Our program is unique in that we provide professional training in both opera and musical theatre. With our supportive, student-centered environment, we are committed to preparing outstanding opera and musical theatre artists for professional careers in the 21st century.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MM Performance (Music Theatre/Opera Performance)

The MM program in performance with a concentration in musical theatre and opera performance provides students the opportunity to choose from three specific emphases: opera, musical theatre or music direction. Regardless of the emphasis, students have ample opportunities to study both musical theatre and opera.

The Master of Music concentration in opera provides intensive practical training and performance experience to prepare students for professional careers in opera. In addition to studio voice instruction and advanced work in acting, movement, audition techniques, career skills and vocal coaching, students study standard and contemporary operatic repertoire and are required to perform roles in at least two ASU opera and musical theatre productions.

The Master of Music concentration in musical theatre provides intensive practical training and performance experience to prepare students for professional careers as musical theatre artists. In addition to studio voice instruction and advanced work in acting, dance, movement, audition techniques, career skills and vocal coaching, students study repertoire from the traditional and contemporary musical theatre canon and are required to perform roles in at least two ASU opera and musical theatre productions.

The Master of Music concentration in music direction is geared toward aspiring conductors with strong keyboard or piano skills who are eager to learn the wide range of skills necessary for a successful career as a professional music director. This competitive program admits only one student per year and includes study of both opera and musical theater repertoire. Students in this program must conduct two productions during their studies at ASU. Since 1991, the graduates of this program have had a remarkable record of success, whether working in academia, pursuing further conducting study, or as professional music directors on or off Broadway and the world over.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

32 credit hours and a written comprehensive exam

The credit requirements for the concentrations in **music theatre performance** and **opera performance** are distributed as follows:

- studio instruction (8 credit hours)
- courses in specified emphasis (12 credit hours)
- music history, music theory and electives (12 credit hours)

**Opera Emphasis:** Sixteen credit hours or four semesters of college-level credit in more than one foreign language, chosen from French, German or Italian, are required for graduation. In addition, placement tests in both foreign language diction and sight-singing are required upon entry into the program. Students who are judged to be deficient in diction are required to complete and pass a course in advanced diction. Students who are judged to be deficient in sight-singing are required to complete and pass the Musicianship for Singers course.

**Music Theatre Emphasis:** A placement test in sight-singing is required upon entry into the program. Students who are judged to be deficient in sight-singing are required to complete and pass the Musicianship for Singers course.

The credit requirements for the degree in **music theatre performance direction** are distributed as follows:

- piano studio instruction (4 credit hours)
- courses in emphasis (15 credit hours)
- music history, music theory and electives (13 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Requirements

Completion of diagnostic exams in music history and music theory is required of all new graduate music students prior to enrollment in the ASU School of Music.

Additional information about degree requirements for all graduate music programs may be found on the check sheets: [https://music.asu.edu/degree-programs/graduate/](https://music.asu.edu/degree-programs/graduate/).
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a U.S. bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an institution in another country that is officially recognized by that country.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee: https://students.asu.edu/graduate/admissions
2. School of Music application (including a resume, personal statement and repertoire list): https://music.asu.edu/admissions/graduate-steps-to-apply
3. official transcripts
4. prescreening video
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency: https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency. The School of Music does not offer conditional admission under any circumstances. In order to meet English proficiency requirements, students should have a TOEFL score of at least 550 (PBT) or 80 (iBT), or an IELTS overall band score of at least 6.5, or a Pearson Test of English score of at least 60.

Although a bachelor's degree in music is not required to be eligible for admission, applicants who do not hold an undergraduate degree in music are required to complete the deficiency courses listed below, which are not a part of the coursework for this graduate degree in music. These courses (or the equivalents) may be taken at ASU, another accredited university or a community college before or after admission to this program, but they must be completed prior to commencement of graduate-level course requirements in music history and music theory.

MHL 140 Music as Culture
MHL 341 Music History I
MHL 342 Music History II
MTC 125 Basic Music Theory
MTC 221 Music Theory: 18th Century
MTC 222 Music Theory: 19th Century
MTC 223 Music Theory: 20th Century

Students should see the program website for application deadlines. After an applicant's complete application materials have been received (including recommendation letters, transcripts and proof of English proficiency) and review has been conducted of prescreening materials, the applicant may be invited for a live audition. Information about the audition may be found at https://music.asu.edu/admissions/graduate-auditions.

Contact Information

School of Music | MUSIC E167
MusicAdmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069
Admission Deadlines