival Winds, Tallis Scholars, and Theatre of Early Music.
Diversity of Programs with
World-Renowned Faculty

UofT Music is internationally renowned for its academic and artistic excellence in musical creation, performance, education, and research.

We explore music’s interdisciplinary intersections with technology, health sciences, and humanities. The breadth and depth of our programs encourage students to explore new possibilities.

Visit music.utoronto.ca to read about all of the following programs:

Bachelor of Music (Mus. Bac.)
  Composition
  Comprehensive (Classical or Jazz)
  History & Theory
  Music Education (Classical or Jazz)

Bachelor of Music in Performance (Mus.Bac. Perf.)
  Classical or Jazz

Diplomas
  Advanced Certificate in Performance
  Artist Diploma
  Diploma in Operatic Performance

Master of Arts (M.A.)
  Ethnomusicology
  Music Education
  Music & Health Sciences
  Music Theory
  Musicology

Master of Music (M.Mus.)
  Applied Music & Health
  Collaborative Piano
  Composition
  Conducting
  Historical Performance
  Instrumental Jazz
  Music Technology & Digital Media
  Opera
  Piano Pedagogy
  Voice
  Vocal Pedagogy

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
  Ethnomusicology
  Music Education
  Music & Health Sciences
  Music Theory
  Musicology

Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.)
  Collaborative Piano
  Composition
  Conducting
  Historical Performance
  Instrumental Jazz
  Piano Pedagogy
  Voice
  Vocal Pedagogy

“THE PROGRAMS OFFERED FEATURE SUCH AN INCREDIBLE BREADTH OF FIELDS ACROSS MUSIC, WHICH SPEAKS NOT ONLY TO MUSIC AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE, BUT TO ITS RELEVANCE IN SOCIETY TODAY. NO MATTER WHICH PROGRAM YOU ARE IN, YOU HAVE BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES TO ENRICH YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MUSIC BY WORKING WITH STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT PROGRAMS AND LEVELS OF STUDY, AS WELL AS TAKING COURSES FROM OTHER DISCIPLINES.”

Performance Opportunities: from the Classroom... to the City

UofT Music offers abundant opportunities to perform in solo, chamber music, and ensemble settings in both on and off-campus venues.

Including:

- Over 600 concerts, master classes, conferences, and symposia presented annually
- Two fully staged Operas and one student-composed Opera each year
- Student ensembles include Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, MacMillan Singers, Women's Chamber Choir, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Early Music Ensemble, Contemporary Music Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, World Music Ensembles, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and two Jazz Orchestras

Students perform regularly in chamber music groups and small jazz ensembles. In addition, the Music Booking Office connects undergraduate and graduate students with paid professional work both on and off-campus.
Facilities

The facilities at UofT Music include a theatre, recital hall, classrooms, studios, labs, ensemble rehearsal rooms, and individual practice rooms.

Facilities

- MacMillan Theatre (815 seats) is one of Toronto’s largest stages, with an orchestra pit for 50 musicians and a full fly-tower.
- Walter Hall (450 seats) is Toronto’s finest small auditorium for chamber music and solo recitals.
- Students have 24/7 access to practice rooms.
- State-of-the-art recording studio and digital composition lab.

Music Library

Ours is the largest music research collection in Canada and part of the third-largest university library system in North America.

Library

- Over 300,000 books, scores, and periodicals.
- Nearly 200,000 sound recordings ranging from wax cylinder to Blu-ray.
- Extensive archival collections documenting the creative activities of composers and music clubs associated with the university and the city.
- Access to millions of electronic resources in various formats.

Mackenzie Clark, Mus.Bac. Concurrent Teacher Education 2017
I came to UofT because I wanted the best teachers, and I got them. UofT allowed me to expand my horizons. I would not be where I am today without the solid experience I was afforded.

— John Keser, Mus.Bac., Executive Vice-President and Provost, New World Symphony

I chose UofT Music because it was a place where I could be challenged in a highly reputable and recognized music program. I was fortunate to work with such diverse, experienced, and professional faculty members who helped me better understand the voice and music in me.

— Lukáši Süreneswaralingam, Mus.Bac.Perf., music teacher and Tamil singer

To meet my strengths and needs, the faculty were industry leaders. Toronto is one of the greatest cities in the world. By being in Toronto, I was able to experience a breadth of performances which directly affected my studies and in turn influenced my technique and artistic vocabulary.


The first thing that drew me to UofT Music was the impressive faculty. I had the chance to study with some of the artists who had already inspired me. I also loved the performance opportunities we were given, from concerts at the Faculty to performances at local prominent jazz clubs and festivals. It was terrific practical application of the things we were learning in our studies, and it also put us in touch with those who were in positions to hire us for future work.

— Heath Bambrick, Mus.Bac.Perf., jazz vocalist, broadcaster, and educator

Coming to Toronto and seeing all the talent, and having a teacher of world-class caliber and the pace of a big city kicked me into a new gear. I benefitted enormously from the knowledge of many professors over the course of my Bachelors and Masters degrees. I was like a kid in a candy shop, taking every course that I could, going to concerts at night, spending hours in the fabulous UofT Music Library, hungrily pouring over scores.

— Barbara Hannigan, Mus.Bac.Perf., M.Mus., soprano and conductor
The admissions process at the Faculty of Music is highly personalized, as we select students with a combination of academic and musical interests, covering a range of instrumental, vocal, and research specializations.

Undergraduate Admissions

1 Fall/Winter
Apply through the Ontario University Application Centre and submit an online Music Questionnaire by the early January deadline. uoft.me/applymusic

2 Winter/Spring
Auditions/Interviews are held at the Faculty of Music in February and early March.

Graduate Admissions

1 Fall/Winter
Apply online at apply.sgs.utoronto.ca by November 25th. Submit supporting documents online by mid-December.

2 Winter/Spring
Auditions/Interviews are held at the Faculty of Music in February.

3 Spring
Admission decisions will be communicated in April.

Spring
Admission decisions will be sent on a rolling basis from January to March.

In addition to completing an audition and interview, all students must satisfy the academic requirements of the University of Toronto. Refer to music.utoronto.ca for more details.
Undergraduate

All applicants automatically considered for scholarships

UofT Music scholarships awarded based on academic merit and/or performance during audition

UofT centrally awarded scholarships are based on academic merit and other specific criteria.

Graduate

Financial support is provided to all M.A., Ph.D., and D.M.A. students

M.Mus. students automatically considered for scholarships

Teaching Assistantships available

Check out music.utoronto.ca for further details on graduate funding

Tuition varies by program, for details visit: music.utoronto.ca

Generous Financial Aid

Housing Guarantee

Residence is guaranteed for all new full-time students entering their first year of university in an undergraduate program for the first time.

To qualify for the guarantee, applicants must indicate their interest in residence by completing the University’s common residence application (StarRez) by the posted deadline.

For further details on housing options at the University of Toronto, see: www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hs/apply
Imagine the Possibilities

Imagine the Possibilities...
Write music for films and complete commissions for major orchestras throughout Canada
Kevin Lau has done this, in addition to work as a pianist, arranger, and conductor, since graduating from the D.M.A. in Composition in 2012.

Imagine the Possibilities...
Study the use of radio calisthenics in contemporary Taiwan
Yun Emily Wang, Ph.D. student in ethnomusicology, received an award from the Society for Ethnomusicology for this research.

Imagine the Possibilities...
Have your music performed at the White House
Mathew Emery had his choral composition performed in the White House in December 2015 while he was studying for his Master’s degree.

Imagine the Possibilities...
Coach a Hollywood actor on how to play like a jazz great
Ben Promane coached Ethan Hawke in preparation to play Chet Baker in the film Born to Be Blue (2015).

Imagine the Possibilities...
Perform on the MET stage
Emily D’Angelo took the top prize at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition Finals in 2016 before graduating with her Mus.Bac.Perf.

Imagine the Possibilities...
Perform on four continents
Michael Bridge is a D.M.A. student in accordion performance gives over 100 concerts per year.

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