

Music

Course 21M

Everyone knows that MIT is a leader in science and technology, but did you know that some MIT graduates have pursued successful professional careers in music composition, conducting and performance?

Music at MIT

MIT is a musical community with fantastic talent. There is a large selection of music subjects available in music composition, theory, and history/literature in the genres of classical, jazz and world music. Students can major, minor, and concentrate in music and have the opportunity to take private lessons with Boston area instructors by auditioning for the Emerson Scholarship Program. All the performance ensembles are open by audition to all MIT students regardless of major and may be taken for credit or on a not for credit basis. These include: the MIT Symphony Orchestra, Gamelan Galak Tika, Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, Rambax Senegalese drumming ensemble, Chamber Chorus, Festival Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, and Chamber Music Society. MIT's music facilities include a state-of-the-art music library, excellent practice facilities and a lovely chamber music hall. Interested students may also study technologically advanced and experimental opportunities in the Basement of Building 4 Studio and at the MIT Media Lab.

Undergraduate Program

Major

Students can pursue a major in music at MIT through the Music and Theater Arts Section of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Three options of the Bachelor of Science degree are offered: a full music major, a joint major with engineering, and a joint major with science or psychology. Humanities degree candidates follow the same core curriculum as that of science and engineering students, so a degree in humanities at

MIT means that a student is well versed not only in the humanities but in the sciences as well. Undergraduates can work directly with a distinguished faculty, including John Harbison, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, violist Marcus Thompson and other musicians and music scholars with national and international reputations. Students who choose the full humanities major in music will be expected to complete three subjects in the history and literature of music including Early Music; four subjects in theory and composition, two semesters of ensemble performance, two music electives, and the senior seminar, in addition to unrestricted electives and the General Institute Requirements.

The requirements for students who choose joint majors are somewhat different: two music history/literature subject, two theory/composition subjects, two semesters of ensemble performance, two electives, and the senior seminar; six electives in the field of engineering, science, or psychology approved by an advisor in that department; and the General Institute Requirements. Two of these subjects must be communication-intensive classes: one from music and one from the other field.

Minor

The Minor Program requires students to complete six subjects from a curriculum arranged into three levels (tiers). Tier one is comprised of introductory subjects. In Tier II a student must take one subject in each of three areas: history/literature, theory/composition, and performance. In Tier III, the student will take further subjects in one of these two areas. Students who complete the Minor Program in Music will satisfy the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) concentration requirement in that field of study. They will also have the Minor in Music specified on their undergraduate degree.

Extracurricular Opportunities

What makes MIT especially attractive to students interested in music is its location in the musically rich Boston area. Free or discounted tickets to many concerts in the Boston area are available through the MIT Office of the Arts. The MIT campus stretches along the Cambridge side of the Charles River directly across from the Esplanade, which is the site of performances by the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra on the Fourth of July, as well as many other musical ensembles. The campus is just a 30-minute walk from Boston's magnificent Symphony Hall, home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and from the New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, Longy School of Music, Berklee College of Music and several other colleges and universities. MIT is as interested in music as you are. You'll find that the variety and depth of musical

opportunities here can be challenging, rewarding, and very pleasurable.

Contact Information

For more information about music at MIT, contact the Music Office, MIT, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 4-246, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307, (617) 253-3210. Additional information is also available on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/music> or at mta-request@mit.edu.

The MIT Course Catalog contains further information on the Institute, including all graduate and undergraduate courses and programs. Please visit the MIT Course Catalog website for more details at <http://web.mit.edu/catalog/index.html>.

2012