Important Information for Incoming Freshman Music Majors

**Music Theory**
In early August, each student will take a theory diagnostic exam so the faculty can learn about your current level of music theory knowledge. The exam is conducted online – more information is provided at orientation. If you would like to know more about the music theory diagnostic exam (there is a sample exam) or more about UNI’s Music Theory Program, please visit: [https://music.uni.edu/student-hub/student-resources/undergraduate-student-handbook/advisory-statements-and-policies#musictheory](https://music.uni.edu/student-hub/student-resources/undergraduate-student-handbook/advisory-statements-and-policies#musictheory)

**Group Piano**
All music students are required to take Group Piano classes and show proficiency at the piano. Do not worry if you have no piano background – that is why you take the classes! Students with experience may test out of the proficiency.

If you have no piano background, you will enroll for one of the four sections of MUS APPL 1470 Group Piano Class I. Since these classes have limited enrollment, not all incoming freshman will have piano class their first semester. Do not worry as this is normal and will in no way affect your projected graduation date.

If you have a background in piano, you need to meet with Dr. Andrea Johnson before or on the first day of the fall semester. She can assess your background and place you in the appropriate level of piano class or determine if you meet the proficiency level. Please contact her at andrea.johnson@uni.edu

**Ensembles**
Music major students are required to perform in one large ensemble each semester, and most of these ensembles are auditioned. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU VISIT THIS WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR AUDITION DATES, TIMES, AND REQUIRED REPERTOIRE:** [https://music.uni.edu/ensembles/auditions-ensembles](https://music.uni.edu/ensembles/auditions-ensembles) You may choose to play in more than one large ensemble, but only one counts for credit toward the degree per semester. Additionally, you may enroll in small ensembles for participation credit.

Keep in mind that most ensemble auditions take place on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before classes start. Students in marching band camp will be excused from rehearsals for your audition.

Students who are participating in the Panther Marching Band should go to the following website to register: [https://bands.uni.edu/pmb](https://bands.uni.edu/pmb). You will find the schedule of football games there as well as information about marching band camp that begins the week before classes.

You can direct questions about specific ensembles to the following faculty members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble Type</th>
<th>Faculty Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marching Band/Symphonic Band</td>
<td>Dr. Justin Mertz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:justin.mertz@uni.edu">justin.mertz@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind Ensemble</td>
<td>Dr. Danny Galyen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:danny.galyen@uni.edu">danny.galyen@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>Dr. Erik Rohde</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erik.rohde@uni.edu">erik.rohde@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Choirs</td>
<td>Dr. John Wiles</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.wiles@uni.edu">john.wiles@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Ensembles</td>
<td>Mr. Chris Merz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chris.merz@uni.edu">chris.merz@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera</td>
<td>Mr. Richard Gammon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richard.gammon@uni.edu">richard.gammon@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Applied Lessons**

Every music major is required to enroll in applied lessons on his or her instrument/voice each semester. Freshman music majors enroll for 2 credit hours of applied lessons. This means you will have one, 50 minute lesson per week. At orientation, the music adviser will assist you with enrollment. Please make sure you enroll for two credit hours, because the enrollment system will automatically enroll you for one credit hour unless you change this default number. Additionally, you should enroll in the seminar in your area (e.g. Wind and Percussion Seminar, Brass Seminar, Piano Seminar or Composition Seminar).

Your lesson day and time will be set for you by your applied teacher. You will turn in your class schedule to your applied teacher either right before the first week of classes or during the first week of classes, depending on what your teacher asks for. If you have questions about applied lessons, here are the names and emails of the applied teachers in each area. They are happy to answer any question you have so don’t hesitate to email them.

### WOODWINDS

- **Flute**  
  Dr. Hannah Porter Occeña  
  Email: hannah.porter-occena@uni.edu
- **Oboe**  
  Dr. Heather Peyton  
  Email: heather.peyton@uni.edu
- **Clarinet**  
  Dr. Amanda McCandless  
  Email: amanda.mccandless@uni.edu
- **Bassoon**  
  Dr. Brisa de Paula  
  Email: brisa.depaula@uni.edu
- **Saxophone**  
  Dr. Ann Bradfield  
  Email: ann.bradfield@uni.edu

### BRASS

- **Trumpet**  
  Dr. Randy Grabowski  
  Email: randy.grabowski@uni.edu
- **Horn**  
  Dr. Maddy Tarantelli  
  Email: madeline.tarantelli@uni.edu
- **Trombone**  
  Dr. Anthony Williams  
  Email: anthony.williams@uni.edu
- **Euphonium/Tuba**  
  Dr. Brett Copeland  
  Email: brett.copeland@uni.edu

### PERCUSSION

- **Professor Matt Andreini**  
  Email: matt.andreini@uni.edu

### STRINGS

- **Violin**  
  Dr. Nash Ryde  
  Email: nash.ryder@uni.edu
- **Viola**  
  Dr. Tyler Hendrickson  
  Email: tyler.hendrickson@uni.edu
- **Cello**  
  Professor Isidora Nojkovic  
  Email: nojkovii@uni.edu
- **Bass**  
  Dr. Alexander Pershourin  
  Email: alexander.pershounin@uni.edu
- **Guitar**  
  Professor Luke Sanders  
  Email: luke.sanders@uni.edu
- **Harp**  
  Professor Gretchen Brumwell  
  Email: gretchen.brumwell@uni.edu

### VOICE

- **Chair of Voice Area**  
  Dr. Suzanne Hendrix-Case  
  Email: suzanne.hendrix@uni.edu
- **Dr. John Hines**  
  Email: john.hines@uni.edu
- **Dr. Korey Barrett**  
  Email: korey.barrett@uni.edu
- **Professor Jeffrey Brich**  
  Email: jeffrey.brich@uni.edu
- **Dr. Jean McDonald**  
  Email: jean.mcdonald@uni.edu

### PIANO

- **Professor Sean Botkin**  
  Email: sean.botkin@uni.edu
- **Dr. Vakhtang Kodanashvili**  
  Email: vakhtang.kodanashvili@uni.edu
- **Dr. Andrea Johnson**  
  Email: andrea.johnson@uni.edu
- **Dr. Robin Guy**  
  Email: robin.guy@uni.edu
Welcome to the UNI School of Music!!!!

You are beginning an important and exciting part of your life! The faculty and staff of the UNI School of Music are here to help you succeed. It is very important that if you have questions or need help that you ask for it. It is why we are here and we want to help you. Some advice for incoming students:

- **Get organized early:** Figure out when your classes are, when your job is, then schedule meals, study time, and practice time. Sticking to a schedule will help you keep up with what you have to do and allow you to have some free time.

- **ASK FOR HELP!!:** We have tutoring for music theory and piano classes. If you don’t understand something, ask, and keep asking until you get the help you need.

- **Ask our staff members:** The office staff employees in Russell Hall 115 and Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center 72 are always willing to assist you with questions.

- **Learn from the older students:** The upperclassmen in your studios have been through what you are going through. They can help answer questions and give you advice.

- **Make appointments:** The Interim Director of the School of Music, Dr. Melinda Boyd, located in 115 Russell Hall, is available for your questions.

- **Have fun, but also be smart:** There are many opportunities for university students and throughout your four years you will be able to explore as many of them as you would like. Be careful in your first semester not to be involved in too many things. Get used to being a college student first, then each semester seek out the activities that you feel will enrich your time here as a student. This way you will be successful in your classes and enjoy student life.

For more information about the School of Music, most of what you need to know is on our website: [https://music.uni.edu](https://music.uni.edu). See the undergraduate student handbook at: [https://music.uni.edu/student-hub/student-resources/undergraduate-student-handbook](https://music.uni.edu/student-hub/student-resources/undergraduate-student-handbook)