

# DISCOVER Music at Mercer

## Townsend School of Music

Committed to your goal of becoming  
a creative and successful musical artist

MERCER  
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC





# Our Mission

**T**ownsend School of Music at Mercer University fosters excellence in musical learning within the context of a comprehensive university environment. Undergraduate and graduate studies prepare musicians for careers in performance, music education, sacred music and musical scholarship.

## Mercer's School of Music —

- Offers **undergraduate, graduate** and **professional programs** in music based on a strong liberal arts foundation.
- Equips student musicians with the **necessary artistic skills** for excellence in performance, scholarship and teaching.
- Promotes **lifelong learning** and musical development.
- Develops an understanding of the **role of the arts** and artists in society.
- Collaborates with other units within the University to develop in all students an awareness of the **artistic, creative** and aesthetic dimensions of the whole person.
- Partners with community, regional and national music and artistic organizations to assist with helping students **make a contribution** to their respective fields of study.
- Fosters the acquisition of **critical thinking, writing** and **communication** skills.
- Supports an **engaged and highly qualified music faculty**.

*Mercer University is an institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.*



## Make a Musical Difference at Mercer

Townsend School of Music is a place where you can make a difference with your music and artistry through tradition, instruction, excellence and innovation. Mercer has a rich tradition of musical excellence. The University was founded in 1833, when Mendelssohn, Chopin and Schumann were composing some of their greatest works. Mercer's musical tradition is founded on faculty and students from decades of musical excellence, dedication and performance.

**The University was founded in 1833, when Mendelssohn, Chopin and Schumann were composing some of their greatest works.**

The music faculty are some of the most diverse and professionally trained in the country, who will motivate and encourage you as they prepare you for a thrilling and enjoyable musical experience. The faculty instruction and ensemble experience at Mercer is on a level that is unmatched at the collegiate level in the region. Music majors enjoy a quality of literature that will push you to achieve music you never thought possible.

Today's musicians must be prepared for a changing society. Innovative courses in music business and new media assist in their extra-musical preparation. Our graduates are singers at the Metropolitan Opera, conductors in collegiate programs, organists in leading churches, teachers in secondary schools, collaborative pianists, instrumentalists and students in some of the country's most prestigious graduate schools.

Visit our campus, tour the McCorkle Music Building and talk with our students and faculty to discover why Mercer's Townsend School of Music should be the next stop in your musical journey.

— **Dr. Gary G. Gerber**  
Dean





# Choral/ Vocal Studies

## Choir

Townsend School of Music offers three performing collegiate choirs, all recognized for their excellence —

- Mercer Singers
- Women's Chamber Choir
- University Choir

In addition to undergraduate preparation in music performance and education, the Choral Studies Area offers a master's degree in choral conducting and a master's degree in sacred music with an emphasis in choral conducting.

## Opera

Mercer University Opera allows students to develop as singing actors through stage movement and interpretation techniques. A colorful repertoire of musical theatre — ranging from opera to Broadway musicals — culminate in first-class staged and costumed productions. Recent opera productions have included *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Magic Flute*, *Alcina*, *Oklahoma*, *Little Women, the Musical*, *Nunsense*, as well as other stage and opera revues. The Vocal Studies Area offers a master's degree in performance.





# Undergraduate Degrees

## Bachelor of Music Education

The Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.) provides professional training for students pursuing a career as a public or private school teacher of choral, band, orchestral or elementary general music. B.M.E. majors also earn P - 12 teacher education certification in music in the state of Georgia. Townsend School of Music currently enjoys a high rate of placement of graduates in music teaching positions. This degree is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and is approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GPSC).

## Bachelor of Music in Performance

The Bachelor of Music in Performance (B.M.) degree is uniquely designed to allow a student to develop specialized technical skills and knowledge. We make music performance the center of each student's life for the four years in residence. The major areas of applied study include woodwind and brass instruments, percussion, guitar, harp, strings, voice and keyboard (piano, organ and harpsichord).

## Bachelor of Music in Music Production

The Bachelor of Music in Music Production degree is designed to prepare a student for a fulfilling career in music production. This degree is unique in that it allows students to learn how to produce musical art in a commercial medium without losing the rigor of a music performance degree. Utilizing the technology resources of Mercer Music at Capricorn, the B.M. in Music Production degree equips students to employ sound technology in the service of live music, recordings, film, events, and more.

## Bachelor of Music

### with Elective Studies in an Outside Field

The Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in an Outside Field (B.Mesof) degree is uniquely designed to allow a student to develop highly specialized technical skills and knowledge for an instrument or voice. Excellence as performers is the School's goal for students majoring in this degree. They are held to a high standard of technical ability, artistry and difficulty. In addition, students pursuing this degree will choose an area of elective study outside of music. Various options include: Business, English, Art, Communication, Psychology and Theatre.

## Bachelor of Science in Music Business

The Bachelor of Science in Music Business degree prepares students for a successful career working in the music and entertainment management industry. One of the unique features of this degree is the 30 credit hours from the School of Business which facilitates integration of musical knowledge and skill with business savvy and insight.

## Bachelor of Arts in Music

The Bachelor of Arts in Music (B.A.) degree is specifically designed to permit a student to concentrate on music within the context of a liberal arts program. The unique feature of this degree allows students ample opportunity to double major or minor in a different field of study and /or concentrate in:

- Composition • Musicology • Sacred Music
- Performance • Production/Technology

**Minors** offered in the School of Music include Music, Sacred Music and Music Production.





# Instrumental Studies

Townsend School of Music's Instrumental Music Program provides a rich music experience through outstanding large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and studio ensembles. These varied experiences are designed to equip students with the artistic tools necessary for the 21st-century musical artist. Each ensemble collaborates with guest artists and the excellent faculty, all focused on helping students achieve musical excellence. The Instrumental Area offers master's degrees in both Wind Band Conducting and Performance.

## Large Ensembles    Chamber Ensembles

- Wind Ensemble
  - Jazz Ensemble
  - Marching Band
  - Pep Band
  - Middle Georgia Concert Band/  
University Band
  - Brass Band
- Jazz Combo
  - Woodwind Quintet
  - Flute Choir
  - Brass Quintet
  - Trumpet Ensemble
  - Percussion Ensemble
  - Harp Ensemble



Wind Ensemble in the Piedmont Grand Opera House













# Keyboard Studies

## Piano Studies

Mercer University is an All-Steinway School, through a generous gift by Mercer's chancellor, Dr. R. Kirby Godsey. With the establishment of the Joan Stockstill Godsey Center for Keyboard Studies, Townsend School of Music exclusively features Steinway & Sons pianos for all teaching, rehearsals and performances. The gift enabled the School of Music to join the nation's other premier music programs as an All-Steinway School, provided for 37 new pianos, and created an endowed fund to support their care and upkeep. The Joan Stockstill Godsey Center for Keyboard Studies hosts an annual Concert Series that features leading international performing keyboard artists. The Keyboard Studies Area offers master's degrees in performance and sacred music.



## Collaborative Piano

Mercer's Master of Music in Collaborative Piano allows talented pianists who have completed an undergraduate degree in music to enter an intense period of graduate professional study that will prepare them for a career in collaborative piano. This is distinct from an M.M. in Performance in that piano performance study is directed toward solo performance. Collaborative Piano requires a different focus in training, with an emphasis on accompanying and chamber music. Collaborative Piano graduate students choose one of two areas of emphasis: vocal or instrumental music. Advanced private study and literature classes distinguish the areas.

## Organ Studies

Organ students study standard repertoire as well as works by women and people of color. Townsend School of Music's collection includes outstanding performance organs by Gonzalez, Holtkamp/Gober/Desautels, Juget-Sinclair, Noack, and Richards, Fowkes & Co., with new organs by François Desautels (2025) and E. M. Skinner (a rebuilt historic instrument, 2027). Local churches also generously offer their organs for student practice and recitals. Courses in service playing skills, improvisation and organ literature are critical elements in the curriculum. Organists also collaborate with outstanding instrumental and voice students and sing in the acclaimed Mercer Singers, preparing organ students for sacred music ministry work.





# Strings Studies

**Extraordinary string students deserve an extraordinary college experience.**

The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings has assembled an unparalleled faculty of international performing artists to teach talented students in pursuit of musical excellence.

Founded as a special institute within Mercer University's Townsend School of Music, the McDuffie Center for Strings' enrollment is limited to 27 students: 12 violinists, six violists, six cellists and three double bassists. Students accepted to the Center receive a full-tuition University scholarship.

**MERCER**  
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
*Robert McDuffie Center for Strings*



*A Grand Mercer Christmas*



MACON-MERCER  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
**MM&O**





Labor Day Festival for Strings



A Night of Georgia Music

The distinguished artists of the Center perform, collaborate and record with the finest orchestras, string ensembles and conductors around the world. They are at the top of their fields. Each McDuffie Center student interacts with these distinguished artists on a regular basis, which enhances the student's private lessons, master classes, chamber music coaching sessions and orchestral sectionals, all a part of their required curriculum.

Combining this intensive, conservatory experience with the practicality of a hybrid (music/liberal arts/business) curriculum, the McDuffie Center for Strings prepares the exceptional musician for success in the real world.

Enrichment opportunities abound with the Center for Strings and Townsend School of Music. In past years, students have recorded an album with R.E.M. founding member Mike Mills, filmed *A Grand Mercer Christmas* and Emmy® Award-winning *A Night of Georgia Music* for public television broadcast, and played in Carnegie Hall. All students travel to Rome, Italy, at least once to perform at the Rome Chamber Music Festival. McDuffie graduates are consistently admitted to master's programs at top schools, including Yale, Curtis, the New England Conservatory, Michigan and Juilliard, where two alumni have won prestigious Kovner Fellowships.



# Sacred Music Studies

Undergraduate programs in the **Townsend-McAfee Institute for Sacred Music** are honors-level courses of study that connect students to real-world experiences while cultivating critical thinking and research based problem-solving skills. In addition to our classroom seminars, students are also encouraged to experience immersion courses such as ethnographic field-work at U.S.-based music festivals, performance and leadership in local congregations, or service-learning projects such as A Common Refrain in Morocco. Undergraduate programs include:

- Bachelor of Arts with Concentration in Sacred Music
- Minor in Sacred Music
- Certificate in Sacred Music Studies

Our graduate programs are designed for students who are ready for the next level of their Sacred Music education. These rigorous and rewarding programs prepare leaders for a lifetime of service and worship, either as performers and practitioners (performance track) or as scholars and thought leaders (thesis track). For those who are committed to serving in a congregation as a vocation, we offer dual degrees in conjunction with McAfee School of Theology (requires acceptance to both schools). Graduate programs include:

- Master of Music in Sacred Music (Performance or Thesis)
- Master of Sacred Music (low-residency, hybrid)
- Certificate in Sacred Music (low-residency, hybrid)
- Master of Music in Sacred Music/Master of Theological Studies (Dual-Degree with McAfee School of Theology)
- Master of Music in Sacred Music/Master of Divinity (Dual-Degree with McAfee School of Theology)







# International Experiences

## International Travel

Music students are active in traveling around the world using their musical gifts and talents. Through the University's signature program, Mercer On Mission, music students have the opportunity to share their talents with people of different cultures and traditions. Mercer ensembles travel internationally giving students the opportunity to perform in historic locations across the globe. Most recently, Mercer Singers traveled to Normandy, France, and the Wind Ensemble toured England and Ireland. Students of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings participate in the annual Rome Chamber Music Festival in Rome, Italy. Music students also travel to participate in international solo festivals and competitions.





# Graduate Degrees

The Graduate Studies Program at Mercer's Townsend School of Music prepares musical artists for professional careers in performance, conducting and collaborative piano. In addition, we offer intensive preparation for careers in sacred music ministry through The Townsend-McAfee Institute. If you seek to be a professional conductor, performer, collaborative artist, or sacred music practitioner, we will help you achieve your goals.

## Master of Music in Performance

The Master of Music in Performance degree is designed for exceptional musicians who have completed an undergraduate degree in music and wish to pursue intensive graduate studies in solo performance (voice, piano, organ, instrumental).

## Master of Music in Collaborative Piano (Vocal or Instrumental)

The Master of Music in Collaborative Piano allows talented pianists who have completed an undergraduate degree in music to enter an intense period of graduate professional study that will prepare them for a career in collaborative piano.

## Master of Music in Conducting

The Master of Music in Conducting is designed for exceptional musicians who have completed an undergraduate degree in music and wish to pursue intensive graduate studies in choral or wind band conducting.

## Master of Music in Sacred Music

The Master of Music in Sacred Music degree is intended for talented persons who have completed an undergraduate degree in music and who want to enter an intense period of graduate professional study that will prepare them for the practice of sacred music ministry.

## Master of Sacred Music (low-residency, hybrid)

The Master of Sacred Music degree is a low-residency, hybrid degree that allows the student to continue serving their local congregation while taking courses online from sacred music professors and fellows from around the world. There are two events on campus that students will attend each year to enhance their education and network in the world of music and worship leadership.

## Artist Diploma

The Artist Diploma is a two-year, non-degree program that admits only the artistically gifted and motivated student who has completed a baccalaureate degree in music and has attained a level of artistry commensurate with professional performance standards. The focus of the AD program is to achieve the highest level of performance and to allow the student to develop in both creativity and professionalism.





# Scholarships

## Music Scholarships

Townsend School of Music is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for music majors, minors, and talented ensemble members. These scholarships are competitive and awarded by audition and admission to the School of Music. Prospective students must apply to Mercer before scheduling an audition. A complete financial package offer including academic merit, music scholarship, and financial aid will be assembled by the Office of Admissions.

[undergrad.mercer.edu/apply-now](https://undergrad.mercer.edu/apply-now)



## Fabian Distinguished Music Scholars Program

The Fabian Distinguished Music Scholars Program at Mercer University recognizes college-bound students whose abilities epitomize musical and leadership excellence. The character of a Fabian Scholar demonstrates a deep commitment to the musical arts while formulating and executing creative ideas to change the world. This philosophy is exhibited through a lifestyle of intellectual, musical and creative pursuits resulting in consistent personal motivation to provide superior musical experiences for the general community.

Benefits of the Fabian Scholarship —

- Full Tuition and Fees
- Campus Housing and Meal Plan
- Apple iPad
- Up to \$4,000 Enrichment Stipend over four years (to support summer music programs, festivals, conference fees, unpaid internships, competition fees, etc.)

All students intending to major in music who complete an outstanding audition will be considered for the prestigious Fabian Scholarship.

## Jubilee Artists Series

Through the generosity of Jo Phelps Fabian and the Fabian Center for Musical Excellence, the Jubilee Artists Series features leading international artists performing concerts that are low cost to the general public, making the best music available to all. In the last few years, Townsend School of Music has welcomed artists such as Branford Marsalis, The King's Singers, Imani Winds, Chanticleer, and VOCES8 to the beautiful Fickling Hall.

# Auditions

All students interested in admission and scholarships for Townsend School of Music must complete a music audition for the faculty. The School of Music hosts several music auditions throughout the spring. Audition information is available at

[music.mercer.edu/admissions/auditions](https://music.mercer.edu/admissions/auditions)



Imani Winds Residency



## Did you know?

There are endless opportunities for Mercer music students. They perform in venues from the historic Piedmont Grand Opera House in Macon to Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mercerians join forces with international students to make music all over the world, from exploring cultural music in Morocco to celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings in France. These unique experiences are in addition to over 100 local performances open to the community.

**music.mercer.edu**

Scan for audition schedules and more about  
Townsend School of Music at Mercer University.

