Frequently Asked Questions

Are auditions required for lessons? Yes. Auditions are held during the first week of classes in the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Sign-up sheets for audition times will be posted. See pages 4–5 for additional information.

What is required for the audition? Auditions are five minutes in length. See pages 4–5 regarding material to prepare for your audition.

What about guitar lessons or Beginning Class Guitar? If you can read music or have any experience playing guitar, you should audition for private lessons. Otherwise, contact the coordinator regarding Class Guitar. All guitar students must have a classical (acoustic) nylon-stringed guitar.

What about fees? An additional fee is charged to your student account for lessons, Class Guitar, and Class Voice. See fees listed on page 6.

How do I get into an ensemble? Contact the ensemble director regarding auditions and placement. See pages 7–8 for a list of ensembles, directors, and contact information.

Do I need to register for lessons and ensembles? Yes, students must register by the add deadline. To register for a class, lesson, or ensemble after the first week of classes, go to room 2-115 of the Ryan Center for the Musical Arts; a fee will be charged for courses added late.

My permission number didn't work. Now what? Contact a coordinator (see back page for contact information) for another permission number before the add deadline. Permission numbers may be used only once. After the add deadline, bring your permission number to room 2-115 of the Ryan Center for the Musical Arts for late-add approval. A fee will be charged for courses added late.

May I take lessons for credit? All private lessons and Class Voice lessons are available for variable credit (0–.5). For most lessons, CAESAR defaults to 0 credit; to register for credit, go into the drop-down menu and choose .5 credit. If you have already registered and wish to change to .5 credit, go into CAESAR, and edit your registration. Do not do a drop/add, which would require another permission number. (See www.registrar.northwestern.edu, CAESAR Registration FAQ, Miscellaneous Registration Questions, number 14.)

May I use practice rooms? Nonmajor students registered for a music course or lessons may practice in Regenstein Hall. Once you are registered, have your Wildcard activated in room 2-000 of the Ryan Center for the Musical Arts.
Academic Courses for Nonmajors

The following courses are designed to meet the needs of students from other schools of the University. Most examine music from a historical or cultural perspective (170, 175, 220, 230) and require no prior music study. Students with a basic music foundation who are interested in a beginning course in music theory may register for 252 Harmony followed by 253 Form and Analysis. Students may also enroll in certain 300-level courses with instructor permission when space is available. For course listings check GEN MUS, MUSICOL, MUS COMP, MUS TECH, and MUS THR Y on CAESAR or at www.northwestern.edu/class-descriptions each quarter. (Distribution areas are noted in parentheses for courses that fulfill distribution requirements in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.)

GEN MUS 170 Introduction to Music An introduction to key concepts and contexts, guiding students to become informed listeners and critical thinkers with respect to a broad range of musical styles and genres and to acquire the skills and vocabulary to discuss and write about music effectively. Individual sections may vary from quarter to quarter; see specific section descriptions for more information. No previous musical training or ability to read music notation is required. (VI. Literature and Fine Arts)

GEN MUS 175 Selected Topics in Music Literature Each year, several courses for nonmajors are offered addressing a variety of specific musical genres and topics from historical or cultural perspectives. The many recent Selected Topics courses have included History of Jazz, American Musical Theater, Piano History and Repertoire, and The Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Please check listings and descriptions under this course number each quarter for specific offerings. (VI. Literature and Fine Arts)

GEN MUS 176 Selected Topics in Applied Music Courses for nonmajors in areas such as composition, musicianship, and music technology—such as Songwriting and Recording Techniques—are periodically offered under this rubric. Please check listings and descriptions under this course number each quarter for specific offerings.

GEN MUS 220 History of the Symphony Focused study of symphonic music through examination of numerous works and their composers from various periods. Particular attention to interdisciplinary research in a broader intellectual and cultural context. (VI. Literature and Fine Arts)

GEN MUS 230 History of Opera The history of opera from its origins in late-16th-century Italy to the present. (VI. Literature and Fine Arts)

GEN MUS 253 Form and Analysis An extension of GEN MUS 252 Harmony, with an emphasis on form and analytical content of music. Analysis of musical examples, with an emphasis on original composition. Prerequisite: GEN MUS 252 or equivalent.

Music Concentration
The music concentration is available to all nonmajors. Students who wish to pursue a music concentration should complete the Music Concentration Declaration Form in the Bienen School of Music’s Student Affairs Office (Ryan Center for the Musical Arts 2-115).

The music concentration requires a minimum of 6 credits:
• One music theory course, either GEN MUS 252 Harmony or GEN MUS 253 Form and Analysis (prerequisite: 252 or equivalent experience)
• One music history course (from GEN MUS or MUSICOL)
• One world music course (from GEN MUS or MUSICOL)
• One upper-level music history, theory, technology, or composition course
• Two credits of electives (additional music courses or a combination of ensembles and nonmajor lessons; students are required to audition for the nonmajor lesson program and for music ensembles)

Music Minors
Most minors require departmental approval from the program coordinator. Performance minors are not offered. Minors are available for nonmajors in commercial music (8 units), music cognition (9 units), music composition (9 units), music technology (6 units), and musicology (6 units). For specific course requirements, see the Bienen School’s Undergraduate Handbook at www.music.northwestern.edu/files/programs/BSM_UGHandbook.pdf.

Music Lessons for Credit
Music lessons are available for credit to nonmusic majors. New students interested in lessons should attend the information meeting during Wildcat Welcome. Returning students with questions regarding lessons may call or email the appropriate program coordinator (see contact information on back page). All students interested in lessons must audition. Variable fees apply to each course and are specified under the course listing.

AUDITIONS
Auditions are held during the first week of classes each fall, winter, and spring quarter. Sign-up sheets, indicating times and locations, will be posted during Wildcat Welcome at the locations listed at the top of the next page. Space may be limited, so please sign up early. After fall quarter, vocal auditions are typically held during reading week for lessons the following quarter. Piano and instrumental auditions are held early in subsequent quarters, depending on availability.
Auditions will be approximately five minutes in length. Students auditioning should prepare material as follows:

**Piano** Any recently studied advanced-level piece from the standard repertoire (Beethoven sonatas, works by Chopin, etc.). Memorization is not required. No more than five minutes of music will be heard. Bring a list of repertoire studied during the past several years. In addition, you will be asked to play a piano solo at sight.

**Instrumental** An étude or solo demonstrating playing abilities.

**Voice** A classical or musical theater work. An accompanist will be provided; bring the work’s piano part to your audition.

**ACCEPTANCE**
Acceptance for lessons will be based on audition results and instructor availability. Following the auditions, all students who auditioned will receive an email regarding acceptance into the program. For those accepted, the email will include registration information and a permission number. If accepted for private piano or organ, you must be registered on CAESAR by 1 p.m. the next day after your audition. If accepted for Class Voice, Private Voice, Class Guitar, or private instrumental lessons, you must be registered on CAESAR by 1 p.m. the next day after you receive the email with registration information.

**PRIVATE AND CLASS LESSONS**

**Piano and Organ** (GEN MUS 115, 116) Weekly attendance at lessons, at least one to two hours of daily practice, and a final performance jury at the end of the quarter are required. Piano students receive eight 45-minute lessons per quarter; organ students receive eight 30-minute lessons per quarter.

**Instrumental** (GEN MUS 120, 125, 130) Students receive eight 30-minute lessons per quarter.

**Private Voice** (GEN MUS 160, 260, 360) Students in 160 receive eight 30-minute lessons per quarter; those in 260 and 360 receive ten 30-minute lessons per quarter.

**Class Voice** (GEN MUS 133) Because of space limitations, not everyone who auditions can be scheduled for private lessons. Voice students not selected for private lessons are assigned to 133 Class Voice. Students in this class receive nine weekly group lessons as well as three private lessons per quarter.
ENROLLMENT

Once accepted for private study, you may enroll each quarter of that academic year; you do not need to reaudition until the next academic year. All students must reaudition at the beginning of each academic year to register for private study.

All private lessons and Class Voice lessons are offered for variable credit (0–.5). Students accepted for private study or Class Voice will be given a permission number; no lessons will be given until you are registered. For registration assistance, see page 2, Frequently Asked Questions, “May I take lessons for credit?” Quarterly registration fees will be billed to the student’s account. To register after the first week of classes, go to Ryan Center 2-I15 for late-registration approval; a fee will be charged for courses added late.

GEN MUS 115 Nonmajor Piano and Organ (.5 credit), $295
  Section 21 Kan-Walsh (piano)
  Section 22 Kemper (organ)
GEN MUS 116 Nonmajor Piano (0 credit), $295
  Section 20 Bosits
GEN MUS 120 Nonmajor Strings (0–.5 credit), $295
  Section 21 Keys (violin)
  Section 22 Keys (viola)
  Section 23 Keys (cello)
  Section 24 Keys (string bass)
  Section 26 Keys (guitar)
GEN MUS 121 Nonmajor Class Guitar, Beginning (.5 credit), $270
  Section 20 (meets twice weekly) Keys
GEN MUS 125 Nonmajor Winds and Percussion (0–.5 credit), $295
  Section 21 Keys (trumpet)
  Section 22 Keys (horn)
  Section 23 Keys (euphonium)
  Section 24 Keys (trombone)
  Section 25 Keys (tuba)
  Section 26 Keys (flute)
  Section 27 Keys (oboe)
  Section 28 Keys (clarinet)
  Section 29 Keys (saxophone)
  Section 30 Keys (bassoon)
  Section 31 Keys (percussion)
GEN MUS 130 Nonmajor Jazz (0–.5 credit), $295
  Section 20 Keys
GEN MUS 133 Nonmajor Class Voice, Beginning (0–.5 credit), $270
  Section 20 Lyashenko/Keys
GEN MUS 160 Nonmajor Private Voice, Beginning (0–.5 credit), $295
  Section 20 Keys
GEN MUS 260 Nonmajor Private Voice, Intermediate (0–.5 credit), $430
  Section 20 Keys
  Section 21 Keys
GEN MUS 360 Nonmajor Private Voice, Advanced (0–.5 credit), $430
  Section 20 Keys
PIANO SMALL GROUP/PRIVATE COMBINATION LESSONS
Piano small group/private combination noncredit lessons are offered for beginner through intermediate levels. Classes take place in the piano lab, with a separate digital piano for each student. Students receive seven 50-minute lessons per quarter. Fee per quarter: $75 plus music costs. Because space is limited, the fee must be paid within two days after acceptance.

University Ensembles
Students from all schools in the University are encouraged to participate in any organizations for which they qualify. Please contact the listed ensemble director for information regarding auditions.

Philharmonia (Robert Hasty, hasty@northwestern.edu), an orchestra that performs a wide range of repertoire, is open to interested and qualified students from any school in the University.

Concert Band (Daniel Farris, d-farris@northwestern.edu) provides an excellent performing experience for interested and qualified students from any school in the University.

Wildcat Marching Band (Daniel Farris, d-farris@northwestern.edu) is an all-University organization that combines marching precision and exceptional playing ability in a finely polished and spirited unit. The band performs for all home football games and one or more out-of-town games each season.

Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Small Ensemble (Victor Goines, v-goines@northwestern.edu) enable interested and qualified students from any school in the University to gain experience in the jazz idiom and to improve improvisation skills. These groups also offer student composers and arrangers the chance to write for various jazz instrumental combinations.

University Singers (Donald Nally, nally@northwestern.edu) provides performing opportunities to interested and qualified students from any school in the University. The ensemble performs accompanied and a cappella literature of all periods.

Chapel Choir (Stephen Alltop, swa440@northwestern.edu) is made up of a select group of students from any school in the University. Repertoire includes a cappella and accompanied sacred choral masterworks from all periods and in many languages. This group performs for weekly services at Alice Millar Chapel and in special concerts.

University Women’s Choir (Donald Nally, nally@northwestern.edu) is designed for students interested in performing literature specifically for treble voices and desiring a more limited rehearsal commitment. Membership consists primarily of nonmusic majors but also includes Bienen School students.
Baroque Music Ensemble (Stephen Alltop, swa440@northwestern.edu) provides study and performance of music written before 1800, primarily from the baroque period, for select instrumentalists. The ensemble is open to performers on both modern and period instruments.

Questions? Contact a Coordinator

Academic courses for nonmajors: Scott Paulin, lecturer in musicology, s-paulin@northwestern.edu, 847/491-3909

Instrumental and vocal programs: Keven Keys, lecturer in music performance, music-nonmajors@northwestern.edu, 847/467-3962

Piano program credit lessons: Karen Kan-Walsh, lecturer in music performance, k-kan@northwestern.edu, 847/491-3886

Piano program noncredit instruction: Marcia Bosits, associate professor of piano, m-bosits@northwestern.edu, 847/491-5735