

Preparing to be a Music Major at the University of Wyoming

<http://www.uwyo.edu/music/> 307-766-5242 musicdpt@uwyo.edu

Preparing for a life and career in music—whether you want to be a teacher, performer, composer, conductor, music historian, music theorist, ethnomusicologist, jazz improviser, etc. —is an exciting endeavor that can be quite rich and rewarding.

In order to take the first steps, you will probably find yourself better prepared to begin this journey if you learn some basic Theory and Musicianship skills before you enter the program.

The theory faculty at the University of Wyoming have devised the following list to help you get a good start. If you are unfamiliar with the following terms and concepts, we have provided internet links and theory text suggestions below for more information. You can also ask your local music teachers for help.

1. **Treble and Bass Clefs.** Be able to read both treble and bass clef and be able to write notes on appropriate lines/spaces in the staff.
2. **Key Signatures.** Know your major and minor key signatures. Know the relative and parallel minor of each major key, and the relative and parallel major of each minor key.
3. **Scales.** Be able to write and identify major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic.)
4. **Rhythms.** Be able to write, clap, and count simple rhythm patterns. It would be helpful to be able to distinguish simple and compound meters.
5. **Singing.** Every music major, regardless of their instrument, is asked to sing on a weekly, if not daily, basis. This is true of most every music program in the nation. Generally, this skill is requested during classes where musicianship skills are developed, and includes such activities as pitch matching and sight singing melodies. You should also be able to sing a major scale and all forms of the minor scale.
6. **Piano Skills** Basic piano skills are required of all music majors. You must pass a piano proficiency exam at some point in your first two years before you can graduate from the UW Department of Music. If you haven't already, it would be good to get introductory lessons to set you on the right course.

You will study all of these topics as part of your first year courses in music. Students who have some background in these areas will be more successful in their courses.

Music Theory Resources

Websites

- <http://musictheory.net/> Offers *lessons* that explain the material and trainers that provide interactive exercises to practice.
- <http://www.teoria.com/tutorials/chords/index.htm> More practice.

Texts

- *Tonal Harmony with an Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music* by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne. (The current edition is the seventh edition, but the fifth or sixth editions can get you started, too.)
- *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis* by Jane Piper Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin. You can also check out the companion book, *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills*.
- *The Music Kit* by Tom Manoff. 4th edition. Includes CD and computer software with interactive exercises.

For more information about the Music Theory Program at UW contact Dr. Jennifer Turpen at jturpen@uwyo.edu.

Scholarships and Ensembles

University of Wyoming Department of Music

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Scholarships

- <http://www.uwyo.edu/music/new-student-info/music-scholarship-information.html>
- Auditions for 2013-2014 will occur on November 9, 2012, February 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 2013.
- The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1, 2013.
- Students receiving Department of Music scholarships are required to participate in two ensembles and sign up for applied lessons in your applied area.

Ensembles

- Auditions for all ensembles occur during the first week of classes. Please contact the ensemble director for more information.
- Marching Band meets the week before fall classes. Information at <http://www.uwyo.edu/marchingband/>.

Marching Band

Wind Symphony - by audition

Symphonic Band

Community Concert Band

Wyoming Jazz Ensemble - by audition

Dr. Brad Williamson bwilli29@uwyo.edu

Dr. Robert Belser belserrs@uwyo.edu

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Dr. Robert Belser belserrs@uwyo.edu

Dr. Scott Turpen sturpen@uwyo.edu

Symphony Orchestra - by audition

Chamber Orchestra - by audition

Dr. Michael Griffith symph@uwyo.edu

Prof. Jim Przygocki przygcki@uwyo.edu

Collegiate Chorale - by audition

Laramie Civic Chorus

Bel Canto Women's Choir

Singing Statesmen

Vocal Jazz - by audition

Opera Theatre

Dr. Nicole Lamartine nlamarti@uwyo.edu

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Dr. Ben Markley bmarkley@uwyo.edu

Dr. Larry Hensel lhensel@uwyo.edu