

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Developing potential, enriching lives and creating community since 1944

Hoff-Barthelson Music School College Advisory 2020

Your application process will depend on which degree you are seeking: a Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Music, or a Bachelor of Arts or Science 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 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, conducting, composition, jazz studies, music theory, music history, or music education. Most students who plan a career in performance seek a BM, 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. Don't assume 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 feel that it will influence your ultimate choice of school.

If you are aiming for 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 postgraduate outcomes of members of the studio. Ask your music teachers, coaches, conductors, and other students and parents for suggestions. Consider teachers you have met at summer music festivals or master classes. Read their biographies and listen to recordings. 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 as conservatories but offer a broad range of elective courses outside of music and access to students with varied interests. At conservatories associated with universities, varied courses are available, but they may be difficult to coordinate with your performance studies especially if the campuses are separate. If interested, ask about the logistics.

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. It is generally easy to withdraw from one degree program if you become focused on the other. Inquire about scheduling and location of classes to decide how manageable it will be. 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, middle school, or high school. You can also look for degrees in music business, music industry, or arts administration. Other career goals may include music research, journalism or publishing, entertainment law, music therapy, instrument technology, recording engineer, and concert hall design.

Please see the following pages for 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.
- Ask to join an orchestra rehearsal.
- You can request a sample lesson (usually 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.
 - Choose pieces that allow you to shine rather than more difficult ones.
 - Schedule the accompanist and recording session. Whether recording professionally or with personal equipment, allow ample time in the event you want to re-record.
 - Sound quality is important in addition to your performance. Make sure the accompaniment does not overwhelm your playing.
 - 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 of the following:
 - 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, students and parents for advice.
 - Find out what their graduates are doing.
- Consider conservatories and university schools of music.
 - Is the academic aspect a priority? Do you want two bachelor degrees?
- Attend a performing arts college fair. (See <https://www.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 if there are 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, exams, etc.
- Check application deadlines early. Regular decision deadlines are often 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.
- A pre-screening recording may be required. (See previous page for advice on recordings.)
- 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 is common but not obligatory. It can be very revealing for both parties. It must be before the audition. There is usually a fee.
- 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 for permission to record the lesson; this is very useful in preparing for the audition.
- Find opportunities to speak with the students and hear them perform.
- Look at performance spaces, practice rooms, and bulletin boards.

The audition:

- Check audition requirements to prepare your repertoire early. Choose pieces that highlight your strengths, even if they are not the most difficult. If given a choice, start with your favorite piece.
- Most require live auditions, preferably on site. Regional auditions are recorded and reviewed by the faculty. A second visit shows strong interest and is another chance to meet the faculty.
- It is 10-30 minutes long, usually involving 2-4 pieces, and adjudicated by one or more faculty members. Prepare to be interrupted; it is not personal. Research pre-audition techniques.
- An accompanist may or may not be provided, and may require a fee. Contact them in advance.
- 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.
- There may be additional musical skills or theory testing, etc.
- The conversation is also important; this is your interview.
- The faculty is looking for someone who can learn and respond, not a finished product.

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 coming up.)

- Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Competition
- Hudson Valley Music Club Competition
- New Jersey Wind Symphony Soloist Competition, Ridgewood NJ (January application deadline)
- Chappaqua Orchestra Concerto Competition (<https://chappaquaorchestra.org/concerto-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
- National YoungArts Foundation (<https://youngarts.org/>)

For a professional recording, contact:

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

Related links:

- <https://majoringinmusic.com/> was started by parents of a music student; includes extensive information and resources about higher education and summer programs.
- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> provides statistics
- <https://collegeboard.org>
- Musical America Guide to Summer Camps, Institutes, and Programs - https://www.musicalamerica.com/pages/index.cfm?pagename=camps2020_main&header
- Musical America 2019-20 Guide to Music Schools - http://www.musicalamerica.com/specialreports/SCHOOLS_2019-20.pdf
- Musical Theater Programs You Should Know - <https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/musical-theater-college-programs-know-3220/>

Books:

- The *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has a list of conservatories and schools "strong in music."
- Peterson's *College Guide for Performing Arts Majors* (<https://www.petersons.com/>) has some general information, but the specific school listings are erratic.
- *Creative Colleges* by Elaina Loveland, 5th edition 2017
- College guides in music publications (September issues)

Summer music programs:

- Interlochen Arts Camp - <http://camp.interlochen.org>
- Boston University Tanglewood Institute - <http://www.bu.edu/cfa/tanglewood>
- New England Music Camp - <http://nemusiccamp.com>
- Kinhaven Music School - <http://www.kinhaven.org>
- Greenwood Music Camp - <http://www.greenwoodmusiccamp.org>
- Curtis Insitute Summerfest - <https://www.curtis.edu/summerfest>

Many other colleges have campus summer programs.

Sample List of Colleges and Conservatories

Stand Alone Conservatories:

- Berklee College of Music – berklee.edu (*contemporary/jazz*) (BA/MM program with Harvard)
- Boston Conservatory at Berklee – bostonconservatory.berklee.edu
- Cleveland Institute of Music – cim.edu (*partnership with Case Western Reserve University*)
- Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles – colburnschool.edu (*full scholarship and stipend*)
- 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 – <https://www.purchase.edu/academics/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 – blair.vanderbilt.edu (*no double degree offered*)

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 is on the composition faculty*)
- Bucknell University – https://www.bucknell.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/academic-departments-programs/music (*offers a 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 programs with NEC and Berklee*)
- 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 – https://www.stonybrook.edu/music/
- Swarthmore College – swarthmore.edu/music
- University of Chicago - music.uchicago.edu
- Washington University in St. Louis – music.wustl.edu (*offers a BM degree*)
- Wesleyan University – wesleyan.edu/music
- Williams College – music.williams.edu
- Yale University – https://yalemusic.yale.edu/ (*offers a BA/MM in 5 years but no BM*)

Hoff graduates have gone to:

- BM: Boston Conservatory – voice; Carnegie Mellon – oboe; Eastman – voice, bass; Hartt – cello/music ed; Indiana/Jacobs – viola; Ithaca – flute; Juilliard – flute, cello; Mannes – piano; MSM – jazz piano; Miami/Frost – viola; Northeastern – violin; Northwestern – trumpet, euphonium, piano; NYU – jazz guitar, jazz piano; Oberlin – conducting/organ/oboe, piano/horn/composition, sax, violin, classical guitar, cello; Peabody – jazz saxophone; SUNY Purchase – composition; SUNY Fredonia – violin; Temple/Boyer – 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, violin, voice; 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; Vassar – violin; Yale – piano, voice, violin
- BM/BA double degree: University of Michigan, Northwestern, Hopkins/Peabody, Oberlin
- BA/MM: Harvard/Berklee - voice

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.
