

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

College Advisory 2017

Your application process will depend on the degree that you are seeking: a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Arts in Music, or a BA in another field. A BA in music, like most BAs, involves many courses outside of your major with approximately 40% of course work in the arts. A BM is essentially a professional degree, and the course balance will be the opposite. Most of your courses will be degree-related: private lessons, solo classes, ensembles, composition, music theory, ear-training, music history, world music, piano for non-pianists, etc. You can get a BM in music performance, composition, jazz studies, music theory, music history, or music education. Many students who plan a career in performance seek a Bachelor of Music, but it is not essential, and many routes are possible.

If you want a Bachelor of Arts, whether majoring in music or looking for valuable performance opportunities in the setting of another liberal arts degree, you will follow the general application process and focus on the quality of these offerings. Beware of assuming that a university with a strong school of music will be a good place for you. This varies, and in some cases the professors and ensembles are only available to the music performance majors. It is important to ask about specific opportunities. You can schedule a trial lesson during your campus visit if you think it will influence your ultimate choice of school.

If you are planning to get a Bachelor of Music in performance, the process is entirely different from the one for a BA. It changes your list of schools. Different programs are strong in different instruments. You are looking for a teacher and mentor who is right for your specific needs and goals at this point in your development as a musician. Instead of institutional reputation, you will prioritize the personal match with the teacher and the stature and postgraduate outcomes of the studio. Ask your music teachers, coaches, conductors, other students and parents for suggestions. Consider teachers you have met at summer music festivals or master classes. You will not find up-to-date, accurate information for each instrument in a guidebook or magazine ranking.

At a stand-alone conservatory, you will receive intensive music performance training and the basic required liberal arts coursework oriented to musicians. University schools of music function essentially as conservatories but offer a broader range of elective courses outside of music, and of course more interaction with students with varied interests.

5-year double degree programs (BA/BM) are available at most universities with schools of music and some conservatories that have arrangements with other colleges. This allows you to experience both tracks without committing early on. It is generally easy to withdraw from one if you become more focused on the other. If interested, ask about the logistics. Scheduling and location are important factors in determining how manageable it will be, particularly if the schools are on separate campuses. Some conservatories offer cross-registration with nearby universities. Other options include certificates and music minors.

A degree in music education is required to teach music in elementary or high school. You can also look for degrees in music business, music industry, arts administration, or specialized degree programs in composition, jazz, music theory or music history.

Please see the following specific advice for each track.

For students who want to study music as a non-major:

Making your list

- Look at schools with strong music departments and ensemble opportunities.
- Universities that offer a BM degree vary widely in opportunities for non-majors.
 - At some, access to teachers and ensembles is limited to the music students.
 - Some offer performance minors.
 - Some invite non-majors to audition for the ensembles within the school of music.
 - Some have non-major orchestras and ensembles.
- Ask about teachers and performance opportunities.
 - Some smaller schools have consortia with other schools.
- Find out whether the school gives credit and/or subsidy for music performance.
 - Some have specific music scholarships
- Websites and college info sessions can provide information about informal ensembles.

Planning the tour:

- Arrange to speak with someone from the music department when you visit.
- Find a class, performance or rehearsal to observe.
- You can ask to join an orchestra rehearsal.
- You can request a sample lesson (for a fee) with a teacher if you want.

When you visit:

- Look into the adequacy and accessibility of practice rooms.
- Look around in the music department; read bulletin boards and posters.
- Talk to the students about their experiences.

The application process:

- Consider sending a recording as a supplement to schools that will accept it.
 - Websites have specific instructions under admissions or the music department.
 - Some require it *earlier than their application deadlines*.
 - Some have specific requirements.
 - Schedule the accompanist and recording session. Allow ample time whether recording professionally or with personal equipment.
 - Sound quality is important in addition to your performance.
 - You can reserve space at Hoff to make the recording.
 - If possible, consider recording each piece when it is in optimal shape, rather than all at one session as the deadline approaches.
- Include a music resume of activities since 9th grade. It helps to keep an ongoing record.
 - Teachers
 - Music classes
 - Ensembles, including NYSSMA/WCSMA; any significant orchestra positions
 - Major performances
 - Major repertoire
 - Master classes
 - Summer programs
 - Outreach performances
 - Paid performances
 - Awards or honors
 - Teaching experience
- You can ask your music teacher for a supplemental letter of recommendation
- The Common Application has an arts supplement form.

For students who want to major in music performance:

Making your list:

- Look for the best teacher as well as the reputation of the studio *for your instrument*.
- Ask your music teachers, other musicians, college students and parents for advice.
- Consider conservatories and university schools of music.
 - Is the academic aspect a priority? Do you want two bachelor's degrees?
- Attend a performing arts college fair. (See nacacnet.org)
- For location, consider access to live music (orchestra, jazz, etc.) as well as performance and work opportunities (work study, internships, freelance gigs, private students)
- Ask questions: Are there any anticipated faculty changes?
- Ask about other opportunities such as jazz if you are interested and not a major.
- Students generally apply to between 5 and 10 schools.

The application process:

- Keep a chart of deadlines, audition schedules and requirements, etc.
- Check application deadlines early. Regular decision deadlines may be in early December.
 - Applying earlier may give you a better selection of audition dates.
- Some schools have early decision/rolling admissions; deadlines can be as early as October.
- Pre-screening recordings are required for certain instruments and are increasingly common.
- Universities may have separate applications for the university and the school of music.
- Some conservatories use the Unified Application; most have supplements.
- Some require specific formats for the music resume. (See previous page for resume tips.)

Planning your college tour:

- Start by contacting each teacher to arrange a trial lesson. This can be very revealing for both parties. It cannot be done after the audition. Fees can range from \$100 to \$250.
- Check the schedule for classes, rehearsals or performances to observe.
- Try to attend a professional orchestra concert if the members are on the faculty. You may be able to meet them afterward.

When you visit:

- Ask permission to *record the lesson*; this is very useful in preparing for the audition.
- Find opportunities to observe and speak with the students.
- Look at the performance spaces, practice rooms and bulletin boards.

The audition:

- Check audition requirements to plan and prepare your repertoire early.
- All require live auditions, preferably on site. Regional auditions are recorded and reviewed by the faculty. A second visit shows interest and is another chance to meet the faculty.
- Accompaniment may or may not be provided, and may require a fee.
- Choose repertoire that highlights your strengths, not necessarily the most difficult.
- Plan recitals, mock auditions or recording sessions for practice. Enter competitions.
- Dress respectfully but comfortably for the audition. Jackets/ties are not universal.
- Arrive early to get settled and warm up. Beware of last minute over-practicing.
- If given a choice, start with your favorite piece.
- The conversation is also important; this is your interview.
- The faculty is looking for someone who can learn and respond, not a finished product.
- There may be additional musical skills or theory testing, etc.
- Blog.juilliard.edu has posts with advice on auditions from Juilliard students

Other important considerations:

- Learn how to avoid overuse injury. It can be life changing.
- Plan your senior year carefully. The applications are time-consuming. You will spend a lot of time practicing for auditions. You will travel a lot and miss a lot of school.
It is said that 80-90% of the admissions decision rests on the 10-minute audition.

Other information:

Competitions: (If you are interested, ask your teacher as deadlines may be soon.)
Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Competition (application deadline in February)
Hudson Valley Music Club Competition, Dobbs Ferry
Jerome Sala Wind Competition at Lehman College
Ridgewood Band Youth Soloist Competition, Ridgewood NJ (applications due in January)
Queens Symphony Orchestra Young Soloist Competition
OCA-WHV Rising Star, White Plains (for Asian-American students)
NY Chamber Players Orchestra Young Artists' Competition
Associated Music Teachers League Scholarship Award, Queens College
Chaminade Club of Yonkers Scholarship Competition - for high school seniors
American String Teachers Association Competition (astaweb.com) (deadline November)
National YoungArts Foundation (youngarts.org)
You can ask your teacher about international competitions

For a professional recording, contact:

Jeremy Tressler	914-595-6345	onium@optonline.net
Dan Palkowski	914-552-1750	Dpalkowski@gmail.com
Reinhard Humburg	212-222-7896	Humburg@aol.com

Related links:

issuu.com/sboschoolbandorchestra/docs/cscg_2013/14 - a college guide
nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator provides statistics
blog.juilliard.edu for audition tips and other communications from Juilliard students
majoringinmusic.com was compiled by parents of a music student
collegeboard.org

Books:

The *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has a list of conservatories and schools "strong in music."
Peterson's College Guide for Performing Arts Majors 2009 has some general information,
but the specific school listings are erratic. (petersons.com)
Creative Colleges by Elaina Loveland, 2010
A Guide to College Choices for the Performing and Visual Arts by Ed Schoenberg and
Kavin Buck, 2008
College guides in music publications (September issues)

Sample List of Colleges and Conservatories

Stand Alone Conservatories:

Berklee College of Music – berklee.edu (*contemporary/jazz*) (*NEW Harvard BA/MM program*)
Boston Conservatory – bostonconservatory.berklee.edu (*merged with Berklee*)
Cleveland Institute of Music – cim.edu (*joint program with Case Western Reserve University*)
Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles – colburnschool.edu (*full scholarship*)
Curtis Institute of Music – curtis.edu (*full tuition scholarship*)
The Juilliard School – juilliard.edu (*exchange/joint programs with Columbia and Barnard*)
Manhattan School of Music – msmny.com (*cross-registration program with Barnard College*)
New England Conservatory of Music – necmusic.edu (*dual degree programs with Tufts and Harvard*)
San Francisco Conservatory – sfc.edu
University of North Carolina School of the Arts – uncsa.edu/music

Schools of Music/Conservatories that are related to Colleges or Universities:

Bard College Conservatory of Music – bard.edu/conservatory (*BA/BM double degree required*)
Boston University College of Fine Arts – bu.edu/cfa/music
Carnegie Mellon University School of Music – music.cmu.edu
Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam – potsdam.edu/academics/crane
Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester – esm.rochester.edu
Florida State University College of Music – music.fsu.edu
Fredonia School of Music, SUNY Fredonia – home.fredonia.edu/music
The Hartt School, University of Hartford – hartford.edu/hartt
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music – music.indiana.edu
Ithaca College School of Music – ithaca.edu/music
Lawrence University Conservatory of Music (Appleton, Wisconsin) – lawrence.edu/conservatory
Mannes College, The New School College of Performing Arts – newschool.edu/mannes
The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music – newschool.edu/jazz
New York University Steinhardt School – steinhardt.nyu.edu/music
Northwestern University Bienen School of Music – music.northwestern.edu
Oberlin Conservatory of Music – oberlin.edu/conservatory (Oberlin College & Conservatory)
Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University – peabody.jhu.edu
Rice University Shepherd School of Music – music.rice.edu
Schulich School of Music, McGill University – mcgill.ca/music
SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Music – purchase.edu/departments/academicprograms/arts/music
Syracuse University Setnor School of Music – vpa.syr.edu/academics/setnor
Temple University Boyer College of Music and Dance – temple.edu/boyer
University of California Los Angeles Herb Alpert School of Music – music.ucla.edu
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music – ccm.uc.edu
University of Maryland School of Music – music.umd.edu
University of Miami Frost School of Music – miami.edu/frost
University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance – music.umich.edu
University of South Carolina School of Music – www.music.sc.edu
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music – usc.edu/music
Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music – vanderbilt.edu/blair

Colleges for non-performance majors to consider:

Amherst College – amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music
Binghamton University – binghamton.edu/music
Brown University - brown.edu/academics/music (Hoff alum Eric Nathan on composition faculty)
Bucknell University – bucknell.edu/Music.xml (*offers BM degree*)
Colgate University – colgate.edu/academics/departments-and-programs/music
Columbia University – music.columbia.edu (*exchange/joint programs with Juilliard*)
Dartmouth College – music.dartmouth.edu
Duke University – music.duke.edu
Emory University – music.emory.edu
Harvard University – music.fas.harvard.edu (*dual degree program with NEC*)
Hiram College - hiram.edu/music
Manhattanville College – mville.edu/programs/music-undergraduate-degree
Massachusetts Institute of Technology - mta.mit.edu/music
Princeton University – princeton.edu/music
Sarah Lawrence College – slc.edu/undergraduate/arts/music
Skidmore College – skidmore.edu/admissions/academics/music (*offers Filene Scholarship for music*)
Smith College – smith.edu/music
Stony Brook University, SUNY – stonybrook.edu/commcms/music
Swarthmore College – swarthmore.edu/music
University of Chicago - music.uchicago.edu
Washington University in St. Louis – music.wustl.edu (*offers BM degree*)
Wesleyan University – wesleyan.edu/music
Williams College – music.williams.edu
Yale University – yale.edu/yalemus (*offers a BA/MM in 5 years but no BM*)

Hoff graduates have gone to:

BM: Boston Conservatory – voice; Carnegie Mellon – oboe; Eastman – voice;
Hartt – cello/music ed; Indiana/Jacobs – viola; Ithaca – flute; Juilliard – flute, cello;
Mannes – piano; MSM – jazz piano; NYU – jazz guitar, jazz piano;
Northwestern – trumpet, euphonium, piano;
Oberlin – conducting/organ/oboe, piano/horn/composition, sax, violin, classical guitar, cello;
Peabody – jazz saxophone; SUNY Purchase – composition; Temple/Boyer – violin
SUNY Fredonia – violin; University of the Arts, Philadelphia – jazz guitar; Vanderbilt/Blair - viola

BA: Barnard – piano; Brown – violin, clarinet; Columbia – flute, violin, cello, piano
Dartmouth – clarinet; Emory – clarinet; Harvard – clarinet, viola; Johns Hopkins - violin
Kenyon – flute; Smith – violin/oboe; Swarthmore – violin; Vanderbilt – flute;
Wellesley – flute; Wesleyan – cello; Williams – flute, piano, clarinet/alto sax;
University of Chicago – piano/percussion; University of Pennsylvania – piano, flute;
Yale – piano, voice, violin

BM/BA double degree: University of Michigan, Northwestern, Hopkins/Peabody, Oberlin

Please note:

This is an informal list based on parent and faculty suggestions. It is by no means comprehensive and may not reflect recent changes. Different schools are strong in different areas of music. Please contact the individual schools for specific information about their musical offerings.

These notes were prepared by the Friends of Hoff-Barthelson, May, 2017

Please contact friends@hbms.org with any questions, feedback or additional information.