

# MUSIC MAJOR

## NEW MUSIC CURRICULUM AT TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

### A NEW CULTURE

The music faculty at Texas Wesleyan University is well aware of career challenges facing students after graduation. We realize the demand for musical training in today's employment climate is vastly different than last century's, and so we believe it is no longer realistic to apply 20th century educational traditions to 21st century culture and economy. Consequently, our focus is shifting from creating highly-skilled, specialized laborers to preparing balanced citizens who will serve their communities with music as one of their primary skills.

We prepare young musicians to become advocates for themselves, for music, for all the arts and for the best our society can be. We want to help students find new ways to connect with audiences on and off stage, bringing in new listeners without offending old. Our students acquire skills beyond traditional musical techniques, develop strategies for communicative performing, build meaningful interactive presentations and think critically about their relationship to audience and community. To do this, our students must converse well, think clearly, write persuasively and still perform excellently. Our new curriculum includes integrated arts study and musical enrichment and travel experiences that inform students about their world and wider opportunities for their artistic endeavors and creative contributions.

### A NEW PATH

Traditionally, music majors have pursued career paths as performers and/or teachers. Recent Wesleyan music graduates perform and tour the country, continue their studies in fine graduate schools or find work in universities, public and private schools, churches, opera companies, theatres and clubs. But other viable options – such as careers in arts presentation, production, direction, administration, consultation, writing and management – are increasingly prominent in today's arts industry.

While performing and teaching are still popular career choices, motivated graduates can develop careers to serve the arts in new, meaningful ways. Others find the discipline and poise they attain through private music study and public performance prepare them for exciting careers outside of the arts. Nearly all of our students continue, either vocationally or avocationally, in a life of arts participation and support.

## **A NEW DEGREE**

The music department offers a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Music. Our BA degree, newly revised in 2002, is a program designed for the study of music within a strong liberal arts curriculum context. It emphasizes a wide range of liberal arts course offerings and allows for emphases in various applied music concentrations including voice, keyboard, composition, guitar, percussion, conducting or any of the available band and wind instruments.

Two components of this degree program are of particular interest. Music students join with art and theatre majors for four Integrated Arts Core (IAC) courses that examine the arts, their interdependence on each other and their roles in today's society. And a Music Enrichment and Travel class involves a brief trip during the mid-semester break or May term to one of the world's music capitals for a first-hand experience in an influential center of musical heritage (New York City, 2004; Musical Austria – Vienna, Salzburg and Eisenstadt, 2005; New York City, 2006; London, 2007).

## **THE PERSONAL TOUCH**

Unique to music majors and minors, our students work one-on-one with a faculty member for their entire private music study experience. This close relationship provides the student with a mentor and advocate who meets with him/her weekly, openly discussing the student's experiences on and off campus. Mentors also strive to introduce artistic and cultural experiences beyond a student's normal scope and depth.

Our faculty expose their artistic apprentices to as much of the arts as possible and offer the perspective of an experienced musical artist and teacher. These private lessons grant music students an extraordinary amount of individual attention, helping them to learn about themselves and to expand their thinking about their role in the arts and in the world.

## **ADVOCATES AND ARTISTS**

In a cultural climate that continually threatens to marginalize the arts, today's music graduates must learn to be their own advocates – to a much greater degree than did students a generation ago. These new musicians develop artistic flexibility and versatility in order to communicate with relevance to the broadest of audiences. Their career options are tied to the role that the arts will play in America's future. And the future of the arts depends on the broadening abilities these new musical ambassadors will bring to our society.

## **CONTACT US**

Scholarships are available for qualifying music majors and minors. For more information, contact the Department of Music at (817) 531-4992 or visit us on the Web at <http://department.txwes.edu/mus/>.

"Life without music would be a mistake."

Friedrich Nietzsche

## CAREER PATHS FOR MUSIC MAJORS

- Architectural Acoustics
- Armed Forces Band
- Artist & Repertoire
- Arts Administrator
- Church Music Director
- Community Developer
- Composer/Arranger
- Conductor
- Copyright Specialist
- Copywriter
- Cruise Director
- Disc Jockey
- Royalties Broadcast
- Sales Representative
- Singer
- Editor
- Sound Engineer
- Film Music Editor
- Instrument Service
- Journalist
- Manufacturer Rep
- Music Attorney
- Music Copyist
- Music Critic
- Music Promoter
- Music Publishing
- Music Reporter
- Studio Musician
- Synth Specialist
- Technical Writer
- Music Software
- Music Store Manager
- Music Stringer
- Music Teacher
- Music Therapist
- Musician
- Orchestra Librarian
- Piano Tuner
- Public Relations
- Publicist
- Recording Technician
- Recreation Director
- Tour Manager
- Union Contractor
- Voice Teacher

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

Aldous Huxley

## MUSIC MAJOR SKILLS



Creativity



Entertaining



Observation



Humility



Stage Presence



Technical Savvy



Read/Write Music



Audience Interaction



Communicative



Self-discipline



Physical Stamina



Adaptability



Vocal/Instrumental



Perseverance



Writing/Editing



Versatility



Teaching Abilities



Poise