



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

Shenandoah Conservatory



Shenandoah Conservatory

2023 Graduate Programs





Pursue your
passion
for artistic
excellence

Shenandoah Conservatory's focus on professional arts training began more than 140 years ago as Virginia's flagship school of music. Since then, we've grown into an institution of international significance. What continues to make us unique? We are an arts school known for distinguished faculty who are as passionate about providing a supportive learning environment as they are committed to exceptional training focused on artistic and academic excellence.

A Shenandoah Conservatory graduate education will elevate your artistry and provide you with a rigorous learning experience. The training you receive will prepare you for a satisfying and meaningful professional career as a performing artist, composer, conductor, music educator, performing arts leader or music therapist. This is a wonderful place to further your career goals, immerse yourself in the arts and prepare for lifelong professional success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stepniak".

Michael Stepniak, Ed.D.
Dean and Professor of Music

OUR MISSION

As a visionary and collaborative arts community, we educate motivated students in a supportive and inclusive environment and equip them for professional success.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Performance
Pedagogy - Voice

MASTER OF MUSIC

Composition
Conducting
Pedagogy - Voice
Performance

MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION

MASTER OF MUSIC THERAPY

MASTER OF SCIENCE

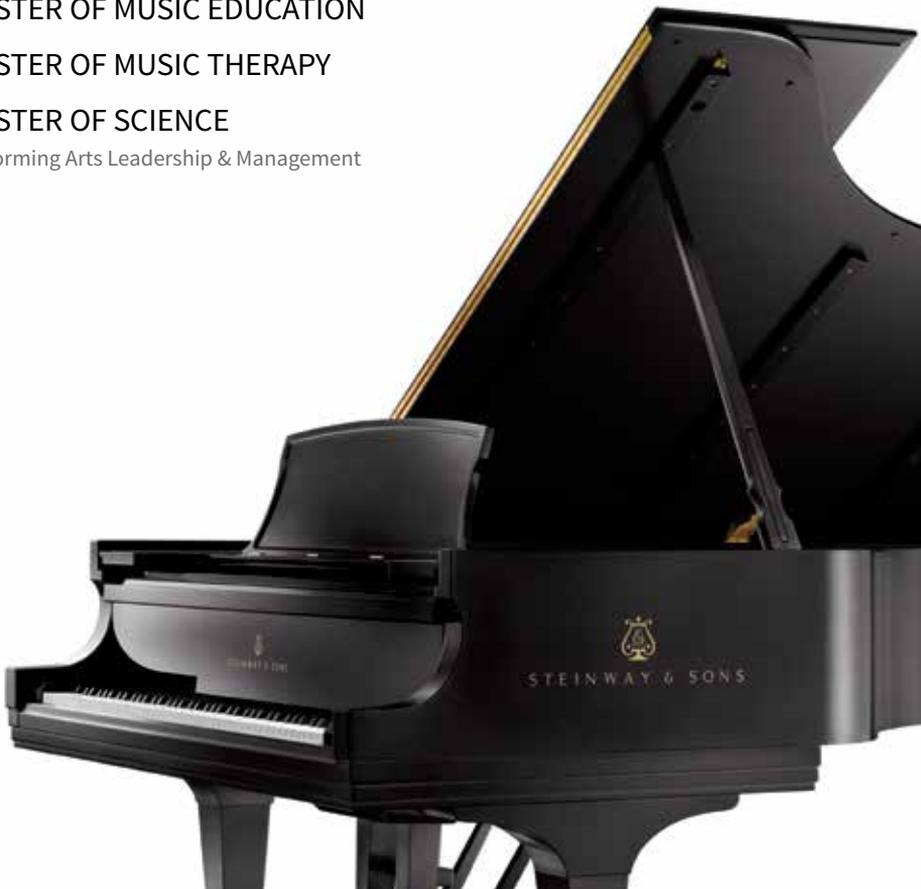
Performing Arts Leadership & Management

ARTIST DIPLOMA

Post-Master's Certificate

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Church Music
Professional Studies Program for
Music Therapy Certification Eligibility





“Performance is more than what you do, it’s who you are. It pushes you beyond your limits, to strive for improvement and excellence. It’s the spark that fuels your passion as an artist.”

– Jan Wagner, Director of Orchestral Studies
and Professor of Conducting

PERFORMANCE

Shenandoah Conservatory offers talented performers intense, specialized, professional training at the highest levels. Students have extensive opportunities to interact with our accomplished faculty, perform with outstanding professional musicians and engage with world-class artists at premier concert venues.

Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance

- Brass
- Chamber Music
- Conducting
(Wind Ensemble, Orchestra)
- Guitar
- Harp
- Percussion
- Piano
- Strings
- Voice
- Woodwinds
- Woodwind Doubling

Master of Music in Performance

- Brass
- Guitar
- Harp
- Percussion
- Piano (solo or collaborative)
- Strings
- Voice
- Woodwinds
- Woodwind Doubling

Master of Music

- Conducting
- *Wind Ensemble*
- *Orchestra*
- *Choral*
- *Musical Theatre*

Artist Diploma

- Post-Master’s Certificate

DISTINGUISHED ARTIST FACULTY

Shenandoah Conservatory's dynamic faculty members are active and highly connected within the artist community. They perform roles at the Metropolitan Opera, conduct Grammy Award-winning choirs, compose music for the stage and concert hall and serve on international competition juries. They perform as soloists and guest artists in jazz and chamber ensembles and in orchestras throughout the United States and abroad. They also spend summers teaching at prestigious festivals, including the Chautauqua Institute, Knieisel Hall, Aspen Music Festival, the Pierre Monteux School, Interlochen and Adamant. Our faculty are as passionate about performance as they are about teaching.



Julietta Curenton, M.M., Assistant Professor of Flute, has been praised for her “bold and dramatically characterized playing” by the Dallas Morning News and “great artistic sense” by the Philadelphia Inquirer. She has established herself as a leading soloist, chamber musician and orchestral flutist of her generation, collaborating extensively with acclaimed groups such as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Soulful Symphony, the Baltimore-based ensemble acclaimed for its performances of classical, jazz, gospel and popular music.

ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI



Elisabeth Stimpert '13, D.M.A., is a founding member of the critically acclaimed new-music ensemble Alarm Will Sound. She has performed across the country and internationally at major venues. Dr. Stimpert works regularly with many of today's leading and emerging composers, having presented world premieres of works by John Adams, Steve Reich, John Luther Adams, David Lang, Wolfgang Rihm, Michael Gordon, Augusta Read Thomas, Stefan Freund, Robert Pound, John Orfe, David E. Chávez and many others. A dedicated collegiate music educator, Stimpert teaches clarinet, single reed methods and aural training as an assistant professor of music at the University of Central Missouri.



Annie Wong '17, D.M.A. is currently on faculty at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada and is a member of the RCM College of Examiners. Dr. Wong is equally at home as soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative pianist and she has worked with not only her esteemed teachers, but also Richard Goode, Jon Kimura Parker, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Ieva Jokubaviciute, Martin Katz, Craig Sheppard, Robin McCabe, Henri-Paul Sicsic, Hiromi Okada, Prisca Benoit and Eve Egoan.



“At Shenandoah Conservatory, we provide cutting-edge voice pedagogy for the 21st century. Our innovation is changing and leading the profession.”

– David Meyer, D.M., Director, Janette Ogg
Voice Research Center; Director,
Voice Pedagogy Research; Associate Professor
of Music, Voice & Voice Pedagogy

VOICE PEDAGOGY

Doctor of Musical Arts

- Leadership
- Voice Research

Master of Music in Pedagogy

- Classical Voice
- Contemporary Commercial Music

Voice pedagogy is a discipline that combines teaching, research and performance. Shenandoah Conservatory offers the nation's only program with fully integrated, private instruction in both contemporary commercial music and classical vocal techniques.

Voice pedagogy students engage in focused study of repertoire, pedagogical studies, studio management, technology, music theory and literature. They generate new knowledge and develop their instrument through supervised and applied instruction with Shenandoah's experienced scholar-artists and visiting voice scientists. Graduate degrees in Voice Pedagogy prepare students of diverse backgrounds to enter academia and/or the private sector as leaders in a world where classical, jazz, commercial and musical theatre styles all exist as artistically relevant genres.

CONTEMPORARY COMMERCIAL MUSIC (CCM) VOCAL PEDAGOGY INSTITUTE

Offered during the summer months, Shenandoah Conservatory's CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute meets the demand for training grounded in voice science, voice medicine and tested methods of CCM pedagogy. Shenandoah Conservatory is the first and only institution nationally to include courses in CCM voice pedagogy for academic credit in a graduate degree program. The best and the brightest voice professionals from all vocal disciplines worldwide attend and express high praise for this cutting-edge approach to voice training.

ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI

Martina Bingham '18 D.M.A. "I went to Shenandoah because the DMA in voice pedagogy seemed like a smart way to prepare for collegiate teaching and I was ready to pursue a doctorate. It turned out to be the educational experience that I needed and more. I worked with a phenomenal voice teacher, broadened my pedagogical skills and challenged my existing ideologies, worked with incredible mentors and even found a brand-new research area that I am continuing to study in my professional work. I also met wonderful colleagues who are now some of my closest friends! Shenandoah really is a unique Conservatory experience that has shaped this next chapter of my life and I am very grateful for the opportunities I was given there."

Troy Castle '14, D.M.A. (bass-baritone) serves as associate professor of music at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. A frequent concert performer and recitalist, he has covered and performed numerous leading operatic roles and is distinguishing himself as a successful performer and voice pedagogue. Dr. Castle's original research has been presented at the annual symposium of The Voice Foundation and the National Association of Teachers of Singing national conference.





MUSIC EDUCATION

Master of Music Education

Music education has been a cornerstone of Shenandoah Conservatory's 140-year legacy, providing musicians from the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond with access to exceptional training and professional development. Our summers-only schedule allows practicing music educators to pursue a graduate degree while maintaining their careers.

Students study assessment strategies and reflect on professional classroom practices, as well as innovative curricular and contemporary issues in music education. The program culminates with a research-based teaching project rather than a graduate thesis, uniting academic studies and the practice of teaching.



Dr. Alice M. Hammel '87, '99, went on to earn her D.M.A. in Music Education and has published her third book through Oxford University Press on special learners in music.



“Students gain valuable insights from collaborative interactions with faculty and community-based music therapists as they pursue deeper knowledge, clinical expertise and career-centered outcomes.”

– Tony Meadows, Ph.D., MT-BC, LPC, Director of Music Therapy

MUSIC THERAPY

Master of Music Therapy

Professional Studies Program for Music Therapy Certification Eligibility

The Master of Music in Music Therapy (MMT) prepares music therapists to practice at an advanced level in a range of clinical settings. Advanced knowledge and skill are fostered through integrated classes that build in-depth clinical and musical competence.

The Professional Studies Program prepares students with an undergraduate degree in a field other than music therapy to practice as a board-certified music therapist. Students develop comprehensive knowledge and skills to practice as a music therapist in a dynamic environment that supports individual growth and community connections.



Shana Oshiro '13, '21, MMT, MT-BC, received the Professional Excellence in Music Therapy award as well as the Dean's Graduate Scholar award for her research project, “Race and #RealTalk: Engaging in Dialogue about Racism in the Community.” She is the co-founder and executive director of HALO (Harmony's African American Legacy Organization) Incorporated, through which she leads her community music therapy work with her quartet.



“It’s not just the incredible talent of Shenandoah’s composition faculty, it’s also the amazing array of A-List guest composers brought to the school for private lessons. You will also have your compositions critiqued and played live by world-class, touring soloists and ensembles! There’s simply no substitute for this fully immersive approach and I, for one, believe I’m a better composer and more sensitive musician for the experience.”

– Christopher Inman '21, Master of Music in Composition

COMPOSITION

Master of Music



Grounded in its commitment to the creation and performance of new music in a variety of contemporary idioms, the Master of Music in Composition enhances the skills of art music composers and prepares them for professional work. Through creation, performance, study, research, and direct interaction with guest Pulitzer Prize-winning composers and guest artists of Shenandoah New Music, graduate student composers advance their skills in the presentation of their music in professional and competitive venues.

As a capstone for their studies, composition graduate students complete a large-scale culminating project, and fulfill an oral examination and defense of project material.

**FULLY
ONLINE!**



“My experiences in the PALM curriculum shaped my view of the performing arts within a world context. Particularly in regard to cultivating strategic, empathetic leaders in the arts, the program equipped me with the practical knowledge and skills that I needed to obtain an administrative position.”

– Megan Doran, '18 Program Manager,
Yale School of Music

PERFORMING ARTS LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Master of Science in Performing Arts Leadership & Management (PALM)

The curriculum of the online Master of Science in Performing Arts Leadership & Management (PALM) prepares future arts executives and artistic leaders with 21st-century industry skills. The program is intended for students who hold a baccalaureate degree in music, theatre, dance or a related field, emerging leaders who hold entry-level arts positions and are seeking to advance their careers and those looking to change careers to arts leadership and management.

Our program's graduates have found management positions with top-tier arts organizations such as The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Wolf Trap, Opera America, Dallas Summer Musicals, Yale School of Music and many more.

Benjamin Luczak, '09, '12 B.F.A., M.S. PALM, is the development director at Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida. His prior arts leadership positions were with Dallas Summer Musicals, Omaha Performing Arts, The Maryland Symphony Orchestra and Shenandoah Conservatory Performances.





A VIBRANT PERFORMANCE CULTURE

Shenandoah Conservatory produces more than 300 music, theatre and dance performances each year. Graduate students have numerous opportunities to perform as soloists and participate in chamber music ensembles for strings, piano, wind instruments and voice. They attend masterclasses with premier guest artists, join faculty members in performance, take advantage of diverse cultural opportunities regionally and travel the East Coast to attend live performances. They are able to nurture professional relationships with arts venues and present at organizations and international embassies throughout the region and abroad.



OUR GLOBAL ARTIST COMMUNITY

Shenandoah Conservatory boasts not only internationally respected faculty, but remarkably talented international students whose performance expertise enhances cultural awareness within our community of artists. Alumnus Peter (Wen Chi) Lee, D.M.A. '13, a gifted countertenor and former graduate teaching fellow, received The Knowledge of the World award from Johns Hopkins University for his exceptional work with the Peabody Baroque Consort and Charm City Baroque.



INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Discover the many ways in which artistic and personal growth is enriched by involvement in the wide variety of travel-abroad opportunities available at Shenandoah University. While travel was halted during the pandemic, we look forward to traveling and performing again!

- **Global Citizenship Project (GCP)** is a 10-day, expenses-paid trip to one of five international destinations offered each year during spring break. Students, faculty, staff and trustees have traveled to over 65 countries, including Ghana, Bali, Jordan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Morocco, Oman, Australia and South Africa.
- **Global Experiential Learning (GEL)** trips are faculty-led, study-abroad programs specific to a professional discipline. Recent trips included theatre and musical theatre students exploring London's West End, an annual Summer Arts Leadership Institute in Greece and the saxophone studio traveling to the World Saxophone Congress in Zagreb, Croatia.
- Conservatory Choir has **performed at premier concert halls** throughout Germany, Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland and many other countries. In May 2019, a Shenandoah choral ensemble presented a series of concerts in Salzburg, at the Wiener Saal of the Mozarteum.
- Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra's **international tours** have taken the ensemble to major concert halls in Spain and Argentina.
- Shenandoah jazz combos have performed in Iceland, Senegal, China, Japan, Spain, Ireland and Germany. In the United States, Shenandoah jazz groups have toured the Pacific Northwest, **performing to sold-out crowds** in Portland, Oregon; Seattle & Ellensburg, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia.



“It is a fact in practically every major concert venue around the world that the piano on stage will be a Steinway. When Shenandoah Conservatory students rehearse, study and perform on Steinway pianos, they then have the familiarity of greeting an old friend when they go on stage.”

– John O’Conor, Mus.D., Distinguished Artist-in-Residence,
Keyboard Division Chair and Professor of Piano

STEINWAY PIANOS: Cornerstone of a Conservatory Education

Steinway pianos can be found in learning spaces throughout Shenandoah Conservatory. These instruments exemplify our commitment to excellence in arts education and are placed in teaching studios, practice rooms, classrooms, and rehearsal and concert halls.

Shenandoah Conservatory’s designation as an All-Steinway School reinforces our long-standing reputation as a leader in performing arts education. We are proud to be one of 19 elite conservatories worldwide that have earned All-Steinway status.

Armstrong Concert Hall is home to two concert grands – an exquisite Hamburg

Steinway D and a New York Steinway D. The intimate Goodson Recital Hall is home to a magnificent Hamburg Steinway B.

The conservatory fleet includes 34 Steinway & Sons instruments and 54 Steinway-produced Boston pianos located in every music classroom and faculty teaching studio. Piano performance majors have access to two Steinway practice suites that house two Steinway B and four Steinway A instruments.

Shenandoah Conservatory boasts a state-of-the-art piano workshop that provides excellent care and maintenance for this impressive fleet of instruments.

MEET OUR EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

CONSERVATORY ADMINISTRATION

- Michael J. Stepniak, Dean
- Jeffrey H. Marlatt,
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty
and Academic Affairs
- Ting-Yu Chen,
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

MUSIC FACULTY

BRASS

- Mary Elizabeth Bowden, trumpet
- Geoffrey Pilkington, French horn
- Matthew Niess, trombone
- Zach Bridges, euphonium, tuba

COMPOSITION

- Jonathan Newman

CONDUCTING

- Patrick Brady,
musical theatre conducting
- Timothy Robblee,
wind conducting
- Jan Wagner,
orchestral conducting

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

- Rod Vester

MUSIC HISTORY & LITERATURE

- Laurie McManus,
program coordinator
- Christopher Ruth
- Angela Mace
- Alanna Ropchock Tierno

MUSIC EDUCATION

- Stephanie Standerfer,
program director
- Jeffrey Marlatt
- Hillary Ridgley
- David Zerull
- Alice Hammel
- Kristopher Ridgley

MUSIC THEORY

- Keith Salley,
program coordinator
- Rachel Short
- Michael Fili
- Matthew Herman
- Matthew Kiple

MUSIC THERAPY

- Anthony Meadows,
program director
- Bronwen Landless
- Hakeem Leonard
- Brian Abrams
- Gene Ann Behrens
- Leigh Jenks
- Elizabeth Schwartz
- Thomas Sweitzer

OPERA DIRECTOR

- Ella Marchment

PERCUSSION

- Karlyn Viña, percussion

PIANO

- John O'Connor
- Alexander Bernstein
- Marika Bournaki

STRINGS

- Akemi Takayama, violin
- Doris Lederer, viola
- Julian Schwarz, cello
- Donovan Stokes,
double bass
- Colin Davin, guitar
- Lynnelle Ediger, harp

VOICE

- Matthew Edwards
- Michael Forest
- Kathryn Green
- Byron Jones
- David Meyer
- Fotina Naumenko
- Stephanie Higgins
- Natalie Conte
- Nancy Gustafson
- Edrie Means Weekly

WOODWINDS

- Julietta Curenton, flute
- Stephen Key, oboe
- Garrick Zoeter, clarinet
- Timothy Roberts, saxophone
- Ryan Romine, bassoon

DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

- Ryuji Ueno

PERFORMING ARTS LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT FACULTY

- David Edelman,
program director
- Jennifer Green-Flint
- Joel Bassin
- Rebecca Ferrell
- Christine Stanley



Learn more: su.edu/faculty-staff/department/conservatory

AUDITIONS & ADMISSIONS

Admission to Shenandoah
Conservatory is highly competitive.

Apply at: [su.edu/admissions/
graduate-students](https://su.edu/admissions/graduate-students)

Find the full list of audition dates, deadlines and
requirements, including prescreening in voice, piano,
conducting and composition, at su.edu/auditions

Competitive graduate assistantships are available
for students at the artist diploma, master's and
doctoral levels. Assistantships offer a tuition waiver
and stipend for teaching, performing and other
duties as assigned. Learn more at [su.edu/financial-
aid/incoming-graduate-aid](https://su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Office of Graduate Admissions

admit@su.edu

Call: 540-665-4581

Text: 540-592-4518



Shenandoah Conservatory Facts

- Established 1875
- Located in Winchester, Virginia
- Residential campus in the beautiful Northern Shenandoah Valley
- Located one hour from Dulles International Airport, offering non-stop service to five continents
- 150 graduate students
- 58 full-time faculty
- 47 part-time faculty
- 30+ performing groups
- 300+ performances annually

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Shenandoah University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation. 8/2022