

Music, Catalog 2025-26

MAJOR, MINOR

- **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:** Shelbie Wahl-Fouts (director of choral activities, chair)
- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Jillian Vogel

The Hollins music department allows students a wide range of options for study and performance. The music major provides a thorough preparation in performance, music theory, and music history within the context and breadth of Hollins' liberal arts tradition. Committed students in the music major will find themselves well prepared for graduate study and flexible enough to pursue many career avenues. Non-majors may declare a music minor or may choose simply to participate in some of the many opportunities offered by the department. Students with no musical background as well as those who have previously been serious music students will find opportunities to explore their musical potential.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN MUSIC:

44 credits

- MUS 129: Musicianship (2)
- MUS 132: Music Theory I (4)
- MUS 133: Music Theory II (4)
- One additional course in Music Theory (4), from the following
 - MUS 136: Popular Music Analysis and Composition
 - MUS 138: Queer Pop Analysis
 - MUS 140: Rhymes and Resistance: Feminism in Hip-Hop Culture
 - Other Music Theory Elective
- MUS 155: History of the Exclusion of Women in the Western Music Canon (4)
- One additional course in Music History (4), from the following:
 - MUS 159: Women's Social Protest Music
 - MUS 150: History of Women in American Popular Music
 - MUS 257: Identity & Intersectionality in American Musical Theatre
 - Other Music History Elective
- MUS 210: Ecomusicology Soundscapes (4)
- One additional Music Elective (4), from the following:
 - MUS 166: Intro to Video Game Soundtracks

- Any Music Theory or Music History elective, or other general music elective
- Six semesters of ensemble credit (6)
- Six semesters of 100-level private lessons
- Senior capstone: (2)
 - Two semesters of 400-level private lessons leading to a senior recital OR
 - Two semesters of Independent Study focusing on senior project/capstone/thesis

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN MUSIC:

22 credits

- MUS 129: Musicianship (2)
- MUS 132: Music Theory I (4)
- MUS 155: History of the Exclusion of Women in the Western Music Canon (4)
- One additional music course (4)
- Private study: four semesters of 100-level private lessons (4)
- Four semesters of ensemble credit (4)

PRIVATE STUDY EVALUATIONS, SOPHOMORE EVALUATIONS, SENIOR PROGRESS EVALUATIONS:

Private Study Evaluations: At the end of each term, students taking private lessons may demonstrate their progress through a brief performance for the music faculty. These evaluations are required of 1) students who anticipate declaring a major in music, and 2) students who are already declared majors

Sophomore Evaluations: At the end of the first semester of sophomore standing, before declaring a major in music, potential music majors will complete an evaluation for the music faculty, demonstrating the feasibility of completing the major. This will include a Private Study Evaluation (above) showing progress on the primary instrument of study, as well as a brief discussion of intended trajectory. This sophomore evaluation is required before declaring a major in music. [This evaluation can be performed early, if a student wishes to declare the major early.] For more details, please consult with your private study instructor and the music department chair.

Senior Recital/Project/Thesis Progress Evaluation: At the end of the first semester of Senior Capstone work, declared music majors will present a progress report to the faculty regarding their senior capstone. For full details and specifications, please consult with your

MUS 480 or Independent Study faculty and the music department chair. Students planning to study abroad during the 1st semester of senior year should consult with the department chair to determine Evaluation schedule.

CERTIFICATE IN ARTS MANAGEMENT

Hollins offers a certificate in arts management for students majoring or minoring in one of the fine arts to provide an

opportunity to connect their work in their major with career interests in various fields of arts management.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Students may participate in a variety of ensembles, including the Hollins University Concert Choir (MUS 111), Chamber Choir (MUS 211), Talmadge Singers (MUS 311), the Valley Chamber Orchestra (MUS 113), and Appalachian Music Ensemble (MUS 116). These courses may be repeated for credit. For information, contact the chair of the music department. As a benefit of the reciprocal agreement between Hollins University and Roanoke College, students have the opportunity to enroll in wind ensembles at Roanoke College. Contact music department chair for details.

RECITALS

Students have the opportunity to participate in at least two student recitals per semester. Numerous music events, including those by faculty and visiting artists, are open to the public each year.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION (CRE) PERSPECTIVE

A total of four CRE credits is required to fulfill the Creative Expression Perspective as part of Hollins' ESP General Education requirements. Multiple music department offerings carry one CRE credit per term, including MUS 111: Concert Choir, MUS 211: Chamber Choir, MUS 311: Talmadge Singers, MUS 113: Valley Chamber Orchestra, and MUS 101, 103-109: Private Study. To earn credit through these courses, students must take at least two consecutive semesters of study in the same specific area – for example, two semesters of voice study, two semesters of flute, two semesters of choir. (Students who complete MUS 101: Beginning Class Piano may earn credit toward the CRE Perspective by taking a semester of MUS 103 Private Study-Piano immediately following MUS 101.)

When planning how best to fulfill the CRE perspective, note that enrollment in certain ensembles and private study classes cannot be guaranteed. For example, membership in

Talmadge Singers is granted by audition; Beginning Class Piano enrollments are limited due to the size of the teaching lab; and instruction in areas offered by part-time faculty may not be available in every instrument each semester.

COURSE FEES

Additional fees are applied for private music lessons (MUS 103-109), Beginning Class Piano (MUS 101), and Appalachian Music Ensemble (MUS 116). For specific charges, please see “Special Fees” on page 31.

COURSES IN MUSIC:

MUS 101: BEGINNING CLASS PIANO (1)

Beginning Class Piano is an introduction to technical and musical aspects of playing the piano, taught in a group setting through use of an electronic piano laboratory. Intended for those who have no previous study in piano. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Additional course fee required. Please see Special Fees for specific charges. Additional course fees are non-refundable after the start of the term. Offered Term 1. (CRE: see notes above)

MUS 103-109: PRIVATE STUDY (1)

Private lessons in voice, instrumental music, or composition. Open to all students. No prerequisite except as listed. May be repeated for credit. Offered both terms. (CRE: see notes above) See Tuition and Fees table for course fee.

MUS 103: PRIVATE STUDY - KEYBOARD

- Piano
- Organ*
- Harpsichord*
- *intermediate piano skills and permission of department required

MUS 104: PRIVATE STUDY - STRINGS

- Classical Guitar
- Acoustic Guitar
- Violin
- Fiddle
- Bass guitar
- Ukulele
- Mandolin
- Banjo

- Viola
- Cello
- Harp
- Other

MUS 105: PRIVATE STUDY - WINDS

- Clarinet
- Flute
- Oboe
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Bassoon
- Other

MUS 106: PRIVATE STUDY - PERCUSSION

MUS 107: PRIVATE STUDY – VOICE

MUS 109: PRIVATE STUDY – OTHER

- Composition*

*Permission of instructor required. Prerequisite or co-requisite: MUS 133.

MUS 111: CONCERT CHOIR (1)

The Concert Choir is the large choral ensemble at Hollins, comprised of students from across campus. Open to students in all majors and departments, of all skill levels and backgrounds. This ensemble will focus on healthy vocal technique and the development of comprehensive choral musicianship through the performance experience. Concert Choir performs music from a wide variety of musical styles and genres and presents concerts regularly throughout the year. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. May be repeated for credit. Offered both terms. (CRE: see notes above)

MUS 113: VALLEY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (1)

Valley Chamber Orchestra is a community orchestra in residence on the Hollins University campus. It is open through audition to Hollins students, who may participate for credit or as a volunteer orchestra member for no credit. The orchestra presents one concert each semester in du Pont Chapel. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: audition. Contact the chair of the music department for more information. May be repeated for credit. Offered both terms. (CRE: see notes above)

MUS 116: APPALACHIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE (1)

The Hollins Appalachian Music Ensemble (“The Mountain Laurels”) is devoted to the traditional music of the Appalachian Region. Depending on the interests and abilities of its members, the ensemble will learn to perform instrumental and vocal traditional mountain music and bluegrass. Enrolling students must demonstrate competence on an acoustic instrument such as fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, or bass. Singers are also welcome. The course meets once a week. Additional course fee required. Please see Special Fees for specific charges. Additional course fees are non-refundable after the start of the term.. Open to first-year students. Offered both terms. (CRE: see notes above)

MUS 129: MUSICIANSHIP (2)

Musicianship is an engaging, interactive course designed to develop fundamental skills in conducting, aural training, and keyboard proficiency. Through hands-on exercises, students will enhance their musical literacy, refine their listening abilities, and build confidence in performance. This course provides a strong foundation for further musical study. Open to first-year students.

MUS 132: MUSIC THEORY I (4)

This course introduces the fundamental concepts of music theory, including notation, rhythm, scales, intervals, and basic harmony. Students will develop skills in analyzing musical structures and applying theoretical knowledge to performance and composition. through interactive exercises and creative applications, this course builds a strong foundation for understanding how music is written and performed. Offered Term 1, every other year. Open to first-year students. C&I

MUS 133: MUSIC THEORY II: (4)

Building on the fundamentals from Music Theory I, this course explores more complex harmonic structures, voice leading, chromaticism, and formal analysis. Students will engage in part-writing, harmonic analysis, and ear training to deepen their understanding of musical composition and style. Through hands-on exercises and creative projects, students will refine their analytical and compositional skills across various musical genres. Prerequisite MUS 132. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2, every other year. INQ

MUS 136: POP MUSIC ANALYSIS AND COMPOSITION

This course invites students to explore the world of popular music from a variety of analytical and creative perspectives. Through listening exercises, critical analysis, and guided composition prompts, students will develop a deeper understanding of how music

is structured, produced, and how it conveys meaning. No prior musical training is required. Open to first-year students. Music Theory elective. C&I.

MUS 138: QUEER POP MUSIC ANALYSIS

This course explores queer representations and themes with popular music through critical analysis. Students will examine how queer artists and songs challenge norms of gender, sexuality, and identity, analyzing musical techniques, lyrics, and cultural contexts. By studying a range of genres, students will gain insight into how queer music reshapes mainstream narratives and fosters inclusivity in popular culture. Course also listed as GWS 138. Open to first-year students. Music Theory elective. DJP.

MUS 140: RHYMES AND RESISTANCE: FEMINISM IN HIP-HOP CULTURE

This course looks at how feminism is expressed in hip-hop, focusing on rhythm, meter, and lyrics. Students will study how female hip-hop artists use rhyme and beats to challenge gender roles and address social issues. Through analyzing lyrics and music, students will understand how hip-hop serves as a tool for feminist expression. Course also listed as GWS 140. Open to first-year students. Music Theory Elective. DJP.

MUS 155: HISTORY OF THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN IN THE WESTERN MUSIC CANON

This course examines the historical exclusion of women in the Western music canon, exploring how gender biases marginalized their contributions. Students will study key female composers and performers alongside canonical works, critically analyzing both. Through lectures and discussions, the course challenges narratives and fosters a more inclusive understanding of Western music history. Course also listed as GWS 155. Open to first-year students. Music History elective. SMN

MUS 157: HISTORY OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC

This course explores the contributions, challenges, and influence of women in American popular music from the early 20th century to the present. The course will highlight key artists, movements, and social contexts that have influenced women's musical careers, as well as the ways in which gender, race, and industry dynamics have impacted their recognition. Course also listed as GWS 157. Open to first-year students. DJP.

MUS 159: WOMEN'S SOCIAL PROTEST MUSIC

This course explores the role of women in political music, protest songs, and chants as vital tools for advocacy, activism, and social change. Through a historical and contemporary lens, students will examine how women musicians, singers, and activists

have used music and chants to challenge political systems, advocate for gender equality, and amplify voices in social movements. Course also listed as GWS 159. Open to first-year students. Music History elective. DJP.

MUS 166: INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO GAME MUSIC: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GAME SOUNDTRACKS

The course will delve into the field of Ludomusicology – the study of soundtracks and music in video games. We will approach the topic from two main perspectives: historical (evolution of technology and musical technique over time), and by game genre (role-playing game, first-person shooter, side-scroller and more!). Through those perspectives, we will focus on the interactivity between story, character, and music, as well as the representation of gender, sexuality, and class within the aural soundtrack. Open to first-year students. INQ.

MUS 175: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ARTS ADMINISTRATION (4)

What is happening behind the scenes at an art museum, an opera production, or a dance performance? This course explores the commonalities and peculiarities of the administration of various arts organizations through site visits, guest experts, and written projects such as grant proposals and strategic plans. Also listed and described as ART 175, DANC 175, FILM 175, and THEA 175. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered every other year in Term 2. (r)

MUS 210: ECOMUSICOLOGY SOUNDSCAPES

This course applies the scientific method to ecomusicology, exploring the intersection of science, nature, and music technology. Students will record and analyze soundscapes, develop digital audio skills, and evaluate environmental sounds through scientific inquiry. By forming hypotheses, analyzing sound data, and refining conclusions, students will think critically about how sound functions in natural and urban environments. TLAS

MUS 211: CHAMBER CHOIR (1)

The Hollins University Chamber Choir is the primary large choral ensemble on campus, singing repertoire from a variety of musical styles and genres. Open to students from all majors and departments, by brief placement audition. The focus will be on continued development of vocal technique and music literacy skills, through regular performance opportunities. Intended for students with previous choral ensemble experience. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: brief placement audition. May be repeated for credit. (CRE: see notes above)

MUS 257: IDENTITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY IN THE AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE

A survey of the historical and current trajectory of the American Musical Theatre – through the lens of those identities often excluded or othered by the genre. We will delve into perceptions, portrayals, and intersections of gender, race, orientation, class and [dis]ability, through examination of characters and storylines, as well as the cast, crew, creators, designers, and directors who bring them to life. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. Music History elective. DJP.

MUS 276: PHILANTHROPY AND THE ARTS (4)

This course is helpful to students interested in arts management as well as anyone anticipating a career in the nonprofit sector. The two major components of the course are the understanding of philanthropy in the U.S. and the attainment of skills necessary to obtain philanthropic gifts. Assignments may include grant writing, site visits, and oral presentations. Also listed and described as ART 276, DANC 276, FILM 276, and THEA 276. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

MUS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Individual independent studies below the advanced level, arranged with members of the music faculty. Permission of music faculty member required prior to registration. Offered any term.

MUS 311: TALMADGE SINGERS (1)

The Hollins University Talmadge Singers is our elite small choral ensemble, singing advanced repertoire from a variety of musical styles and genres. Open to all students, by audition. Intended for singers with significant vocal/choral experience, this ensemble will focus primarily on repertoire and performance – performing regularly on-campus throughout the year, as well as on- and off-campus for university functions, run-out concerts, and community outreach events. Auditions are held at the beginning of each semester. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: audition. May be repeated for credit. Offered both terms. (CRE: see notes above)

MUS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

Individual independent studies at the advanced level, arranged with members of the music faculty. Permission of music faculty member required prior to registration. Offered any term.

MUS 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

May be proposed in any term.

MUS 480: SENIOR RECITAL/PROJECT (2, 2)

The senior recital or project must be approved by the music faculty during the last semester of the junior year. A senior project might consist of a research paper or original compositions. Year-long registration in both fall and spring terms. Prerequisite: senior standing as a declared music major. Offered both terms.