

PERFORMANCE - M.M.

College of the Arts
School of Music
www.kent.edu/music

About This Program

Turn your passion for music performance into a fulfilling career as a solo performer, orchestral musician or studio teacher with the Master of Music degree. With a focus on literature, repertoire, performance skills and historical performance practices, our program prepares you for a wide range of professional music activities, as well as further study at the doctoral level. Read more...

Contact Information

- **Matthew Holm** | mholm2@kent.edu
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary

- 5.6% faster than the average
- 116,300 number of jobs
- \$69,690 potential earnings

Music directors and composers

- 1.7% slower than the average
- 58,000 number of jobs
- \$52,250 potential earnings

Musicians and singers

- 0.9% little or no change
- 175,600 number of jobs
- \$N/A potential earnings

Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Music

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Audition
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:¹
 - Minimum 71 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.0 IELTS score
 - Minimum 50 PTE score
 - Minimum 100 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Rolling admissions
- **Spring Semester**
 - Rolling admissions
- **Summer Term**
 - Rolling admissions

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
MUS 52291	SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE	3
MUS 62411	MUSIC BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS	2
Applied Music Electives, choose from the following: ¹		8
MUS 61211	APPLIED MUSIC - GRADUATE COMPOSITION	
MUS 66111	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE PIANO	
MUS 66311	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VOICE	
MUS 66411	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VIOLIN	
MUS 66412	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VIOLA	
MUS 66413	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE CELLO	
MUS 66414	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE DOUBLE BASS	
MUS 66511	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE FLUTE	
MUS 66512	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE OBOE	
MUS 66513	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE CLARINET	
MUS 66514	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE BASSOON	
MUS 66515	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE SAXOPHONE	
MUS 66611	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TRUMPET	
MUS 66612	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE HORN	

MUS 66613	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TROMBONE	
MUS 66615	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TUBA	
MUS 66711	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE PERCUSSION	
MUS 66811	APPLIED MUSIC - GRADUATE CONDUCTING	
Ensemble Electives, choose from the following:		4
MUS 55131	KENT STATE OPERA THEATRE WORKSHOP	
MUS 55141	KENT STATE UNIVERSITY CHORALE	
MUS 55142	CORO CANTARE	
MUS 55143	CANTIQUÉ	
MUS 55212	ORCHESTRA	
MUS 55221	SYMPHONY BAND	
MUS 55223	WIND ENSEMBLE	
MUS 55231	JAZZ ENSEMBLE	
MUS 55271	NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE	
MUS 55301	AFRICAN ENSEMBLE	
MUS 55302	CARIBBEAN STEELBAND	
MUS 55311	CHAMBER MUSIC	
MUS 55315	ASIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE	
MUS 55321	ACCOMPANYING	
Additional Requirements or Concentrations		
Choose from the following:		17
Additional Requirements for Students Not Declaring a Concentration		
Composition Concentration		
Conducting Concentration		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		34

¹ Students register for 4 credit hours of applied music throughout two semesters.

Additional Requirements for Students Not Declaring a Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
MUS 51291	SEMINAR IN POST-TONAL AND RECENT MUSIC ¹	3
or MUS 51391	SEMINAR IN TONAL AND PRE-TONAL MUSIC THEORY	
or MUS 61174	ANALYSIS OF WESTERN ART MUSIC	
MUS 68687	RECITAL (taken twice) ²	4
Applied Music Electives, choose from the following: ³		4
MUS 61211	APPLIED MUSIC - GRADUATE COMPOSITION	
MUS 66111	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE PIANO	
MUS 66311	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VOICE	
MUS 66411	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VIOLIN	
MUS 66412	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VIOLA	
MUS 66413	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE CELLO	
MUS 66414	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE DOUBLE BASS	
MUS 66511	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE FLUTE	
MUS 66512	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE OBOE	
MUS 66513	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE CLARINET	
MUS 66514	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE BASSOON	
MUS 66515	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE SAXOPHONE	
MUS 66611	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TRUMPET	
MUS 66612	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE HORN	
MUS 66613	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TROMBONE	
MUS 66615	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TUBA	

MUS 66711	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE PERCUSSION	
Music Electives, choose from the following: ⁴		6
MUS 51291	SEMINAR IN POST-TONAL AND RECENT MUSIC	
MUS 51391	SEMINAR IN TONAL AND PRE-TONAL MUSIC THEORY	
MUS 52221	SYMPHONIC LITERATURE	
MUS 52227	WIND BAND LITERATURE	
MUS 52241	PIANO LITERATURE	
MUS 52261	VOCAL LITERATURE	
MUS 52271	CHORAL LITERATURE	
MUS 52291	SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE	
MUS 58610	SINGER'S DICTION ⁵	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		17

¹ MUS 61174 requires a Graduate Theory Placement score of 03. Students who earn a Graduate Theory Placement score of 01 and/or 02 will be required to take independent study on Written Theory Review and/or independent study on Aural Theory Review.

² MUS 68687 is taken twice for 2 credit hours each time.

³ Students register for 2 credit hours of applied music during the two semesters in which they register for MUS 68687.

⁴ All elective courses require special approval.

⁵ Students with voice specialization must take MUS 58610.

Composition Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
MUS 51291	SEMINAR IN POST-TONAL AND RECENT MUSIC	3
MUS 51391	SEMINAR IN TONAL AND PRE-TONAL MUSIC THEORY	3
MUS 61174	ANALYSIS OF WESTERN ART MUSIC ¹	3
MUS 61211	APPLIED MUSIC - GRADUATE COMPOSITION (taken twice) ²	6
MUS 68687	RECITAL	2
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		17

¹ MUS 61174 requires a Graduate Theory Placement score of 03. Students who earn a Graduate Theory Placement score of 01 and/or 02 will be required to take independent study on Written Theory Review and/or independent study on Aural Theory Review.

² Students register for 2 credit hours of applied music during the semester in which they register for MUS 68687 and 4 credit hours during one other semester.

Conducting Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
MUS 52221	SYMPHONIC LITERATURE	3
or MUS 52227	WIND BAND LITERATURE	
or MUS 58610	SINGER'S DICTION	
MUS 66811	APPLIED MUSIC - GRADUATE CONDUCTING ¹	4
MUS 68687	RECITAL ²	2
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6
MUS 51291	SEMINAR IN POST-TONAL AND RECENT MUSIC	

MUS 51391	SEMINAR IN TONAL AND PRE-TONAL MUSIC THEORY
MUS 52271	CHORAL LITERATURE
MUS 61174	ANALYSIS OF WESTERN ART MUSIC ³
Applied Music Elective, choose from the following:	
MUS 66111	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE PIANO
MUS 66311	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VOICE
MUS 66411	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VIOLIN
MUS 66412	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE VIOLA
MUS 66413	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE CELLO
MUS 66414	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE DOUBLE BASS
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MUS 66515	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE SAXOPHONE
MUS 66611	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TRUMPET
MUS 66612	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE HORN
MUS 66613	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TROMBONE
MUS 66615	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE TUBA
MUS 66711	APPLIED MUSIC-GRADUATE PERCUSSION

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 17

- ¹ Students register for 2 credit hours of applied music during the semester in which they register for MUS 68687.
- ² In MUS 68687, conductors will do their recital in conducting.
- ³ MUS 61174 requires a Graduate Theory Placement score of 03. Students who earn a Graduate Theory Placement score of 01 and/or 02 will be required to take independent study on Written Theory Review and/or independent study on Aural Theory Review.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- No more than one-half of a graduate student's coursework may be taken in 50000-level courses.
- Grades below C are not counted toward completion of requirements for the degree.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Work independently and make effective artistic, intellectual and professional decisions in their area of specialization.
- Prepare and communicate their artistic choices and musical research through oral/written means.
- Use knowledge and skills in music theory/history to service their interpretation and performance in the area of specialization.

School of Music Graduate Study

Theory Placement Examination

All entering graduate students (except those in the online music education degree program) take a placement examination in music theory at the beginning of enrollment in a graduate degree program. Graduate theory coursework required as a result of this examination will be counted toward the degree requirements. Graduate students

who do not pass the placement examination will need to complete MUS 51011 and/or MUS 51012, depending on their specific test results. Students may retake the examination once.

Program Requirements

Each student will be accepted as a major in a specific curricular area. It may be necessary for the student to complete Kent State University requirements for the appropriate undergraduate degree. Each student's academic requirements are based on the catalog in force during his/her first semester at Kent State University. Students may elect to complete their degrees under the most recent catalog but must comply with all of the new requirements relevant to their program under the new catalog.

Master's Thesis, Essay, Recital and Final Oral Examination

All Master of Arts candidates must write a thesis. All Master of Music candidates in Performance and Conducting must perform two recitals or one recital and write an essay depending on their specific degree requirements. Final Oral Examinations are required in all masters programs and this exam will include thesis defense for the Master of Arts candidates. The final oral examination may be attempted two times.

Research Tool Requirement

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree program in Ethnomusicology must demonstrate a reading and understanding knowledge of one foreign language. Credit hours earned in meeting this requirement are not applied toward the credit-hour requirement in the degree program.

For candidates for the Music Theory-Composition Ph.D. program, this requirement may be either a reading translating knowledge of one foreign language or a demonstrated competence in an area of research specified by the doctoral advisory committee and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. Credit hours earned in meeting this requirement are not applied toward the credit-hour requirement in the degree program. For candidates for the Music Education Ph.D. program, this requirement is MUS 73283 and related research methods courses in the College of Education. These courses are applied toward the credit-hour requirement for the degree.

Ph.D. Candidacy Exams, Dissertation and Dissertation Defense

Doctoral candidates will take a comprehensive examination upon completion of their coursework and research tool requirement. This candidacy exam normally takes place within four years of beginning coursework. All doctoral candidates write a dissertation and defend this dissertation in a Final Oral Examination. The dissertation phase normally is completed within five years of passing the candidacy exams.

Time Limits

Master of Arts and Master of Music students must complete their degree within six calendar years after their first graduate registration at Kent State University. Any credit transferred for meeting degree requirements must also have been earned within the six-year period.

Ph.D. students must complete their degree within nine calendar years after their first doctoral registration at Kent State University. Any credit transferred for meeting degree requirements must also have been earned within the nine-year period.

Workshop Credit

A maximum of 4 credit hours of workshop credit may be applied to certain graduate degrees. The credit hours must pertain to the degree emphasis. Only workshop credits with grades of A or B may be transferred into a degree program.

Full Description

The Master of Music degree in Performance is designed to prepare students for professional careers in music.

The Performance major includes the following optional concentrations:

- The **Composition** concentration provides students the opportunity to compose works for various mediums and see them through to performance.
- The **Conducting** concentration provides students the opportunity to develop advanced competencies in musicianship and analysis and a broad gestural vocabulary, building on their baccalaureate training.

Voice, instrumental and piano performance students who do not declare a concentration have the opportunity to build their technical and interpretive skills to prepare informed and artistic performances.