



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

Shenandoah Conservatory



Shenandoah Conservatory

2026 Graduate Programs



Pursue your *passion* for artistic excellence

Shenandoah Conservatory at
Shenandoah University: *We Are
What's Next!*

As a Shenandoah Conservatory graduate student, you have the best of both worlds – intensive conservatory training within a vibrant and innovative university. This setting provides a unique opportunity to hone your craft as an artist or administrator while exploring a wide array of subjects and resources provided by the university.

While our graduate students focus on music and administration, they are surrounded by and engaged with diverse performing arts in music, theatre, and dance. Transformation lies at the heart of art, of artists, and of education. In dance, theatre, or musical performance, words or notes on pages are transformed through the craft of performers into stories that can inspire, enlighten, and entertain, as well as challenge and even change an audience.

Our graduate programs are designed to equip you with specialized skills, enhancing your intellectual growth and advancing your career. Graduate study at Shenandoah Conservatory supports the development of your unique voice as an artist, scholar, and practitioner as you work closely with faculty and peers to make original contributions to your field.

For 150 years, Shenandoah Conservatory has remained committed to educating and training practitioners and scholars in a diverse range of nationally recognized programs. Our faculty and staff are accomplished teaching artists, performers, composers, educators, therapists and scholars who care deeply about each student.

What's next for us? You are! We are eager to assist you in the exploration of the opportunities that await at Shenandoah Conservatory and hope to welcome you here.

A portrait of Jennifer Smolos Steele, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a red and white striped shirt. The background is a gallery with several framed black and white photographs of people.

Jennifer Smolos Steele

Jennifer Smolos Steele, Ph.D.
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 ARTS IN MUSIC THERAPY & PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Performing Arts Leadership & Management

**This program is under curriculum revision
and currently not accepting applications*

ARTIST DIPLOMA

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Church Music
Professional Studies Program for
Music Therapy Certification Eligibility





“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 & CONDUCTING

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.

Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance

- Brass
- Conducting
(Choral, Orchestral, Wind Ensemble)
- Guitar (Classical)
- Harp
- Percussion
- Piano
- Strings
- Voice
- Woodwinds
- Woodwind Doubling

Master of Music in Performance

- Brass
- Guitar (Classical)
- Harp
- Percussion
- Piano
- Strings
- Voice
- Woodwinds
- Woodwind Doubling

Master of Music in Conducting

- Choral
- Musical Theatre
- Orchestra
- Wind Ensemble

Artist Diploma

- Conducting
- Brass
- Guitar (Classical)
- Harp
- Percussion
- Piano
- Strings
- Woodwinds

DISTINGUISHED ARTIST FACULTY

Shenandoah Conservatory's dynamic faculty members are active and highly connected within the artist community. They perform for the Metropolitan Opera, compose music for the stage and concert hall, conduct ensembles around the world, 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 and spend summers teaching at prestigious festivals, including the Chautauqua Institute, Kniesel Hall, Aspen Music Festival, the Pierre Montoux School, Interlochen and Adamant. Our faculty are as passionate about performance as they are about teaching.



Julian Schwarz, Assistant Professor of cello, is celebrated as a leading cellist of his generation. Praised for his powerful tone and virtuosity, he won first prize at the inaugural Schoenfeld International String Competition in 2013. He has performed over 200 concertos and is an active chamber musician, performing with Marika Bournaki and as a founding member of the Frisson Ensemble. A champion of American music, Schwarz will premiere Jennifer Higdon's first Cello Concerto in Spring 2026.

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, leiva Jokubaviciute, Martin Katz, Craig Sheppard, Robin McCabe, Henri-Paul Siscic, Hiromi Okada, Prisca Benoit and Eve Egoan.



“Shenandoah Conservatory’s pedagogy degrees are student-centered and industry focused. We are passionate about giving our students the tools to be culturally responsive teachers who are equipped to help learners of all backgrounds, levels, and styles become the artists they want to be.”

– Matt Edwards, Artistic Director of the CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Musical Theatre Voice

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 to give students the tools necessary to be highly effective teachers. Shenandoah Conservatory was the first institution in the United States to offer graduate courses in CCM voice pedagogy and continues to push boundaries in the field.

Voice pedagogy students engage in focused study of voice science, repertoire, teaching methods, studio management, and technology. They generate new knowledge and develop their instrument through supervised and applied instruction. 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. Both the Master of Music and the DMA are offered online and on-campus. Students choosing the online option will take all required courses online with the exception of the CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute courses which are taught over 9 days during the Summer semester.

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.

ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI

Marita Stryker, '24 D.M.A. (Voice Pedagogy) serves as assistant professor of music - contemporary voice, musical theatre at St. Olaf College and completed the NATS Intern Program in 2022.

Kate Elmendorf, '23 M.M. (CCM Voice Pedagogy) serves as an artist in residence - musical theater at Temple University.

Justin Delong, '21 M.M. (CCM Voice Pedagogy) serves as assistant professor of commercial music voice, music technology, and musical theatre at Tiffin University and completed the NATS Intern Program in 2023.

Lexie Rains, '23, M.M. (CCM Voice Pedagogy) teaches voice at Baylor University as an adjunct faculty and was selected as one of the singers for the NATS 2025 Intern Program.

Marsha Matthai, '25 M.M. (CCM Voice Pedagogy) teaches at Lipscomb University and Belmont University as an adjunct voice faculty.

Martina Bingham '18 D.M.A. (Voice Pedagogy) is a lecturer of voice at University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

Warren Freeman '14, M.M. (CCM Voice Pedagogy) teaches voice at New York University and has published in the Journal of Voice and the Journal of Singing.

Troy Castle '14, D.M.A. (Voice Pedagogy) serves as associate professor of music at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois.

Barbara DeMaio '13 D.M.A. (Voice Pedagogy) is an associate professor of voice at University of Central Oklahoma.

Martina Bingham, D.M.A.



Troy Castle, D.M.A.



“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

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

Professional Studies Program for Music Therapy Certification Eligibility

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.

Master of Arts in Music Therapy and Professional Counseling

The Master of Arts in music therapy and professional counseling (MA) is an interdisciplinary degree that integrates clinical mental health counseling and music therapy coursework. This degree fulfills the academic requirements to become a nationally board certified music therapist (MT-BC) and licensed professional counselor (LPC) in Virginia.



Kerry Devlin, '18, MMT, LPMT, MT-BC, is a senior music therapist at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland, overseeing the music therapy program while also actively engaging in research. In addition to completing her Ph.D. at Aalborg University in Denmark, Kerry recently co-edited the text "Music Therapy and Music-based Interventions in Neurology."



Erin Bonham, '18, '20, MMT, MT-BC, established the music therapy program at West Virginia University Hospital System Berkeley campus, where she provides inpatient acute care. She also has an active clinical training program for music therapy students from Shenandoah University.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Master of Music Education

Music education at Shenandoah Conservatory has a 150-year legacy, providing musicians from Virginia and beyond with access to exceptional training and professional development. The Master of Music Education program is under curriculum revision and looks forward to accepting applications in the future.





“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!**

"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, M.F.A., 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, was recently appointed as the chief executive officer of the Westmoreland Cultural Trust in Pennsylvania. Luczak, a Western Pennsylvania native, has overseen development and operations for cultural organizations in Maryland, Nebraska, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and most recently, Iowa, where he was director of development for Des Moines Performing Arts.





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.

- Conservatory Choir has **performed at premier concert halls** throughout Germany, Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland and many other countries. In October 2024, a Shenandoah ensemble completed a tour of a concert staging of Handel's "Acis & Galatea" across Portugal and Spain.
- 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.
- **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.



"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'Connor, Mus.D., Distinguished Artist-in-Residence,
Keyboard Division Chair and Professor of Piano

STEINWAY PIANOS: Cornerstone of a Conservatory Education

Shenandoah Conservatory's designation as an All-Steinway School reinforces our longstanding reputation as a leader in performing arts education. We are proud to be one of 21 elite conservatories worldwide that have earned All-Steinway status.

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

We also boast a state-of-the-art piano workshop that provides excellent care and maintenance for this impressive fleet of instruments. Learn more at su.edu/steinway.



AUDITIONS & ADMISSIONS

Admission to Shenandoah Conservatory is highly competitive.

Apply at: 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/grad-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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Office of Graduate Admissions

✉ SUGradAdmissions@su.edu

📞 540-665-4581

☎ 540-546-6029

MEET OUR EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Shenandoah Conservatory's faculty unite exceptional artistry with a deep commitment to educating motivated students in a supportive, inclusive environment that cultivates excellence. Nationally and internationally recognized as performers, directors, choreographers, and scholars, they bring real-world expertise directly into the educational and rehearsal process. Their mentorship fosters technical mastery and creative growth, preparing students not only to excel as accomplished performers and arts practitioners but also to lead as innovative, reflective arts professionals.



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





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
- 143 graduate students
- 57 full-time faculty
- 32 part-time faculty
- 30+ performing groups
- 300+ performances annually

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