



SHENANDOAH  
UNIVERSITY

Shenandoah Conservatory



# Shenandoah Conservatory

*2024 Graduate Programs*





Pursue your  
*passion*  
for artistic  
excellence

The arts provide us with the opportunity to tell the story of our lives. Through music, theatre and dance we express emotion, attempt to understand life's meaning, and share our humanity. Experiencing the arts firsthand is a uniquely human experience. Shenandoah Conservatory is committed to enhancing life stories through the arts.

Music, theatre, dance and performing arts leadership and management is what we do - in classrooms and clinics, in rehearsal spaces, on stages, through scholarship and throughout our communities. We ourselves are an extraordinary community of teaching artists, performers, composers, designers and scholars who care deeply about our students.

For over 145 years, Shenandoah Conservatory has played a prominent role in educating arts practitioners. Our uniqueness lies in a diverse range of nationally recognized programs, yes, but also in the collaboration that happens between them. And while artistic and academic excellence is at the core of your conservatory experience, faculty are committed to furthering the artistic growth and creative aspirations of students in a caring and supportive learning environment.

What's next at Shenandoah Conservatory? You are. As arts professionals you will lead and shape the future in innovative and impactful ways.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Marlatt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey Marlatt, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean and Professor of Music  
Shenandoah Conservatory

# 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

\*The Master of Music Education program is on hold for the 2024-25 year and not accepting applications.

\*\*The Master of Music Therapy program is on hold for the 2024-25 year and not accepting applications.





“Performance is about who we are as artists and humans. It’s how we share our gifts and add beauty to the world. On a deeply human level, it’s the time that we take our most cherished personal skills and add, adapt and collaborate with the skills of others.”

– Tim Robblee, Ph.D., Director of Bands;  
Associate Professor, 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
- 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, 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, Kniesel 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

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### **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. Our Master of Music in Voice Pedagogy degree is available both online and on-campus.



## CONTEMPORARY COMMERCIAL MUSIC (CCM) VOCAL PEDAGOGY INSTITUTE

Offered during the summer months, Shenandoah Conservatory's CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute offers online and in-person courses grounded in voice science, voice medicine and tested methods of CCM pedagogy. Participants learn to work at the intersection of identity, technique, and artistry to mentor the next generation of vocal artists. Shenandoah Conservatory was the first institution in the United States to offer graduate courses in CCM voice pedagogy and continues to innovate and push boundaries in the world of voice pedagogy.

### 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 Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. 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

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### 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 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.

\*The Master of Music Therapy program is on hold for the 2024-25 year and not accepting applications.



“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

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### 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!**



“The PALM program is unique among its peers in graduate arts management education. With our fully online, asynchronous format, our focus on leadership training for students who come with a performance background, and a faculty who are experienced in both the profession and teaching, PALM provides the ideal setting for student success without relocation.”

- David Edelman, MFA, Professor and  
Director of Performing Arts Leadership and Management

## 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 Director of Development at Des Moines Performing Arts. His prior arts leadership positions include Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, Dallas Summer Musicals, and Omaha Performing Arts.



## A VIBRANT PERFORMANCE CULTURE

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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.

- **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 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 16 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 Chapel-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**, Executive Dean for Creativity and the Arts
- **Jeffrey H. Marlatt**, Interim Dean and Professor of Music
- **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

### 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**
- **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

- **Karlynn Viña**, percussion

### PIANO

- **John O'Conor**
- **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](https://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](https://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](mailto:admit@su.edu)

☎ 540-665-4581

☎ 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
- 136 graduate students
- 58 full-time faculty
- 47 part-time faculty
- 30+ performing groups
- 300+ performances annually

 540-665-4581  540-592-4518  [admit@su.edu](mailto:admit@su.edu)  
 [su.edu/conservatory](http://su.edu/conservatory) | [su.edu/admit](http://su.edu/admit)



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