

Studying Music at Oxford

Music is everywhere in the world around us; it is part of all of our lives, whether we play it, actively listen to it, or hear it in passing. At Oxford, we study music by reading, listening, performing and composing. We create music in all its aspects – acoustic, electronic, individually and communally, working with world-class professionals and with local communities. We analyse the relationships within a piece of music, and between that piece and its genre and context.

Throughout your studies you may be exposed to music of all kinds and in all contexts: Western classical, popular music, global, world and traditional musics, community music, seeing these musics in terms of their social and cultural contexts (and how those contexts have been shaped over time).

Music has been part of the life of Oxford for more than 800 years. There are around 30 academic staff, of whom 15 give lectures regularly – scholars with distinguished reputations as musicologists, performers and composers. Oxford welcomes visits from numerous speakers and professional performing ensembles.

The faculty building incorporates practice rooms, electronic music and recording studios, and one of the best music libraries in any British university. The world-famous Bate Collection of Musical Instruments, housed in the faculty, lends historical instruments to students. The faculty also has a gamelan orchestra.

The course is broadly based but allows for increasing specialisation and choice too. Whether you're a performer, a composer, a budding scholar of music history, sociology, psychology or education, the Music course offers something for you.

Studying Music at St Anne's

Music is a varied and enriching subject. As a Visiting Student at St Anne's College, you will be able to participate in this variety because we offer options in all three 'branches' of the discipline (performance, composition and musicology / music history) and have subject specialists in each field. Furthermore, there are opportunities to mix options within these areas as well as a wide range of performance groups and ensembles in which to take part. Participation within some of these can also be awarded credit.

Music at St Anne's for visiting students has been hugely boosted by the opening of the marvellous new Schwarzman Centre right next to our college. This not only means that the Faculty of Music itself is on our college doorstep, but as a visiting student you will have immediate access to its seminar rooms, lecture theatres, studios and practice rooms in addition to the spaces we have available at St Anne's itself.

A further boost for St Anne's College for all visiting students is the fact that it has become the first-ever All-Steinway School at Oxford University. This not only means that all our fleet of pianos are Steinway branded, but there is also an array of new opportunities with Steinway artists visiting St Anne's to deliver performances and educational projects for students both within and outside the college.

Pianists, and students who play string instruments, are highly sought after as visiting students to St Anne's College. St Anne's College is home to the St Anne's Camerata, the best student-facing string orchestra in the university. The Camerata mounts its own concerts in the college, in the Schwarzman Centre and in the Holywell Music Room and may also give occasional performances outside Oxford. It also does projects with outstanding British string quartets such as the Castalian Quartet, the Adler Quartet and groups such as the Kaleidoscope Collective.

The academic standards of our undergraduate music students at St Anne's College are amongst the highest in the university, with six of our students obtaining the top finals music prize in the last eleven years. It is our policy wherever possible to place visiting students in tutorials with our undergraduate students, although this clearly

depends on whether your course choices align with what our undergraduate students study in any given year. Once you start at St Anne's College, you will have the opportunity to discuss this aspect of your study with Professor Martyn Harry, the Fellow and Tutor in Music who has oversight over the music programme.

St Anne's College also offers opportunities for conductors and composers, whereby study within these areas can be organised to suit the particular needs of the student. Some courses are subject to audition. There are also competitions for both performers and composers.

Music is strongly supported within the college. Music students at St Anne's have the advantage of an excellent collection of books and scores in the College Library (open 24 hours a day), as well as the use of a dedicated suite of four practice rooms, which can be booked and used until 10pm. One of these is used as an ensemble room and houses a new Steinway grand piano. The All-Steinway status of our college has created a real focus on piano-playing and musicmaking within the college, and as a result you will also find high quality upright pianos available for social music making both within the Junior Common Room and the College student bar.

The St Anne's College Recital Series takes place weekly during term time in the Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre, which also has its own new Steinway B grand piano. These showcase young professional musicians, as well as some of our own students, who are encouraged to participate in these and make the most of the opportunity to perform in public. St Anne's students are also able to join the college orchestra and the college choir, as well as making the most of the rich musical life of Oxford as a whole.

The following course options are designed to offer a sense of the topics that can be studied and combined. It is also possible to combine one or more of these courses with courses in a different subject. You may, if the courses and teaching permits choose from a range of pathways.

Study durations

You can apply to study Music as a single or joint subject for any study duration.

	Ext AY	AY	Fall Term	Hilary and Trinity terms	Studied with other subjects
Music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classics; Classical Archaeology and Ancient History; Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; English; History; History of Art; Medical Humanities; Modern Languages; Philosophy; Economics; Law; Politics Computer Science; Experimental Psychology; Maths

Courses

The following courses are a guide to what you might study.

Some of these options (indicated by AUD) are subject to audition and in this case you should also select alternatives; similarly, the list serves as an illustration of what you might expect.

PERFORMANCE

- Chamber Music and Ensemble Performance [AUD]
- Conducting Skills [AUD]
- Historically Informed Performance
- Musical Analysis
- Instrumental Tuition (this can be provided as part of a performance programme)
- Music in the Community
- Keyboard Skills

- Free Improvisation
- Choral Performance (Hilary Term only)
- Choral Conducting (Hilary Term only)

COMPOSITION

- Compositional Tutorials
- Techniques of Composition
- New Music Ensemble [AUD]
- Orchestration
- Stylistic Composition, Arrangement and Transcription of classical, jazz and popular music
- Analysis Portfolio
- Critical Listening (Michaelmas Term only)
- Introduction to Contemporary Music Lectures
- Studio Techniques and Sound Design
- Free Improvisation
- Recording and Producing (Trinity Term only)

MUSICOLOGY (course choices vary greatly and the following selection should be seen as illustrative only)

- Machaut
- Vernacular Song in the long 13th Century
- Polyphony and Polemic in a Fractured Europe, c. 1500-1800
- Renaissance Madrigal
- 18th-Century Opera
- Beethoven: Between History and Myth
- Nationalisms
- The String Quartet Between Classicism and Modernism
- Music, Technology and Worldmaking
- Women in Popular Music
- Art Decade: Rock Musics of the 1970s (restricted to certain terms only)
- Global Hip-Hop
- Queer Noise
- Music and Sounds of Protest across the World
- Film Music
- Introduction to Music Psychology (restricted to certain terms only)
- Music and Pleasure
- History and Philosophy of Music Education
- Music Education: Practice and Pedagogy
- Musical Thought and Scholarship / Foundations in the Study of Music
- Musical Analysis
- Critical Studies in Ethnomusicology

Pre-requisites

You need to already be studying music at your home institution to apply to study Music at St Anne's. You do not need to be majoring in music, but it should be at least a minor or concentration equivalent of your studies. Being actively involved in music beyond the classroom can also be considered as a pre-requisite and this may involve playing an instrument/s, being involved in performing or making music, or studying history of music.

Additional information

Faculty website: <https://www.music.ox.ac.uk/>