



Music

Department of Music

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

KEY STRENGTHS

- An active faculty that perform, compose, research and teach music throughout the state, region and country.
- A music curriculum that engages Bach and the Beatles, Mozart and Marachi in critical disussions of style and practice, form and function.
- Performance opportunities in a wide array of ensembles from chamber music and symphony orchestras to jazz combo and fully staged opera.

POINTS OF EXCELLENCE

- More than 95 percent of ACU music students are accepted to their first-choice graduate school.
- Student music organizations and music faculty have performed in all 50 states and 30 countries.
- Music faculty members have recently taught master classes in the United States and abroad, adjudicated music competitions, served as officers of professional music organizations, conducted music clinics, and written and edited for professional journals.
- Instrumental faculty members have accompanied legendary performers such as Bob Hope, Tony Bennett and Andy Williams.
- Vocal faculty members have been seen in opera productions from coast to coast and throughout Europe.
- All three major performing ensembles – the A Cappella Chorus, the Wind Ensemble, and the Abilene Collegiate Orchestra – performed at the 2005 Texas Music Educators' Association convention in San Antonio.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Music with teacher certification
- Bachelor of Arts

MAJORS AVAILABLE

- Piano performance
- Vocal performance
- Teacher certification (vocal, instrumental, keyboard)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Commercial music composition and recording
- Instrument building and repair

- Musical composition and arranging
- Music publishing and sales
- Musical theater
- Professional music
- Public school music teaching
- University music teaching

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Performance

- Abilene Opera Association (by recommendation)
- Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra (audition only)
- A Cappella Chorus
- Big Purple Marching Band
- Brass Quintet
- Concert Band
- Homecoming Musical Orchestra
- Jazz Combo
- Jazz Ensemble
- Opera Workshop
- Regional Symphony Orchestras (by recommendation)
- University Chorale
- Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- Wind Ensemble
- Other shows, pit orchestras, etc. (by recommendation)

Special study with local professional musicians

- Arranging and composition
- Conducting
- Guitar
- Piano and organ

Summer opportunities

- Studies abroad in England and South America
- Occasional travel with touring groups (past trips include Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Germany)

Scholarships available

- Departmental band, orchestra, piano and vocal scholarships awarded by audition to students active in music as a major; some scholarships available to non-majors
- \$500 marching band scholarship for participation in the Big Purple Marching Band is available for fall semester only.
- Special endowed scholarships available (scholarship recipients are determined by audition):
 - Alice E. Mitchell music scholarship
 - Bill Reese memorial band scholarship
 - Charles and Betty Nelson voice scholarship
 - C.O. and Viva Croson piano scholarship
 - Don and Carol Crisp piano scholarship
 - Ed George endowed orchestra scholarship
 - Fry/Crain band/orchestra scholarship
 - Hall Endowed voice scholarship
 - Jack Boyd choral scholarship
 - Jacque Nell Holland music scholarship
 - Lisa Lee Pruett piano scholarship
 - Marion Cawood voice scholarship

- Martha Tipton piano scholarship
- Max Harper band scholarship
- M.L. Daniels music scholarship
- Nathan and Louise Harsh voice scholarship
- Norene Davis piano scholarship
- Robert and Mary Ann Hall voice scholarship
- Tamara Thaxton memorial band scholarship
- ACT/SAT Academic Scholarships

Please consult with your admissions counselor for details on these and other scholarships available to you.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- ACU music graduates have attended graduate school at the Hart School of Music, Cincinnati Conservatory, Temple University Opera Center, Boston University Opera Program, Kent State University, Northwestern University, Baylor University, New England Conservatory, Michigan State University, Rice University, Arizona State University, Southern Methodist University, The University of Texas at Austin, University of North Texas, Indiana University, Texas State University, University of Kentucky, Texas Tech University, University of Maryland, and University of Michigan.
- ACU alumni have recently been employed by the Amarillo Opera, Central City Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Fort Collins Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera North, Washington (D.C.) Opera, Abilene Philharmonic, Austin Symphony, Dallas Bach Society, Grand Rapids Symphony, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, Mesquite Symphony, Northwest Symphony Orchestra, San Angelo Symphony, and the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Majors in the 2006-07 school year: 68

2006-07 graduates with jobs by commencement:
100 percent

FACILITIES

The beautiful and technologically advanced Williams Performing Arts Center opened in January 2003. The 92,000 square foot building houses both music and theatre with state-of-the-art “smart” classrooms, a 280-seat recital hall, a 300-seat thrust stage theatre, band/choral rehearsal halls, percussion rehearsal spaces, 15-station piano lab, 24 practice rooms and office/studios for private instruction. The 15-station computer lab also boasts multi-media and digital synthesis work stations.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Christopher Anderson, class of 1995; director, Texas Tech Red Raiders Marching Band, Lubbock, Texas.

Dustin Williams, class of 1992; luthier, owner and proprietor of Williams Fine Violins & Luthier Studios, Nashville, Tenn.

J. Eric Wilson, class of 1988; director of bands, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Mark McDowell, class of 1983; commercial jingles studio, Los Angeles, Calif.

Fred Allen, class of 1976; director of bands, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Jeff Brock, class of 1973; Brock Music recording studio, Nashville, Tenn.

John Whitwell, class of 1965; director of bands, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

Bob Page, class of 1948; associate conductor, Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland, Ohio.

RECENT GRADUATES

Mario Santoso, class of 2004; graduate student at Indiana University in piano performance, Bloomington, Ind.

Jamie Dahman, class of 2003; graduate student in vocal performance at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Professional soloist in Germany during summer 2004.

Crystal Jarrell, class of 2002; graduate student in vocal performance, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Dustin Woodruff, class of 2002; doctoral student in guitar performance, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

Eric Schmidt, class of 2001; graduate student in vocal performance, Cincinnati Conservatory, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Adam Toy, class of 1998; high school choral director, Carrollton ISD, Carrollton, Texas.

Kenyon Williams, class of 1997; assistant professor of percussion, Minnesota State University, Moorehead, Minn.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Paul R. Piersall, D.M.A. – Recently completed his two-year term as president of the Texas Association of Music Schools. Recently elected governor of the Texoma Region (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico) of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Gregory Straughn, Ph.D. – Presented papers at the International Musicological Symposium and Music in France conference in Melbourne, Australia, July 2004.

FACULTY

Pauline Kung Bjorem, D.M.A., *assistant professor, keyboard division director*; B.M., ACU, 1993; M.M., Hardin-Simmons University, 1996; D.M.A., University of Oregon, 2005.

Samuel Cook, *associate professor of voice, voice, opera*; B.M., Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University; M.M., Indiana University, 2000.

Cheryl Lemmons, *staff accompanist, piano, accompanying*; B.M.Ed., ACU, 1981; M.M., Hardin-Simmons University, 1995.

Paul Piersall, D.M.A., *professor, voice, choral*; B.A., Central Washington University, 1965; M.A., Central Washington University, 1968; D.M.A., University of Oregon, 1971; vocal/choral faculty, Columbia Christian College, 1965-78 (music chair, 1970-78); voice/choral/opera faculty, Pepperdine University, 1979-86.

Julie Pruett, *assistant professor, vocal division director, voice, opera*; B.M.Ed., Texas State University, 1979; M.Ed., Texas State University, 1981; D.M.A., The University of Texas at Austin, 2003; voice faculty, Texas State University, 1983-84.

Michael Scarbrough, D.M.A., *professor, director of choral activities, voice*; B.M.Ed., McMurry University, 1980; M.M., Scarritt College, 1982; D.M.A., Arizona State University, 1996.

Gregory Straughn, Ph.D., *assistant professor, musicology, chair*; B.A., ACU, 1994; M.M., University of North Texas, 1997; Ph.D., University of North Texas, 2004.

Allen Teel, D.M.A., *professor, instrumental division director, percussion, world music, percussion methods and ensemble*; B.M.Ed., West Texas A&M University, 1983; M.M., Texas Tech University, 1985; D.M.A., University of Georgia, 1994.

Susan Teel, *instructor in music education, piano, introduction to music*; B.M.Ed., ACU, 1985; M.M.Ed., University of Georgia, 1990.

Steven Ward, *associate professor*; B.M., ACU, 1992; M.A., Austin State University, 1994; D.M.A., Michigan State University, 2002.

Kevin Whitelaw, *instructor of music, associate director of bands*; B.M., ACU, 1998; M.M., Stephen F. Austin State University, 2006 .

Kay Williams, Ph.D., *associate professor, theory, piano, introduction to music*; B.M.Ed., ACU, 1969; M.M., Texas Tech University, 1971; Ph.D., Texas Tech University, 1994.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Department

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