



Oberlin Conservatory of Music

OPENING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



What is it about Oberlin?

Students choose Oberlin Conservatory for a lot of reasons:

To be part of a thriving musical landscape made up almost entirely of undergraduate students. To learn from esteemed faculty mentors and from an endless array of visiting artists. To enjoy countless opportunities to perform on our amazing stages and in other creative spaces—and in locales around the world. To join the ranks of Oberlin alumni who excel as creative performers and thinkers across the musical spectrum. And for a life-changing experience that's only possible when an exceptional college and conservatory share a seamless campus.

Why might you choose Oberlin? For all of that and more...

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Get to Know Oberlin Conservatory!

FOUNDED IN
1865

The Oberlin Conservatory of Music is the oldest continuously operating conservatory in the United States. We share one campus with Oberlin College, a preeminent liberal arts institution and a key reason why our conservatory is unlike any other in the world.

560

students in the conservatory—almost all of them undergraduates

2,840

total student body

1 in 3

conservatory students pursues a double degree in the college and conservatory

140

conservatory students in each entering class

500+

performances on campus each year (most of them free!)



6:1

ratio of conservatory students to faculty

11

inspiring performance venues

240+

Steinway pianos, virtually all of them for your use

30+

student ensembles

150

practice rooms... with windows!

**Oberlin's
Conservatory
Library has:**

345,000

scores, books, and
recordings

12

special collections
dedicated to jazz,
American music,
and more

100,000

recordings in the
Neumann Jazz
Collection

**Our 440-acre campus lies at the heart
of a picturesque Ohio college town, just
40 minutes from **Cleveland** and an easy
drive to many other major U.S. cities.**



42

conservatory
majors to
choose from

one

month per year (January) devoted
to Winter Term projects on campus
or anywhere in the world

**Students come to
our conservatory
from places near
and far.**

82%

United States

18%

International

Oberlin
students
hail from
throughout
the U.S. and
44 other
nations.

32

pipe organs
for student use,
representing 500
years of building
practice

100%

of demonstrated
student need
met through
financial aid

\$11M

in merit scholarships
awarded to admitted
conservatory and
double-degree
students each year

24%

of the conservatory's
domestic students
identify as students
of color.

Situated at the intersection of Oberlin's campus and community, the conservatory is located directly adjacent to bucolic Tappan Square and the shops and restaurants of downtown Oberlin.

The conservatory complex includes four interconnected buildings: Bibbins Hall, Central, Robertson Hall, and the Kohl Building. Together, these spaces are home to performances, classes, practice and rehearsal rooms, recording sessions, faculty studios, comfortable hangouts, and the renowned Conservatory Library.

Oberlin musicians perform in 11 inspiring venues in the conservatory and across campus, from stately Finney Chapel and Warner Concert Hall to elegant Kulas and Stull recital halls, the club-like Birenbaum Space, medieval-inspired Fairchild Chapel, and Hall Auditorium, a proscenium-style space dedicated to fully staged opera productions.



The Kohl Building, home to Oberlin's jazz division and Clonick Hall recording studio.



A Performance and Improvisation (PI) ensemble performs in the Birenbaum Space (left). Below: Faculty, alumni, and guest artists present an oboe showcase in Stull Recital Hall. Bottom: Bibbins Hall, the conservatory's main classroom building.



Performance is an integral part of Oberlin life.

Here, you don't line up behind graduate students for orchestra positions, opera roles, and competitions—you perform in productions and ensembles large and small from your first semester on campus. Student ensembles are even featured on Oberlin Music label recordings alongside faculty, alumni, and guest collaborators.



In recent years, the Oberlin Orchestra has played on tour in Carnegie Hall and Chicago's Symphony Center, while the Contemporary Music Ensemble has presented concerts in prominent venues in Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, as well as festivals like Bang on a Can (pictured) and Third Practice. Oberlin historical performance ensembles have appeared at the Early Music America and Boston Early Music festivals.



In nearby Cleveland, student singers (including tenor Shawn Roth, pictured far right) regularly appear with the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall. Also in Cleveland, Oberlin's Contemporary Music Ensemble has replicated its campus series at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and Oberlin jazz groups play some of Northeast Ohio's premier clubs.



Small jazz and improvisation ensembles have performed in New York (at Dizzy's Club, pictured), San Francisco, New Orleans, Brazil, Italy, and South Africa in recent years.

With more than 30 conservatory ensembles and an emphasis on small ensemble culture, you'll expand your artistic flexibility and increase your exposure through music spanning a world of styles—on campus and on tour.

Oberlin Orchestra
Contemporary Music Ensemble
Oberlin Arts and Sciences Orchestra
Oberlin Jazz Ensemble
Oberlin Jazz Lab
Oberlin Sonny Rollins Jazz Ensemble
Genre Nova Ensemble
Oberlin Baroque Orchestra
Viola da Gamba Consort
Recorder Ensemble
Baroque Ensembles
Oberlin Opera Theater
Opera Chorus
Chamber Singers
Oberlin College Choir
Oberlin Musical Union
Collegium Musicum
Oberlin Gospel Ensemble
Circle Singing Ensemble
Oberlin Percussion Group
Brass Ensembles
Guitar Ensemble
Prima Vista
Chamber Music Ensembles
Advanced String Quartet Seminar
Small Jazz Ensembles
Performance and Improvisation (PI) Ensembles
Silent Film Ensemble
Oberlin Improvisation and New Music Collective
Javanese Gamelan
Brazilian Ensemble
Sumatran Talempong

Conservatory students play in the Oberlin Orchestra beginning in their first year on campus. Here, the orchestra performs in historic Finney Chapel with Oberlin Musical Union, the second-oldest choral ensemble in the United States.





The Oberlin Difference

Oberlin Conservatory focuses on undergraduate pre-professional musicians in classical, contemporary, and jazz performance, as well as composition and electronic music. Two graduate programs—in Piano Technology and Recording Arts and Production—lead to Artist Diplomas.

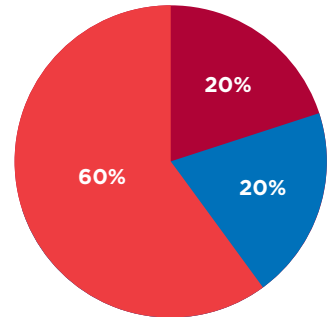
At Oberlin, your music-making is informed by an extensive range of core musicianship courses in the conservatory that encompass music history, theory, and aural skills, as well as open electives in subjects like improvisation, community engagement, pedagogy, and arts management.

The conservatory is an essential part of the premier liberal arts environment of Oberlin College. In fact, one out of every three conservatory students pursues studies in Oberlin's Double Degree Program, through which you can earn degrees from both the college and conservatory in five years or fewer.

Arthur Welsh, a double-degree student majoring in jazz piano and mathematics, performs with a vocalist in Oberlin's Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse.



How you'll spend
your time as a
conservatory student:



60%

**courses related
to your major:**

ensembles, private
study, and specific
electives for your major

20%

core musicianship:

classes in music theory,
aural skills, and music
history

20%

college electives:

32 credits in the College
of Arts and Sciences—
about one course per
semester

Completing Your Degree (or Degrees!)

A Bachelor of Music degree
requires completion of
168 credit hours and three
Winter Term projects.
Double-degree students
complete a minimum of
214 credit hours and all
requirements for each major.

What's your major?

Choose from 42 conservatory majors—or create your own.

Degree Programs

95 percent of Oberlin Conservatory students are enrolled in undergraduate degree programs.

Bachelor of Music (BM)

Double Degree Program leading to both **Bachelor of Music** and **Bachelor of Arts (BA)**

5-year Bachelor of Music/Master of Music (MM) that combines an undergraduate major with graduate studies in Conducting or Historical Performance

Graduate studies are available in Piano Technology, Recording Arts and Production, and in select performance areas



Conservatory Majors and Minors

Performance

Jazz Performance

Historical Performance

Composition

Jazz Composition

Technology in Music and Related Arts (TIMARA)

Musicology

Conducting

(graduate only)

Vocal Accompanying

(double major with piano performance)

Individual Major

Ethnomusicology

(minor only)

Music Theory

(minor only)

Piano Pedagogy

(minor only)

Performance Private Study

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Bassoon

Trumpet

Horn

Trombone

Tuba

Violin

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Harp

Percussion

Classical Guitar

Organ

Piano

Voice

JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Saxophone

Trumpet

Trombone

Voice

Guitar

Piano

Vibraphone

Bass

Percussion

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Baroque Flute

Historical Oboes

Recorder

Baroque Violin

Baroque Cello

Viola da Gamba

Fortepiano

Harpsichord

Organ

Historical Keyboards

Interdivisional Studies

MINORS

Arts and Creative Technologies

Interdisciplinary Performance

Music and Cognition

Music and Popular Culture

CONCENTRATIONS

Arts Administration and Leadership

Pedagogy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement (PACE)

Woodwinds

FLUTE | OBOE | CLARINET | BASSOON



Oberlin's Woodwind Department consistently produces graduates who perform on professional stages around the world, as principal chairs in orchestras, creators in innovative ensembles, and faculty at leading institutions.

Through individualized and nurturing instruction, students progress in technique, style, musicianship, interpretation, and repertoire. You will be part of a collaborative studio environment for weekly lessons and master classes of solo, chamber, and orchestral excerpt study, as well as reed making. You'll develop collaborative music-making skills in diverse

ensemble settings—woodwind quintets and mixed chamber groups, orchestras of all sizes, contemporary music and historical performance ensembles—across a range of concert spaces and performance experiences. And you'll be prepared for the next level with a breadth of repertoire and a keen understanding of the roles that all woodwind players must master.

14-16

**majors in each instrument
(flute, oboe, clarinet,
bassoon)**

Sample Courses

- **Orchestral Repertoire for Woodwinds**
- **Intro to Body Mapping**
- **Community Engagement in Schools**
- **Entrepreneurship Studies**
- **Introduction to Musics of the World**

Brass

TRUMPET | HORN | TROMBONE | TUBA



Brass study at Oberlin is centered on the studio experience, with close mentorship from faculty who share a unified aesthetic for brass playing and who foster a supportive, collaborative environment for every student musician.

At the core of our teaching is an emphasis on the values of skill, artistry, and humanity. Through individualized instruction, listening, participation in student ensembles—from historical to contemporary—of various sizes and instrumentation, orchestral repertoire classes, audition preparation, and professional development guidance, you will gain confidence as you gain proficiency in your playing.

At Oberlin, you will perform an expansive range of music, styles, and genres, and you'll be continually encouraged to reach beyond the bounds of your comfort zone. Your experience will prepare you to thrive as a professional musician in any setting you choose, from orchestras and chamber ensembles, to recording studios and classrooms—or any combination of them all.

14-18

majors in trumpet, horn, and trombone

3-5

tuba majors

Sample Courses

- **Professional Development**
- **Eurhythmics**
- **Performance and Improvisation Ensemble**
- **Musical Acoustics**

Percussion



At Oberlin, every percussion student is assured of individualized attention and plentiful opportunities to perform.

Even first-year percussion students play in numerous ensembles—from the largest settings of the Oberlin Orchestra and Contemporary Music Ensemble, to the Oberlin Percussion Group and smaller Performance and Improvisation ensembles, to student-led groups like the steel pan ensemble and Oberlin Taiko.

Oberlin's percussion studio is a sonic laboratory where you'll become versed in styles, techniques, and music from cultures around the world. This hands-on

museum is packed with all kinds of mallet instruments and drums, as well as the battery needed for repertoire performed by Oberlin's orchestral and new music ensembles, alongside exotic gongs and other percussive instruments.

Building upon a foundation in music theory and aural skills, the percussion program emphasizes the development of technique and musicianship through the study of both contemporary solo literature and orchestral repertoire.

10-13

percussion majors

Sample Courses

- Introduction to African American Music
- Internalizing Rhythms
- Performance and Improvisation Ensemble
- Javanese Gamelan

Strings

VIOLIN | VIOLA | CELLO | DOUBLE BASS



A string quartet rehearses in Stull Recital Hall.

The accomplished teacher-performers of Oberlin's strings division encourage the development of your individual voice across a multitude of performance settings, preparing the way for a fulfilling career and a life of sustained musical growth.

Through attentive instruction and mentoring, our faculty cultivate your love of music and hone your skills and expression to the highest technical and musical levels. We emphasize a firm grounding in the basics, a holistic approach to your instrument, and the process of artistic discovery. You will be part of a collaborative studio environment for weekly lessons and studio and technique classes, where you'll be encouraged to consider new ideas and be supported in developing and communicating ideas of your own.

You'll be immersed in an ensemble culture notable for an expansive range of repertoire, from orchestral and opera ensembles to those that focus on new music, chamber music, improvisation, and historical performance.

Oberlin strings graduates have been enormously successful securing positions in major orchestras; founding string quartets, historical performance ensembles, and new music collectives; and teaching in communities, conservatories, and universities around the world.

58-60

violin majors

25-28

viola majors

26-30

cello majors

14-16

double bass majors

Chamber Music

Oberlin's focus on small ensemble culture produces a collaborative climate in the strings division. All of our faculty coach chamber ensembles and draw upon their expertise as members of professional chamber groups such as the Pacifica, Cavani, Axelrod, and Flux quartets, the Zephyr Trio, Manhattan Piano Trio, Da Capo Chamber Players, and International Contemporary Ensemble. Students hone their listening and multitasking skills while learning to compassionately articulate their ideas. You'll participate in chamber music for six semesters, performing in string quartets, piano trios, and mixed instrumental ensembles and receiving weekly coachings. One of those semesters is devoted to contemporary chamber music.

Sample Courses

- **Advanced String Quartet Seminar**
- **Performance and Improvisation Ensemble**
- **Orchestral Repertoire**
- **String Pedagogy**
- **Arts Management I and II**
- **Psychology of Musical Behaviors**
- **Musics of the World**

Cellist Aaron Wolff, a winner of the Senior Concerto Competition, performs Prokofiev in Finney Chapel with the Oberlin Orchestra, under the direction of Raphael Jiménez.



Harp



Harp study at Oberlin is individually tailored to ensure each student is prepared to meet the challenges of today's constantly evolving musical landscape—and to thrive in the profession immediately upon graduating.

You will develop a multifaceted skill set through intensive private instruction that leads to thorough development of technique, style, musicianship, interpretation, and pedagogy.

Extensive opportunities to perform in a variety of settings include the conservatory's large ensembles, which emphasize a broad range of repertoire from the 18th century through today, to the studio's harp ensemble, to any number of chamber music environments.

Your harp studies at Oberlin will draw upon resources throughout the conservatory as well as the college. You will develop entrepreneurial vision and leadership skills. You'll gain experience in mixed-media performance, composition, collaboration, public speaking, and improvisation. You'll explore issues pertaining to wellness and performance psychology. And you will bring your own artistic projects to fruition.

3-5

harp majors

Sample Courses

- **Sonic Arts in Society**
- **Internalizing Rhythms**
- **Introduction to Music Research and Writing**
- **Harp Majors Seminar**

Oberlin Orchestra harpists perform Debussy's *La Mer* at Carnegie Hall in New York (pictured).

Classical Guitar



A conservatory classical guitarist works with Lito Romero in a master class in Kulas Recital Hall.

In Oberlin's classical guitar program, each student's artistic ambitions are nurtured through careful attention to technique, expression, and development of their unique voice. Through this path, truly original artists begin to emerge.

Our students regularly interact with guest artists in master classes and performances on campus. These accomplished musicians represent a comprehensive range of genres, from seasoned masters and recent competition winners, to soloists and chamber ensembles, to lutanists and new music specialists.

Oberlin is rare in its wealth of performance spaces ideally suited to the guitar. In addition to your degree recitals, you may find yourself performing solo or

in ensembles in any number of locales on campus, from the modern conservatory penthouse that is Stull Recital Hall and Medieval-inspired Fairchild Chapel, to our renowned Allen Memorial Art Museum. Oberlin guitarists frequently join the ranks of the Contemporary Music Ensemble, the Baroque Orchestra, and other signature ensembles.

Students are also eligible for secondary jazz guitar lessons through Oberlin's Division of Jazz Studies.

7-12

classical guitar majors

Sample Courses

- Form and Analysis
- Internalizing Rhythms
- Ensembles for Guitarists
- Baroque Orchestra

Instruments for Student Use

Classical guitars
Baroque guitar
Baroque lute
Renaissance lute
Theorbo
Vihuela

Piano

Senior Concerto Competition winner Chelsea DeSouza performs Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with the Oberlin Orchestra in Finney Chapel.



Oberlin piano students perform early and often—and on an unparalleled collection of instruments.

Their experiences range from solo and studio recitals to collaborations with orchestras and contemporary music ensembles, chamber groups, and student composers, as well as showcase recitals and annual competitions designed specifically for pianists.

The nurturing mentors who make up our distinguished piano faculty are internationally recognized performers and teachers, including gold medal winners of the Chopin and Van Cliburn international piano competitions.

Our campus is home to the Oberlin-Como Piano Academy, the official U.S. partnership

with Italy's esteemed International Piano Academy Lake Como. Throughout each academic year, the program presents revered artist-teachers from around the world in master classes and recitals at Oberlin, in addition to regular visits by other celebrated guest pianists.

Like their Oberlin mentors, many of our piano students go on to excel in the world's most prestigious competitions, from the Bachauer to the Chopin to the Van Cliburn, among countless others. Our graduates thrive as concert performers, innovative collaborators, composers, educators, and in numerous other fields.

80-90

piano majors

12-18

students per
studio teacher

Sample Courses

- **The Modern Keyboard: Body, Gender, Race, and Technology**
- **Analyzing Beethoven's Middle Period Music**
- **Music and Emotion**
- **Interpretation of Art Song**

A World-Class Instrument Collection

Oberlin was the first institution in America to earn the distinction “All-Steinway School.” Our collection of more than 240 Steinway grand pianos is among the largest in the world, and each is meticulously maintained by our Piano Technology Department. Students here also enjoy access to an extensive collection of historical keyboards, which serve as essential resources for the study of period works.

Piano Honors Program


Oberlin’s most accomplished piano students may complete the rigorous Honors Program in Piano Performance—the only program of its kind in any U.S. conservatory. Third-year students who successfully audition for the program complete a professional-quality recording at Oberlin, perform in a capstone recital, and earn assistance in securing off-campus performances.

Piano Pedagogy

Piano majors often choose to take courses—or even declare a minor—in piano pedagogy. Students develop musical and verbal communication skills in sequencing of materials, learning theories, lesson planning, and business management. The program is designed to help pianists prepare for effective teaching of students at all ages and levels.

Vocal Accompanying

Oberlin piano majors may add a second major in vocal accompanying, which focuses on the specialized field of collaborative work with singers. Pianists receive individualized instruction and coaching, and prepare and accompany vocalists for student recitals, theater and opera productions, and vocal ensembles. They also take courses in opera, art song, and languages.



In recent years, Oberlin students have participated in master classes with Yefim Bronfman, András Schiff, Richard Goode (pictured), Andreas Staier, Peter Frankl, Christopher Elton, and others.

Vocal Studies

VOICE | OPERA THEATER | CHORAL ENSEMBLES



Tenor Joshua Blue '16 (with professor Salvatore Champagne) made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2021, adding to a long list of credits in major opera houses.

Oberlin voice students gain confidence, performance acumen, auditioning skills, and artistry across a broad range of repertoire. This comprehensive training prepares singers for exceptional careers in opera, oratorio, recital, early music, and music of today.

The program emphasizes twice-weekly private lessons, diction and language courses, song and chamber music study, and pedagogy classes. Oberlin voice faculty are accomplished teacher-performers who nurture young singers through careful and intelligent choices of repertoire. You'll also benefit from regular coaching with staff pianists and vocal coaches.

Performance opportunities abound in studio performance, recitals, choral ensembles, solo appearances with

instrumental ensembles, and in fully staged operas presented in their original languages.

Throughout the academic year, Oberlin sponsors residencies and master classes that offer invaluable opportunities to work closely with noted musicians. Recent guests have included Gerald Finley, Joyce DiDonato, Roomful of Teeth, Lawrence Brownlee, Lisette Oropesa, and Marilyn Horne, who hosts an annual master class at Oberlin and selects top vocalists for career-development scholarships.

75-90

voice majors

12-18

students per
studio teacher

Vocal Ensembles

Oberlin College Choir
Collegium Musicum
Musical Union
Vocal Chamber Music
Oberlin Opera Theater
Opera Chorus
Opera Workshop
Gospel Chorus

Opera Theater

Oberlin Opera Theater is a vital component of our voice program. You'll gain training in musicianship, linguistic accuracy, role study, acting technique, movement and dance, character development, and stage direction and management.

Each year, Oberlin presents three major productions with a full orchestra, and every voice major is guaranteed to perform in at least one production. Recent operas have included *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Albert Herring*, *Street Scene*, *Cendrillon*, and *Il mondo della luna*. In addition, the Opera Commissioning Program brings composers to campus to collaborate with Oberlin students in creating new works.

Sample Courses

- Interpretation of Art Song
- Introduction to Voice Pedagogy
- Language courses in German, Italian, and French
- Movement for Singers
- Introduction to Opera: Performing Techniques

Oberlin Opera Theater prepares students for vibrant stage careers. This production of *Cendrillon* features Amy Weintraub '17 (pictured second from right), who has appeared in numerous Off Broadway productions. Cory McGee '18 (far right) is a Studio Artist with Houston Grand Opera and has sung with Wolf Trap and Santa Fe Opera.



Organ



Finney Chapel's
C.B. Fisk organ

Oberlin is home to one of the world's most distinguished collections of pipe organs. Our students enjoy access to 32 organs representing more than 500 years of building practice.

Instruction emphasizes the development of a broad range of repertoire while nourishing the unique interests of each student. In addition to weekly private lessons in organ repertoire, you may study harpsichord, clavichord, fortepiano, piano technique, improvisation, composition, and other sacred music skills. Internationally renowned performers regularly visit campus for master classes and recitals.

Performance opportunities include weekly studio classes, departmental recitals, junior and senior recitals, and a variety of special events. Students

also participate in a wealth of ensemble activities such as choir accompaniment, orchestral works with organ, and continuo for early music ensembles.

While at Oberlin, most students serve local churches as organists or music directors, and complete Winter Term internships at churches across the country. Our alumni cultivate multifaceted careers as church musicians, concert performers, professors, musicologists, organ builders, and more, and are frequent prize-winners in national and international organ competitions.

12-18

organ majors

Concert Organs

Styles include North German (by Flentrop), Spanish (Harrold), French Romantic (Fisk), and Renaissance (Brombaugh).

Sample Courses

- **Organ Literature, History, and Design**
- **Basso Continuo**
- **Piano Technique for Organists**
- **Seminar on Messiaen**

Historical Performance

RECORDER | BAROQUE FLUTE | HISTORICAL OBOES | BAROQUE VIOLIN | BAROQUE CELLO
VIOLA DA GAMBA | HARPSICHORD | FORTEPIANO | ORGAN



A Baroque ensemble in Fairchild Chapel

While historical performance is available as a major course of study, many students pursue HP as a complement to other majors.

Historical performance is a way of looking at music: one in which the performer takes on the responsibilities of a scholar. Oberlin's HP students focus on a specific instrument or group of instruments, and also deeply investigate the cultural and historical framework behind each piece. This includes practical aspects and performing conventions, as well as grounding in performance styles and traditions.

Oberlin boasts an expansive music library ideally suited to student research and an extensive collection of historical instruments: viols, Baroque violins and cellos, flutes and oboes, more than 20 harpsichords, and

some of North America's most consequential organs—all of them available for student use.

HP students enjoy plentiful opportunities to perform: on campus—as part of the Oberlin Baroque Orchestra and a variety of smaller ensembles—and at prominent U.S. festivals. The college's many available courses in history, theater, dance, and visual arts further enrich the program's offerings.

Our graduates become leaders across the early music spectrum and beyond, forming influential ensembles including Apollo's Fire and Les Délices, performing in a wide range of chamber settings, and teaching at top institutions everywhere.

18-22

historical performance majors

Sample Courses

- **Music of Tudors**
- **Continuo Realization at the Keyboard**
- **Historical Performance in Context (courses in the music of France, England, Italy, and Germany)**
- **Renaissance Recorder Ensemble**

Composition



Oberlin's Composition Department guides the exploration of many different, even divergent aesthetic viewpoints. You'll be urged to embrace the possibilities that abound when you're open to the new, the old, and the unexpected.

Students learn to express their musical ideas with clarity through written notation. You'll present your compositions in numerous settings, beginning with weekly workshops with the Contemporary Music Ensemble and progressing to performances by student ensembles and in composer concerts. Student works appear on junior and senior recitals, and some composers even conduct their own music in concert.

Over the course of your studies, you will be taught by every member of the

composition faculty, and you'll present your work in five juried reviews with faculty. Your learning culminates in the completion of a senior recital or project and a portfolio.

Oberlin composers have won Pulitzer Prizes and Rome Prizes, and earned honors from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, ASCAP, and the Guggenheim Foundation. They secure prized residencies with major ensembles and teach on the faculties of top music schools.

20-24

composition majors

Sample Courses

- **Survey of Compositional Forms and Structures**
- **Orchestration**
- **Counterpoint**
- **Introduction to Electroacoustic Music**
- **Music and the Brain**
- **Grant Proposals**

Student composer Hao Zou (pictured with conductor Timothy Weiss) is honored by the Contemporary Music Ensemble at the premiere of his concerto *Woven Imprints*.

Technology in Music and Related Arts (TIMARA)



Oberlin is a leader in the creation and teaching of electroacoustic music, and our alumni and faculty thrive in redefining the boundaries of this continually expanding field.

TIMARA serves as the artistic home of countless students seeking careers that combine traditional music skills with exploration of the latest techniques—and *vintage* techniques—for electroacoustic musical expression. Our home base in Bibbins Hall includes studios for recording, multichannel diffusion, analog synthesis, and media production, as well as a control room, makerspace, and gallery.

TIMARA students work in richly diverse media including live electronics, acoustic composition, multichannel fixed media, video, music for dance, sound design for

theater and film, software development, hardware design, performance art, and soundscape composition. Their creations and research have been recognized at festivals, competitions, and conferences across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

TIMARA majors are highly collaborative, supportive of each other's work, active in peer-to-peer learning, and engaged with their world. And TIMARA isn't just for majors: Our community includes many non-majors whose other studies in the college or conservatory intersect with the TIMARA studios.

22-26

TIMARA majors

Sample Courses

- **Electroacoustic Studio Techniques**
- **Real-time Techniques**
- **Studio Recording**
- **Workshop in Music and Media Technologies**

Rachel Gibson, a double major in TIMARA and percussion performance, creates wearable electronic instruments in TIMARA's makerspace.

Jazz Studies

SAXOPHONE | TRUMPET | TROMBONE | VOICE | GUITAR | PIANO | VIBRAPHONE | BASS | PERCUSSION



Whether you choose to major in jazz performance or composition, your education will be grounded in an understanding of genres and influences—and you will be supported in defining and developing your own voice.

Jazz Studies' base of operations is the Kohl Building, with its naturally lit practice rooms and spacious rehearsal studios, all with in-room recording and playback capabilities. Clonick Hall, our superior recording facility, also serves as a primary rehearsal space and can be reserved for your own sessions.

Performance opportunities abound here, from student-formed small ensembles to the Oberlin Jazz Ensemble big band, as well as collaborative Performance and Improvisation (PI) groups that routinely share

the stage with prominent guests. Exceptional students may audition for the Oberlin Sonny Rollins Jazz Ensemble—whose members demonstrate outstanding musicianship and commitment to serving humanity—or the Genre Nova Ensemble, made up of top players from the PI program.

Oberlin jazz students regularly play on campus, in nearby Cleveland, and around the world. Recent tours have taken students to Italy, South Africa, Brazil, New York City, and San Francisco.

75-90

jazz studies majors

Sample Courses

- Intro to African American Music
- Jazz Improvisation
- Classical and Jazz Theory
- Jazz Aural Skills
- Jazz Keyboard Arranging/Composing

Jazz Forum

Students present pieces from the standard repertoire alongside their own compositions at Jazz Forum (pictured left), the weekly showcase of small ensembles that packs the Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse with music lovers from throughout our campus and community. With new sets delivered every Friday at midday, Forums are an interactive, instructional cornerstone of Oberlin's jazz program, which emphasizes the small-group experience. Each installment provides invaluable opportunities to perform for enthusiastic audiences, discuss your work, receive feedback from jazz faculty and others, and polish your stage presence in a laid-back environment.

Recent Guest Artists

Terence Blanchard
Leo Blanco
Regina Carter
Billy Childs
Herbie Hancock
Vijay Iyer
Dave Liebman
Joe Lovano
Dafnis Prieto
Rufus Reid
Cécile McLorin Salvant
Esperanza Spalding

The Oberlin Jazz Ensemble performs under the direction of Maria Schneider (pictured), one of many master artists to collaborate with students on campus in recent years.



Conducting



The study of conducting is available to all students as elective courses and can also be pursued in a rigorous five-year program that leads to a bachelor's degree in an undergraduate conservatory major and a master's degree in conducting.

Courses are defined in two separate tracks: choral conducting and instrumental conducting, with emphasis on baton and rehearsal techniques, score reading, preparation, and interpretation. The conducting faculty aids in the development of all elements of the conductor's craft: harmonic and formal analysis, rhythmic security, aural imagery, knowledge of instruments and voices, vocabulary of gesture, group management and psychology, and programming. One year of language

study—in French, German, or Italian—is also required.

You'll conduct lab ensembles and assist in preparing the conservatory's large ensembles for performance. All students in the master's degree program conduct a minimum of three pieces in public performances, in addition to leading at least one piece performed by the Oberlin Orchestra or another large ensemble.

Intent to pursue the combined degree should be declared in your first year of undergraduate studies.

Sample Courses

- **Conducting I through IV**
- **Techniques of Conducting**
- **Score Reading**
- **Orchestration**
- **Choral Conducting and Literature Seminar**
- **Orchestral Conducting and Literature Seminar**

Conductor Maurice Cohn '17 (degrees in cello, history, and math) won a 2020 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award and is assistant conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Pedagogy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement (PACE)



The PACE division builds upon Oberlin's legacy of excellence in music education with emphasis on social justice, arts advocacy, and community engagement in diverse settings.

The versatility required of today's professional musicians encompasses an expansive set of skills. The art of teaching and community arts programming, as well as the entrepreneurial, organizational, and financial grounding necessary for creative independence and professional music-making, are pivotal to the success of students on the cusp of music careers. PACE answers the question commonly posed by those students: *How can I make an impact?*

Through coursework and field experience, PACE students research,

create, and practice connecting their enthusiasm for music, interdisciplinary arts, and academic interests in innovative and sustainable ways. These experiences establish vibrant pathways, nurturing professional development and laying the foundation for meaningful careers.

PACE Integrative Concentration

Available to students in the college and conservatory, the PACE concentration fosters the development of artist-citizens through coursework, experiences in area communities, and curation of a portfolio.

Sample Experiences

- Coaching youth orchestras
- Teaching in local schools
- Working with arts organizations
- Researching music cognition
- Performing in hospitals
- Teaching in prisons

Sample Courses

- Community Engagement
- The Teaching of Singing
- Arts Behind Bars
- Psychology of Musical Behaviors
- Professional Development

Core Musicianship Studies

At Oberlin, you'll create a foundation for your development through a series of core musicianship courses completed by all conservatory majors. These include extensive studies in musicology and four semesters each of music theory and aural skills, plus piano proficiency.

Conservatory electives cater to your interests and inspire new ones. They range from the standard (Introduction to African American Music) to the unexpected (Epics, Puppets, and Music: From India to Indonesia). Paths in music journalism, professional development, and pedagogy are just some that our students pursue.

Musicology

Studies of music history, ethnomusicology, instrument development, and performance practice provide an understanding of music spanning a wide range of perspectives.

You will explore music through a variety of classes and pathways of study, with opportunities to pursue topics that inform your performances and develop your view of music in the world.

Coursework includes reading and discussions coupled with guest presentations, demonstrations, concerts, and workshops, where you'll learn about the people and the sequence of events, but also about sociopolitical, conceptual, and technological influences. Students grow to recognize, for example, ways in which improvisation or ornamentation may be employed or how vocal techniques change over time and from one culture to another.

You'll learn to think critically about why music matters to individuals and communities around the world—and you'll acquire the tools to engage with music in new ways.



Students take part in a gamelan workshop with members of the Balinese ensemble Çudamani.



Music Theory

Oberlin makes space to expand repertoires, genres, traditions, and perspectives in music theory study by increasing the use of teaching examples traditionally marginalized in formal conservatory education and by advancing theories of music scholars from historically underrepresented groups.

Our music theory faculty stress critical thinking, analysis, writing, and aural skills to help students find as many ways as possible to understand music and engage with it deeply. All students complete a core of classes—through which they learn to hear, perform, and communicate about multiple aspects of music in diverse repertoires—as

well as two additional theory courses that include topic- and repertoire-based classes chosen with guidance from academic advisors. You'll learn to better hear, read, and analyze; develop a command of melodic and rhythmic notation and formal structures; build vocabulary; and hone strategies to deepen your musical understanding.

Oberlin's Brian Alegant (pictured) became the first music professor to earn the title U.S. Professor of the Year.

Graduate Studies

Our emphasis on undergraduate students is complemented by highly specialized graduate-level programs in Piano Technology and Recording Arts and Production, which capitalize on our remarkable facilities and the expertise of our faculty and staff. Artist Diplomas and master's degrees are offered in other select areas of study.



Piano Technology

Oberlin's piano technology program emphasizes the collaborative relationship between the concert artist and piano technician.

This two-year Artist Diploma program, designed in association with Steinway & Sons, benefits from the conservatory's long relationship with the piano maker and access to incredible performers, and involves rigorous hands-on work with more than 240 Steinway grand pianos of all vintages.

Through daily mentorship with faculty and visiting technicians, and regular access to performing artists, students gain a complete understanding of how

the acoustic, mechanical, and tonal elements of the piano are interconnected. Instruction includes concert tuning, voicing, and regulation as well as rebuilding and shop skills. You will learn how to listen to artists, interpret what they want, adjust the instrument to satisfy them, and negotiate priorities. Students also travel for special instruction and additional training, and participate in summer internships and apprenticeships.

Students in Oberlin's Piano Technology program transition into careers with prominent institutions around the world.

Recording Arts and Production (RAP)

An emphasis on engineering and producing classical and jazz music sets Oberlin apart from traditional recording programs.

Oberlin is a vibrant training ground for recording acoustic music, from symphony orchestras to chamber music and jazz ensembles. Students at the graduate level can pursue a one-year program toward a Professional Certificate or a two-year program toward an Artist Diploma. Those who complete the program are poised for audio careers that demand the highest level of expertise.

The RAP program's holistic approach marries technical mastery with deep

musical understanding. Students receive hands-on opportunities to record a multitude of styles and to connect with Grammy Award-winning engineers and producers through on-campus residencies. In year one, you'll acquire a deep familiarity with the recording, live sound, and streaming systems in nine different venues in support of more than 400 performances and recording sessions. During your second year, you'll focus on the complete process of producing professional recordings.

Students in Oberlin's RAP program develop their craft in Clonick Hall, the conservatory's exceptional recording studio.



Our Faculty

At Oberlin, you will learn from distinguished artists and scholars whose mastery of their craft shines through in their teaching.

Alexa Still, associate
professor of flute

William Quillen
Dean

Instrumental Studies

WOODWINDS

Alexa Still*
flute

Robert Walters*
oboe and English
horn

Richard Hawkins*
clarinet

Drew Pattison*
bassoon

BRASS

Roy Poper*
trumpet

Jeff Scott*
horn

John Gruber*
trombone

Dennis Nulty*
tuba

PERCUSSION

Pablo Rieppi*

STRINGS

Sibbi Bernhardsson*
violin

David Bowlin*
violin

Francesca dePasquale*
violin

Marilyn McDonald*
violin

William van der Sloot*
violin

Kirsten Docter*
viola

Peter Slowik*
viola

Darrett Adkins*
cello

Dmitry Kouzov*
cello

Tracy Rowell*
double bass

Derek Zadinsky*
double bass

Yolanda Kondonassis*
harp

Stephen Aron*
classical guitar

Paul Kushious
chamber music

Mari Sato
chamber music

Verona Quartet
quartet in residence

PIANO

Angela Cheng*

Alvin Chow*

Dang Thai Son*

Stanislav Ioudenitch*

Robert Shannon*

Haewon Song*

Peter Takács*

Scott Cuellar

Yulia Fedoseeva

Andrea McAlister
pedagogy

William Grant Naboré
Oberlin-Como Piano
Academy

Sean Schulze

INSTRUMENTAL ACCOMPANYING

James Howsmon

Tatiana Likhina

Yu Sakamoto

ORGAN

Jonathan Moyer*

Christa Rakich*

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Michael Lynn*
Baroque flute and
recorder

Kathryn Montoya*
recorder and Baroque
oboe

Marilyn McDonald*
Baroque violin

Rebecca Landell Reed*
viola da gamba and
Baroque cello

Michael Manderen*
lute

David Breitman*
fortepiano

Mark Edwards*
harpsichord

Jonathan Moyer*
organ

Christa Rakich*
organ

Steven Plank
Collegium Musicum

JAZZ STUDIES

Eddie Henderson*
trumpet

Gary Bartz*
saxophone

Jay Ashby*
jazz arranging,
composition, and
trombone

Robert Ferrazza*
guitar

La Tanya Hall*
voice

Dan Wall*
piano and vibraphone

Gerald Cannon*
bass

Billy Hart*
percussion

Paul Samuels
small jazz ensembles

Vocal Studies

VOICE

Salvatore Champagne*

Kendra Colton*

Katherine Jolly*

Timothy LeFebvre*

Lorraine Manz*

Marilyn Horne

Lisa Stidham

OPERA THEATER

Jonathon Field

Christopher Mirto

VOCAL ACCOMPANYING AND COACHING

Thomas Bandy

Javier Gonzalez

Elena Loskova

Daniel Michalak

Kyung-Eun Na

Contemporary Music

COMPOSITION

Michael Frazier*

Stephen Hartke*

Jesse Jones*

Jihyun Kim

TECHNOLOGY IN MUSIC AND RELATED ARTS (TIMARA)

Aurie Hsu*

Tom Lopez*

Peter Swendsen*

Eli Stine*

Abby Aresty

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND IMPROVISATION

Dana Jessen

Conducting and Ensembles

Chris Anderson
Jazz Ensemble

Tiffany Chang
Arts & Sciences
Orchestra

Raphael Jiménez*
orchestras

Gregory Ristow*
vocal ensembles

Ben Johns*
vocal ensembles

Robert Spano

Timothy Weiss*
contemporary music

John Alexander

Pedagogy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement (PACE)

Dana Jessen

Jody Kerchner

Andrea McAlister

Louise Zeitlin

MUSICOLOGY

Courtney-Savali Andrews

David Breitman

Jennifer Fraser

Emily Laurance

Charles McGuire

James O'Leary

Steven Plank

Music Theory

Brian Alegant

Arnie Cox

Jared Hartt

Kara Yoo Leaman

Rebecca Leydon

Megan Kaes Long

Joseph Lubben

Jan Miyake

Bryan Parkhurst

Andrew Pau

Piano Technology

John Cavanaugh

Robert Murphy

Recording Arts and Production

Paul Eachus

Andrew Tripp

American Acoustic Music

Chris Eldridge

Performance and Improvisation (PI)

Jamey Haddad

Music Journalism

Daniel Hathaway

Mike Telin

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Larissa Fekete

Our students benefit from being part of the intellectual ecosystem of one of the world's preeminent liberal arts institutions, and they emerge from Oberlin as informed artists with a broad worldview.



An Oberlin cellist performs the score for a senior dance concert—a contemporary circus involving acrobatics and aerial maneuvers.

How will you experience Oberlin? Conservatory students experience our liberal arts college in one of three distinct ways:

As pre-professional musicians fully immersed in studies toward a Bachelor of Music degree and **incorporating liberal arts elective courses** in the College of Arts and Sciences.

As dedicated conservatory musicians who also commit to more intensive coursework in the college, **completing minors or any of six interdisciplinary programs.**

As one of some 200 participants in Oberlin's Double Degree Program, through which they **earn both a Bachelor of Music in the conservatory and a Bachelor of Arts in the college**—in five years or fewer.

Conservatory students can pursue minors and concentrations in any of Oberlin College's 43 courses of study or in any of six interdisciplinary areas that creatively unite diverse worlds:

Arts and Creative Technologies focuses on participation in global conversations about the expressive potential of technology old and new.

Arts Administration and Leadership examines pathways toward administrative careers across a variety of fields, from museums to rock bands to the film industry.

Interdisciplinary Performance encourages creativity through a broad range of performance practices and related subjects, including audience interaction, improvisation, and dynamics among performers.

Music and Cognition explores cutting-edge issues in the cognitive science of musical experience—how music gets inside our heads and influences our thoughts and feelings.

Music and Popular Culture studies the effect of music on mainstream cultural practices throughout history, as well as the impact of cultural factors on music from a given era or region of the world.

Pedagogy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement fosters the development of artist-citizens who embrace their responsibility to connect with local and global communities through music.





Oberlin's Conservatory Library is part of a network of four libraries on campus, including branches dedicated to science and art.

With more than 345,000 books, scores, and periodicals, the “Con Library” boasts one of the most comprehensive research and performance collections in the country. It’s also home to Oberlin’s extensive special collections, which chronicle numerous facets of music history.

Highlighted Special Collections

Selch Collection of American Music History:

700 instruments, 6,000 books, and more detailing the history of American music from the early 16th through 20th centuries.

Neumann Jazz Collection:

More than 100,000 jazz recordings, plus thousands of books, print materials, and memorabilia that tell the story of jazz.

Milton J. and Mona C.

Hinton Collection: Papers and artifacts spanning the great jazz bassist’s seven-decade career, spotlighting the life of musicians away from the stage.

Violin Society of America/Goodkind Collection:

Rare books spanning four centuries, as well as scores, instruments, bows, and more.

Oberlin Conservatory Library Collection of Musician Autographs and Photographs:

Autographed letters, photographs, and more, including masters such as Beethoven, Brahms, and Chopin.

Oberlin maintains a vast collection of high-quality instruments available for student use.

Among them are more than 240 Steinway grand pianos—one of the largest Steinway collections anywhere in the world—and an incredible 32 pipe organs representing more than 500 years of organ-building practice.

Our orchestral instruments include Gagliano and Stradivarius violins, a Tononi cello, Heckel bassoons, renowned piccolos through bass flutes, and Lyon & Healy harps. The TIMARA studios boast cutting-edge digital equipment and an incredible array of vintage gear. We have one of the nation's best collections of early instruments, spanning the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Our non-Western instruments include a full Javanese gamelan and what may be the country's finest collection of exotic percussion instruments.

The “ex-Vallot” violin, crafted by Antonio Stradivari in 1722, is one of many outstanding instruments available to Oberlin students.



The World Comes to Oberlin!

It's a phrase we say a lot—and it's true: Our students benefit from exposure to incomparable master artists who visit campus throughout each school year for master classes, discussions, recitals, and even collaborative projects.



Pianist Jeremy Denk '90
and cellist Steven Isserlis '80
perform in Finney Chapel.

Who actually comes to Oberlin? Just about everybody you can imagine: Yo-Yo Ma • Marilyn Horne • Robert Spano • Joyce DiDonato • Rhiannon Giddens • Christian Tetzlaff • Richard Goode • Gerald Finley • Vijay Iyer • Billy Childs • George Lewis • Henry Threadgill • Jennifer Koh • Rebel • Du Yun • Missy Mazzoli • Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment • Terence Blanchard • James Ehnes • Steven Isserlis • András Schiff • Esperanza Spalding • Roomful of Teeth • Tafelmusik • Eddie Daniels • Imani Winds • St. Lawrence Quartet • Miró Quartet • Brentano Quartet • Punch Brothers • The Romeros • Anat Cohen • Maria Schneider • The Cleveland Orchestra • Regina Carter • Jeanne Lamon • Caroline Shaw • Pam Frank • Cécile McLorin Salvant • Ursula Oppens • Leon Fleisher • Claire Chase • Jeremy Denk • Chick Corea • Herbie Hancock • Guy Bovet • Snarky Puppy • Aiofe O'Donovan • Misty Rabbit • Peter Frankl • Tessa Lark • Steve Coleman • Paul Badura-Skoda • Colin Carr • Sergio Assad • Benjamin Grosvenor

Expand Your Horizons

An Oberlin tradition for more than 50 years, Winter Term is that window between fall and spring semester when you explore interests outside your usual coursework and expand the scope of what can be learned in a classroom. Sometimes that means taking your first steps into professional projects, or diving deep into newly discovered passions, or immersing yourself in the cultures of destinations near and far. Winter Term projects can be done independently or in groups and can take place on campus or around the world. There's even a competitive granting program on campus that funds individual projects.



An Oberlin group takes part in a Brass for Africa experience in Uganda.



Students present a world-premiere opera in Warner Concert Hall.

3

Winter Term projects required to graduate

1,000

students choose to study on campus during Winter Term

\$0

cost to live on campus during Winter Term



Student ensembles play Carnegie Hall and other renowned venues.

What can you do with Winter Term? Anything you can imagine! Here are some past projects:

Produce a world-premiere opera in four weeks

Take your quartet on tour

Perform at SFJazz with the Oberlin Sonny Rollins Jazz Ensemble

Study historical organs and the repertoire written for them in Paris

Record a roots album with a Grammy-winning producer

Learn about improvisation practices in Rio de Janeiro

Study organ, voice, and language in Germany

Perform with the Oberlin Orchestra in Carnegie Hall

Compose music for a Cleveland dance company

Study taiko drumming in Japan

Teach music and perform at a school in Jordan

Write and record film music with a Los Angeles composer

Play with the Genre Nova Ensemble at the JEN Conference in New Orleans

Rehab homes and perform in hurricane-ravaged regions

Study cultural responses to natural disasters in Indonesia

Teach children to play brass instruments in Uganda

Study and perform at the Bach Institute in Boston

Touring artists visit Oberlin's campus throughout the school year.



Oberlin College and Conservatory share a single campus—and a lot more.

So while you'll definitely study with college students, you'll also live and play with college students.

That might mean hosting a radio show on campus station WOBC, writing for the student newspaper, or performing with student groups like OCircus or the Hip Hop Collective or the Musical Theatre Association.

Conservatory students participate on varsity teams and in club sports like fencing, golf, rugby, and aikido. They champion environmental causes and connect with student groups centered around cultures, languages, and interests. They teach courses in Oberlin's accredited Experimental College (ExCo) on subjects ranging from the basics of gardening to the science of cooking to the world of Harry Potter.

Conservatory and college students share rooms in residence halls, dine together in locations all over campus, and participate in Oberlin's co-ops, through which they plan and prepare their own daily meals.

You never quite know what each day here might bring—but you know you'll never be bored!



First Priority: You

The best way to experience Oberlin to the fullest is by taking care of yourself to the fullest. It's one reason why student wellness is so important to us.

That includes our many wellness initiatives—from yoga, meditation, and mindfulness to racial equity—as well as workshops on body mapping, injury prevention, and Alexander Technique.

We're here to help you establish healthy life habits through a wide range of activities for students of all interests and abilities, including a comprehensive lineup of YeoFit classes and training equipment at our new fitness center, fun campus-wide challenges, trails to explore—and so much more!

175+

student organizations on campus (and an open invitation to start your own!)

21

NCAA Division III varsity sports teams (plus 19 club sports!)

90

percent of students live on campus all four years

FREE

cost of laundry in residence halls



Concerts for Good

Prepare for a life of impact.

Music degrees lead to many destinations, and Oberlin's resources guide you through every step of your journey toward a fulfilling professional life.





Oberlin's Center for Innovation and Impact helps put your creative ideas into action, in practice and preparation for life after Oberlin. You'll find access to funding, coaching, and other resources to launch ventures of all kinds. And through the entrepreneurial pitch competition LaunchU, Oberlin extends that support even after graduation.

The **Office of Conservatory Professional Development** works hand in hand with Oberlin College's **Career Development Center** on a wide range of services and programming, including workshops and individual advising on résumé and cover letter writing, internship and job searches, graduate school applications, and more. You'll also find help in securing freelance work and other professional opportunities, funding your projects, and connecting with alumni.

By your third year on campus, you can join an **Oberlin Career Community** that aligns with your interests and connects you with like-minded students, alumni, parents, and faculty in your field. These communities include courses for credit, networking opportunities, and guaranteed funding for summer internships.

Our Career Communities

Arts and Creative Professions

Business, Finance, and Consulting

Education

Law and Public Policy

Medical, Public, and Global Health Professions

Music Leadership

Nonprofit and the Public Sector

Science and Technology



Oberlin Conservatory graduates wind up in all the places you would expect. And a lot of places you wouldn't.

They fill the ranks of top orchestras and opera companies and teaching institutions around the world. They are entrepreneurs who launch genre-defining ensembles. They excel as conductors and soloists, composers and producers, educators and arts executives, theoreticians and historians.

They compete in major competitions, and they win Grammy Awards and “Genius” Grants and Pulitzer Prizes.

But they also shine as radio hosts and radiologists, entertainment

lawyers and acoustic consultants, breadmakers and vintners, and in an endless array of other professions in every field you can imagine.

What do they have in common?

All of them experienced Oberlin's culture of supportive risk-taking: a space where creativity flourishes, leading to independent thinking and high achievement—and to graduates who step away from our campus as confident artists and professionals with a broad worldview and with meaningful connections that last a lifetime.

1. Robert Spano '84, music director, Aspen Music Festival and School, Atlanta Symphony, and music director designate, Fort Worth Symphony
2. Jeannette Sorrell '90, artistic director, Apollo's Fire **3. Michael Morgan '79**, music director, Oakland Symphony **4. Stanley Cowell '62**, jazz pianist and label founder **5. Kassa Overall '06**, jazz drummer, emcee, and producer **6. John Kander '51**, Tony Award-winning composer **7. Fei Xie '04**, principal bassoon, Minnesota Orchestra **8. George Walker '41**, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **9. Master Sergeant Kenneth Wolin '89**, percussionist, President's Own Marine Band **10. Christopher Rouse '71**, Pulitzer-winning composer **11. Sullivan Fortner '08**, Grammy Award-winning jazz pianist **12. Courtney Bryan '08**, Rome Prize-winning composer **13. Rhiannon Giddens '00**, Grammy-winning musician and artistic director of Silkroad **14. Claire Chase '01**, MacArthur “Genius” Grant and Avery Fisher Prize-winning flutist and entrepreneur, founder of ICE **15. William Welter '18**, principal oboe, Chicago Symphony Orchestra **16. Denyce Graves '85**, mezzo-soprano **17. Wyatt Underhill '13**, assistant concertmaster, San Francisco Symphony **18. Hannah Hammel '15**, principal flute, Detroit Symphony **19. Jennifer Koh '97**, violin soloist **20. Edward Parks '06**, operatic baritone **21. Dashon Burton '05**, Grammy-winning bass-baritone **22. Elizabeth DeShong '02**, mezzo-soprano **23. Daniel Okulitch '99**, bass-baritone **24. Du Yun '01**, Pulitzer-winning composer **25. Lydia Steier '00**, opera director **26. Skip Sempé '80**, harpsichordist **27. Chris Eldridge '04**, Grammy-winning guitarist, Punch Brothers **28. Will Chase '92**, actor and Broadway singer **29. Melia Tourangeau '93**, CEO, Pittsburgh Symphony **30. Judy Kuhn '81**, actress and singer **31. James McBride '79**, author **32. Boris Allakhverdyan '06**, principal clarinet, Los Angeles Philharmonic **33. Bill Palant '91**, founder and managing director, Étude Arts Consulting **34. Montana Levi Blanco '07**, costume designer **35. Mandy Tuong '02**, attorney, president, CEO, Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing





Best of Both Worlds

You'll find lots to love in picturesque Oberlin, with its historic downtown right next door to the conservatory and its streets lined with restaurants specializing in cuisines from around the world, plus coffeehouses, shops, galleries, a movie theater, and more. On the southern tip of Oberlin's campus, the Arboretum (pictured right) is a nature preserve with trails, creeks, bridges, and a reservoir—a charming destination year round.



Great Lake, Awesome City

A short drive from Oberlin on the shores of Lake Erie, Cleveland offers an incredible array of arts, culture, and quirky neighborhoods to explore. It's home to one of America's largest theater districts, a renowned art museum, the world-famous Cleveland Orchestra (free tickets for Oberlin students!), the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, professional sports teams, and an amazing food scene.

First-year students begin their Oberlin experience with a day spent in and around Greater Cleveland, exploring its neighborhoods and institutions, engaging in service projects, and forging relationships with the community. The Cleveland Immersion Program, a credit-bearing course available to all Oberlin students, fosters even deeper ties to Northeast Ohio, along with opportunities for networking and career development.

Applying to Oberlin

Oberlin Conservatory students are talented musicians with demonstrated records of achievement. They show potential for further development, enthusiastically embrace demanding standards, and fully dedicate themselves to creating their place in the profession.

Important Dates

Conservatory Application Deadline: December 1

Screening Materials Due: December 4

Notification: April 1

Reply/Deposit Due: May 1



Applying to the Conservatory

While Oberlin College and Conservatory are one institution, students intending to pursue the Bachelor of Music should complete only the conservatory application.

Apply at go.oberlin.edu/con/apply. (Conservatory application fee is \$100; fee waivers available.)

The most important factor in determining conservatory admission is the performance audition or, in the case of composition and TIMARA applicants, submission of a portfolio and interview.

Learn more about auditions and interviews, required materials, and audition repertoire at the web address listed above.

Applying for the Double Degree

Oberlin offers a unique opportunity to combine rigorous pre-professional musical training with a broad liberal arts education in a program that can be completed in five years or fewer, leading to both BM and BA degrees. Students interested in pursuing both degrees must submit separate applications to Oberlin Conservatory and Oberlin College. For details, visit go.oberlin.edu/double-degree.

Transfer Applications

Oberlin welcomes applications from transfer students, including graduates of two-year colleges, with a deadline of December 1.

Tests

Oberlin College and Conservatory has moved to a test-optional model for domestic applicants and those for whom English is their primary language. SAT and ACT score submissions are still accepted, but are no longer required. Non-native English speakers whose secondary school coursework is conducted in languages other than English must still submit results from TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.

Auditions

All conservatory areas of study other than composition and TIMARA require an audition. Composition and TIMARA applicants require a portfolio and an interview.

Screening is a first-round review prior to being granted a final audition review. All applicants are required to submit screening materials.

Auditions and interviews are held on campus in January and February. Students unable to attend an on-campus audition or interview will have the option of completing this requirement through other means.

Complete audition and interview information as well as repertoire requirements can be found at go.oberlin.edu/audition.



We help make Oberlin affordable.

Our financial aid team is dedicated to helping you make an Oberlin education possible. Nearly all admitted conservatory students receive merit scholarships, and Oberlin meets 100 percent of demonstrated financial need.

Every year, Oberlin awards more than \$11 million in merit scholarships to admitted conservatory and double-degree students.

Learn more about financial aid at oberlin.edu/finaid. Call 800-693-3173 or email financial.aid@oberlin.edu for more information.

Tuition and Fees*

Tuition:	\$59,384
Room:	\$8,858
Board:	\$8,996
Fees:	\$860
Total:	\$78,098

*Academic year 2021-22

Visiting Oberlin

See for yourself what Oberlin is all about! We encourage you to visit classes and rehearsals, meet with faculty, attend information sessions, and participate in campus tours. Please confirm the availability of tours and information sessions by visiting the link below.

Conservatory Tours and Information Sessions

Information sessions and tours of the conservatory are held most weekdays. Tours of the College of Arts and Sciences, which include housing, dining, and other campus buildings, are also available. Register for both tours at go.oberlin.edu/convisit.

Plan Your Trip

A printable self-guided tour map is available online if needed. You'll also find travel directions and information about events, accommodations, and parking at oberlin.edu/visitor.





OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of Admissions
Conservatory of Music
39 West College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074

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Contact Us

Conservatory Admissions

admissions.oberlin.edu/con
conservatory.admissions@oberlin.edu
440.775.8413

Arts & Sciences Admissions

admissions.oberlin.edu/as
college.admissions@oberlin.edu
800.622.6243 or 440.775.8411

Office of Financial Aid

oberlin.edu/finaid
financial.aid@oberlin.edu
800.693.3173 or 440.775.8142

Visit Oberlin!

The college and conservatory admissions offices welcome visitors year round for tours, information sessions, and interviews. Find planning information and register for your visit at oberlin.edu/visitor.

Discover More

www.oberlin.edu/con
[@oberlincon](https://twitter.com/oberlincon)



Important Dates

APPLICATION DEADLINE
December 1

SCREENING MATERIALS DUE
December 4

NOTIFICATION
April 1

REPLY/DEPOSIT DUE
May 1