

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY (MUET)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The School of Music offers programs of study leading to the Master of Arts degree with areas of specialization in ethnomusicology, music history and literature (musicology), music education, and music theory; the Master of Music degree with areas in performance, composition, conducting, and music education; the Doctor of Philosophy degree with areas of specialization in ethnomusicology, musicology, music education, and music theory; and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree with areas of specialization in composition, performance, and conducting.

Financial Assistance

A number of competitive fellowships, graduate assistantships, teaching assistantships, opera assistantships, and orchestral assistantships are available. Preference for financial assistance will be given to those who have filed an application for admission to the University and the School of Music Supplemental Application by December 1 (for performance programs) and January 5 (for Musicology and Ethnomusicology only) and have been officially admitted.

Contact

School of Music: The Academic Handbook is available online (http://www.music.umd.edu/current_students/handbooks/) and provides descriptive information, details of course requirements, examination procedures, and graduation requirements for the M.A., M.M., D.M.A., and Ph.D. degree programs. International students should read the information contained in the International Applicants section of the Graduate Admission Application.

Office of Music Enrollment

2110 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
8270 Alumni Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.5560
Fax: 301.314.9504
Email: musicadmissions@umd.edu

Website: <http://www.music.umd.edu>

Courses: MUED (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/mued/>) MUSC (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/musc/>) MUSP (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/musp/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose and Letter of Recommendation: *The statement of purpose and letter(s) of recommendation will be required to be uploaded in the School of Music Application. The statement of purpose should also be uploaded into the Graduate School's application.*
- Transcript(s)

- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- School of Music Application (<https://music.umd.edu/admissions/graduate/>)
- Letter of Recommendation (One letter of recommendation is required to be uploaded in TerpEngage application for Ph.D. but not M.A.)

Admission to the graduate degree programs in music is highly selective. It is determined primarily by a performance audition, recordings and scores of original compositions, scholarly research papers, letters of recommendation, and/or successful teaching experience. All non-native English-speaking students must achieve a score of 92 (Master's degrees) or 96 (Doctoral degrees) on the TOEFL or equivalent to be invited for audition/admission (see the School of Music's admission website (<https://a0760352.streaklinks.com/CZqCksYfX-e4kSRN2AfzG5e0/https%3A%2F%2Fmusic.umd.edu%2Fadmissions%2Fgraduate/>) for detailed English language requirements).

We require a passing TOEFL score for all applicants whose primary language is not English before we will process your application or consider you for a live audition. The requirement will be waived for applicants who have earned an undergraduate degree from an institution in the United States or another approved English-speaking country. Waivers will only be granted if at least three years of the undergraduate education took place at an English-speaking institution. Graduate degrees or performance certificates or diplomas will not exempt an applicant from submitting a passing TOEFL score. Please go here (<https://a0760352.streaklinks.com/CZqCkscnp6ueN-vjUwpfFWA9/https%3A%2F%2Fmusic.umd.edu%2Fadmissions%2Fgraduate/>) for more specific information.

The School of Music will allow all graduate applicants whose overall TOEFL score is 88 or higher to audition, but in order to be considered for admission a fully passing TOEFL score must be submitted no later than February 15. Auditions will not be scheduled for applicants with an overall TOEFL score lower than 88.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 6, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	January 6, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://www.music.umd.edu>

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Ethnomusicology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/ethnomusicology-muet/ethnomusicology-phd/>)

- Ethnomusicology, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/ethnomusicology-muet/ethnomusicology-ma/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

With approximately 300 public performances each year—including student recitals and more than thirty ensembles—School of Music students have robust performance opportunities. The School of Music also hosts numerous guest clinicians each year and presents the Renegade Series, which brings to campus some of the most visionary artists in our field. As one of the nation's leading public research universities, the University of Maryland provides a wealth of opportunities to learn from and collaborate with scholars in a variety of disciplines. The School of Music makes its home in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, which serves as an inter-disciplinary laboratory for the arts. The building's six performance halls, the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library, specialized rehearsal rooms, and classrooms provide students with all the resources needed to become twenty-first century artist-citizens. The Clarice's presenting arm provides School of Music students with the opportunity to collaborate and learn from internationally recognized artists and scholars. Recent artists-in-residence have included the St. Lawrence String Quartet, the Cappella Pratensis, Etienne Charles, Tine Thing Helseth, Jeremy Denk, and Dawn Upshaw. The Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library (MSPAL) ranks among the top twenty university music libraries in the United States, and it offers a variety of archives, special collections, and other research resources that give it international stature among scholars in a broad spectrum of music disciplines. The total music collection includes approximately 50,000 books, 150,000 scores, 140,000 recordings, and 4,500 linear feet of archival materials. The International Piano Archives at Maryland (IPAM) is the only institutional collection in existence devoted to historic piano performance. IPAM contains 40,000 recordings, 8,500 music scores, 2,500 books, and a collection of reproducing pianos with 8,000 piano rolls. To date, IPAM has acquired the collections of more than 40 eminent pianists. The MSPAL Special Collections in Performing Arts embrace a growing number of national and international music organization archives representing music education, band history, solo and ensemble instrumental performance, music librarianship, and ethnomusicology. Materials in these archives include papers, music scores, recordings, books, magazines, photographs, and oral histories. MSPAL also features important archival and manuscript collections on music criticism and American music, the Charles Fowler Papers supporting the study of arts education, a significant Leopold Stokowski Collection, the Jacob Coopersmith Collection of Handelianana, the Radio Station WOR/Alfred Wallenstein Collection of 26,000 orchestral scores, and the performance parts of the Andre Kostelanetz Orchestra.

The surrounding DC-Baltimore region offers a host of community engagement opportunities. Our students can often be seen performing at major venues such as The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Strathmore Hall and the Phillips Collection. We also present at intimate community spaces such as Riversdale Mansion and the historical Greenbelt Theatre. Within a few miles of our home in College Park are research opportunities offered by Dumbarton Oaks, the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and many other specialized libraries.