



Bachelor of Music

BMus

Why study Music?

The music industry is changing; will you lead the way?

Tune into your creativity and let your imagination amplify your ability to think outside of the box. Develop the skills to ensure the past is preserved while building a future that sings true to you – collaboration and innovation begins here.

Choose your specialisation

PERFORMANCE

Acquire essential musical skills while you broaden your historical and cultural knowledge of music and performance. Delve into a range of ensembles, workshops, masterclasses, and performances to better understand a range of industry topics, like conducting, music history and theory, and music education.

COMPOSITION

Develop your technique and creativity in instrumental and vocal composition. With the opportunity to specialise in sound-based and electronic compositions, you will explore the breadth of instrumentation and electronic music studies in contemporary and historical practice.

JAZZ

Fine tune your instrumental or vocal technique and improvisational skills through scales, rhythm, and harmony analysis. You will work in large and small ensembles to refine your musical literacy in performance, as well as forming your own stylistic and interpretive methods in a jazz context.

SONGCRAFT AND MUSIC PRODUCTION*

You will record and perform songs weekly and engage in one-on-one instrumental sessions. The recording studio itself will become a musical instrument with hands-on and theoretical practice in music production and audio engineering.

MUSIC EDUCATION*

Learn skills in music education in a mix of school, studio, and community contexts. You will study how musical knowledge is conveyed through practical and theoretical work on pedagogy.

MUSICOLOGY*

Build your knowledge of music in its various historical, contemporary, and theoretical contexts. Learn how music has changed over time and think about the role music plays in everyday life. Hone your writing skills as you learn to express yourself about music.



“The study of music is actually the study of everything. Through thinking, making, and doing, you’ll learn how to collaborate, be creative, contribute meaningfully to society, and advocate for artistic integrity. You’ll be playing and singing with each other, learning about other times and places, and discussing big theoretical concepts.”

GREGORY CAMP
Senior Lecturer

**Subject to CUAP approval*



There are numerous ways you can study Music, with a range of specialisations you can choose from. Get a taste for all aspects of what the degree has to offer in your first year with cross genre music theory, contemporary music culture, and other core courses that will help develop your own unique path in your chosen area.



STAGE 1 COURSE*

MUS 149 – Rock to Reggae: Tracking Popular Music in New Zealand

An introduction to Aotearoa New Zealand's home-grown popular music, from the 1950s to the present day. A broad range of musical styles will be considered and situated within various social contexts. The issue of cultural identity in music – at national and local levels – will also be explored.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

MUS 258 – Composing with Computers

An introduction to the study and use of computers to compose and generate music. Topics include: algorithmic composition, sound design, algorithmic music, artificial intelligence for music creation, live coding.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

MUS 363 – Music and Community Engagement

An initial study of community music ranging from semi-professional music organisations and groups through to community music activities that emphasise access, participation and inclusion. An examination of the health and community benefits of music activity including healthy ageing, early development, and youth and mental health. The role of the community musician is also considered.



Get excited about your course options:

- History, Music and Ideas: Rethinking the Classical Canon
- Music Fundamentals
- Sound Design for Film and Video Games
- Special Topic: Ragas of India



Available conjoints:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Engineering
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Laws

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.

Careers

Lead the way as a conductor or play your role in the orchestra, captivate audiences through your performance, compose for film and video games, produce and manage talent in and out of the recording studio, and more. The experiences you gain can set you up for a fruitful career in any realm of the music industry.

“I take classes that span a wide range of niches. We dig deep into the history of New Zealand's music, learn how to read and understand different languages and translations, and how to conduct ensembles. We try our music production technology and learn about how music technology has changed since the 19th century.”

ALANAH JONES

Student: Bachelor of Music Studies, specialising in Creative Practice: Classical*
Pears-Britten Award in Singing, Evelyn M Harrison Scholarship, Beatrice Ratcliffe Entry-Level Scholarship in Music, Auckland University Singers Choral Prize

*Creative Practice: Classical has been replaced with Performance as a specialisation.

