

FACULTY QUESTIONS

Why does music/theatre/dance matter to you?

- Music matters to me because it is the best way I have found to express myself, grow, and communicate with others.
- Art is something that feeds the soul and comes from a place that is creative and spiritual.
- I communicate best when I am dancing.
- Music is as necessary for me as breathing, I am compelled to produce it.
- The spirit, heart, and soul of my being is totally interwoven into the fabric of humanity/expressed through the art form of dance. I don't know where I begin and where dance ends.
- Societal growth.
- The performing arts allow us to explore our humanity.
- Music is a language which allows us to communicate beyond words.
- Art matters because it is like religion.
- It's an emotional expression of humanness.
- What it is/means to be human, at its most profound level.
- I would not survive without it.
- The arts nourish the soul.
- It nourishes my daily life and gives me hope for humanity.
- It requires students to take their most treasured skill and figure out how to adjust it to combine beautifully with the skills of others.
- It allows people to express themselves in community with others.
- Creativity in life.
- Explore the essence of our shared humanity through introspection and expression in a bond of community.
- It's everything I think of everyday, like soul or even air, I can't live without it.
- To make something from nothing, and to make it beautiful and beautifully for all the world.
- Life experience, human condition/connection to person and others, expression of self.
- Because art enriches our lives; little else in this world matters as much as art.
- Music touches and connects to my soul on a deeper level than any other art form.
- Art gives us a road to thought and feeling that we may not otherwise experience.
- Creativity, something to be experienced, not quantized.
- Art enriches the human spirit.
- It's integral to being human.
- The arts are a major way God speaks to me.
- The arts are the soul of a society, nothing is more important.
- Enhances human awareness.
- When you open yourself to the arts, the pathway to your soul appears before you. Helping others to this discovery is vital in today's world.
- Music is what I do best; it's the most I can offer.
- The arts illuminate life experiences and passionate hopes in a way that transcends time, place, and circumstances.
- Theatre to me is life-affirming and provides much needed escape from real world problems.
- Because the arts teach us who we are as individuals and to a society.
- Sharing.
- It's the only thing I do well.
- Music is an art that transcends time and connects our humanness in ineffable ways.
- Music is how I found myself, my "tribe" and it is now at the center of my core identity.
- It's what makes my soul happy.
- Physical expression of thought.
- Music is a way my soul expresses things and experiences things.
- These are parts of the human experience that connect us most to each other.

- It makes life worth living.
- It communicates what can't be said.
- Art has been a part of my life as long as I can remember.
- Sustenance.
- Because it opens me up to new perspectives and experiences beyond my own.
- Life without artistic expression is boring.
- The arts feed the soul. Without art, anger and jealousy, anxiety and heightened self-image, these things dominate.
- The arts are often at the forefront of changing societal norms.
- Theatre matters because it explores the common human experience and presents it with critical thought to provoke others to do reflection on it more deeply.
- The arts bring together diverse groups of people to share a common goal.
- The intrinsic value of a community expression.
- Music matters to me because it gives me a community to live in, ideas to encounter, lives to touch and a language to speak.
- Theatre opened for me a window to my truest self and a community that supported and challenged that self.
- They are the very essence of being human.
- It offers and practices empathy, imagination and presence in a social and community setting in a time when these values are much needed.

What do you value most about teaching in a conservatory setting?

- Teaching the students about life. Having the students teach me about life.
- Working with students and colleagues who are committed to common goals.
- Ability to connect with passionate student at a BFA level.
- Smaller class sizes, focus on teaching/students. Deep study of music and the arts.
- The potential to push students.
- It is a great match of music academics and music performance.
- The students. Their hope, their desire to learn, their bravery.
- The centrality of the creative act.
- Freedom.
- The richness and diversity of experience available to all students and faculty.
- Opening the minds of students to something new.
- The high level of artistry found in students and colleagues alike.
- The support and encouragement to take risks.
- Teaching grad student who come with undergrad performance degrees.
- An awareness of self within the context of others.
- The environment is geared towards training for the professional world.
- That I am challenged by my colleagues and my students to be better.
- High value placed on artistry/excellence.
- I value the mutual reinforcement of thinking and listening, reasoning and emotion.
- Dedicated time to the development of each student's unique voice.
- Student, faculty, and staff are all committed to their craft.
- The focus on art is more intense and less diluted than in a general university.
- Art is always first. Feeding artists what inspires.
- Being able to focus on skills that help the students find gainful employment.
- Commitment of students and collaboration.
- Student commitment.
- Emphasis on performance and ability, rather than academics.
- Students care about what they are learning.

- Conservatory teaching allows a depth of exploration with students who are passionate, talented and committed.
- Inspire and give each students the tools to be independent in a most creative way.
- Helping students grow, both as musicians and people.
- The ability to teach students of passion and focus.
- Positive rigors and demands of the craft are taught with clarity and care.
- Freedom to express in a community of inspiring colleagues.
- I value teaching in this setting the opportunity to help students discover deeper possibilities to their work and art.
- I most value the opportunity to engage with people, both within my art form and outside of it, in meaningful conversation – to better the way I teach and the way I learn.
- The opportunity to guide observation.
- I value the opportunity to mentor young artists to explore their craft to its fullest.
- Creativity.
- The focus and dedication of the teachers and students.
- I value the opportunity to teach to/toward the professional level.
- To show and illuminate and teach EXCELLENCE.
- The opportunity to work collaboratively with other artists across other disciplines.
- The urgency to develop artistry. The willingness to struggle with something hard.
- The conservatory setting offers a wide variety of perspectives.
- That the people have something in common, or that they are passionate about something.
- I value that the students DO what we teach, it is not just theoretical.
- Training the next generation of performers.
- The collective focus of the community.
- The emphasis for the students on their art as opposed to a highly generalized education.
- The intensive focus on the end goal of professional practice.
- The high level of artistry found in students and colleagues alike.
- "Musicians" develop that part of self and develop the "teacher" part of self to be musician teachers.

After all is said and done, what is the single most important quality or skill every conservatory student in your general area (music/theatre/dance) should possess upon graduating?

- Ability to think/speak critically and thoughtfully about their art form and cultural context.
- A sense of curiosity about what they don't know and a sense of place based on what they have learned.
- The ability to collaborate and respond quickly to change/demand.
- Knowledge and skill.
- Kindness and citizenship.
- Become creative thinkers, move forward to inspire others and share in the beauty of their art.
- Deep knowledge of their art.
- Exceptional skill level.
- The ability to best represent their skill set and win the audition.
- Empathy and confidence.
- The ability to apply one's expertise and talent to a variety of situations genres and venues.
- Critical thinking, the hungry spirit to keep developing themselves.
- Ability to be artistic in a productive way.
- Empathy.
- Skillful and creative performing ability.
- Ability to balance their careers and their lives in a way that is fulfilling for them on all levels.
- The discipline of the profession.
- The ability to hear reality through enhanced awareness.

- A knowledge of the works and the artists who come before us.
- Critical thinking.
- Self-assuredness with eyes turned outward.
- Ability to access their authentic self and skills to navigate the world around them.
- Prepared to lead.
- Artistic rigor.
- Grit.
- Collaboration.
- Grit/resilience
- Self-discipline
- The ability to relate to others.
- The ability to teach well.
- Critical and creative thinking.
- The ability to find out the answer on their own.
- The ability to build for themselves.
- Truthful art and a confidence in the pursuit of that art.
- How to cultivate support for their art.
- Creativity/thoughtfulness.
- Eagerness to continue growing.
- A sense of their own strengths and their own challenges.
- Collaboration.
- A sense of accomplishment in whatever area they are in.
- A desire to improve the lives of the people they serve and the ability to do so.
- To apply the technical and artistic skills they have honed over the years and use in in the real world.
- A sense of the broad and expansive universe of music.
- A drive to make the world a better place through their art.
- A profound work ethic to match their love for their art, and which will carry them through challenges.
- To have a personal relationship with the music and the technical skills to realize their musical visions/ideas.
- Love for the art, and insatiable curiosity.
- Flexibility, be prepared but also be ready for anything and be ready to roll with it.
- Maturity to make smart decisions and set a career path.
- A love of music and the ability to share that passion to communicate with others.
- The single most important attribute of the student should be the relentless desire to share their art with communities and ensure that they pass on their passion to the next generations.
- Personal inspiration.
- The ability to communicate their skill to different audiences.
- An ability to translate their talent into an employable brand.
- An excitement for the future and a feeling that no matter what comes next, they can make it work.
- A passion to make art a life-long pursuit.
- Passion towards chosen path.

Ultimately, what is it about a Shenandoah Conservatory education that you sense is worth its cost to students and their families?

- The deep care for the art that is hatched by a care for the student themselves... their experience and their person.
- The collaborative nature of the Shenandoah Conservatory experience. Students connect with professors and colleagues that challenge and inspire them daily.
- The exposure to a committed professional body available to teach and nurture the whole student.

- The fantastic faculty.
- The community and the practical experience they gain at Shenandoah.
- Individualized attention. Each student has a name and a dream that is met with faculty support.
- Experience to succeed.
- The specific skills we teach are skills for LIFE.
- The number of opportunities available to perform and travel.
- The chance to join a community, commit to both individual and shared work, and to make the community a better place to live and work.
- Studying with its first-class faculty.
- A conservatory education/setting in a small town family environment.
- If they wish, they can develop the ability to learn and grow continually.
- Specialized attention.
- Excellent preparation for a career in a field of passion.
- Attention to the individuals – nurturing and caring – though, I think we need to strive for a more vigorous education.
- Is it worth its cost?
- Faculty are caring, skilled, artist teachers.
- Care, attention, and general community.
- Sincere care for the development/nurturing of student talent artistic expression.
- Individual attention, family atmosphere, and a sense of community.
- My tutelage!
- Quality of faculty and reputation of the conservatory.
- The genuine sense of community – if this can be transferred beyond our campus, then only positive things will happen in the world.
- The connections between student (and their families) and faculty and the connections made among student colleagues.
- Small nurturing community.
- Breadth of experience.
- Most valuable part of SC education is the personal attention students get from experts in the various fields.
- The development of total person/artist/citizen of the world.
- The intensive environment and immersive atmosphere make SU worth the cost.
- Quality and value of skill and knowledge of the faculty.
- Care.
- Intense personal instruction.
- The level of excellence of the faculty. The small-town environment.
- Our history/reputation that helps place our students in jobs in demand throughout the state.
- Small class sizes individual attention and relationships.
- Students are prepared to succeed.
- Focus in a kind environment = personal development.
- Uniqueness in SU's importance of awareness of international cultures.
- This is what keeps me awake at night – I'm not sure. One-on-one contact, but is that enough in this economic climate?
- A sense of family inside and outside of the classroom.
- The value is the exposure to different types, styles of performances and demands.
- I believe SU offers a great combination of training and real life skills that make it worth its investment.
- The quality of the education means that despite cost we provide exceptional value.
- The faculty.
- The courage to take art as their chosen path.
- Students learn to be skillful and creative performers in a community of skillful and creative performers that love each other and their students.

- Our dedication to making you the best artist and our commitment to assisting you once you leave SU.
- It is not generic, it is unique, it is personal.
- The conservatory is well known for its ability to service young musicians – but, it is the innovative nature of the University that is a huge bonus.
- Mentorship, ability to make a meaningful career in the arts.
- Creative community.
- Combination of artistic urgency and level and the small supportive community.