

One College/The Way our Mission would have Us Be At Augsburg College

The way we are based in the liberal arts.....

- Prepare “effective, informed, ethical” citizens of the world

Students in the Music Department at Augsburg are challenged to pursue their education by integrating the mind, the spirit, and musical talent through meaningful service to their communities. (Our Mission Statement) Whether students enroll in music department courses to satisfy their Liberal Arts Foundation requirement or to major or minor in music, our department provides a balance between experiential courses (Choir, Band, Orchestra, Riverside Singers, Jazz Band, chamber ensembles) and courses designed to provide a foundational examination of the field. (Introduction to Music in the Fine Arts, Jazz History, World Music, Theory sequence, Music History)

- Promote interdisciplinary learning and connections between divergent phenomena

The Music Department has pursued interdisciplinary learning with paired courses between music and religion (MUS 130), music and theater (MUS 235) , music and theater & art (HON 230), as well as instigating a Physics for the Fine Arts course Fall 2006 and a Fine Arts Keystone course. (KEY 470) The new Music Business major and minor is a collaboration between the two departments and is flourishing. Similar collaborative efforts between music therapy and the health sciences are being explored. Many of the internships and practicums for our music therapists are located in community hospitals and health-care facilities in the Twin Cities.

- Encourage students to grapple with what it means to be human and how we should live (“vocation and professional training)

By providing students with a well-rounded background in music theory, history, literature and performance, we develop our students’ abilities as performers, music therapists, teachers and directors. Through our upper-division courses, internships, practicums, and keystone courses, students have the opportunity to reflect on how their training translates into meaningful service in the world.

- Foster intellectual curiosity and inspire lifelong learning

By encouraging our students to become active participants in musical life as concert-goers and performers and to develop life-long learning through

independent reading, study and performance, we are shaping/modeling habitual behavior that will nurture future musical leaders in service to the world.

The way we are shaped by the faith and values of the Christian church...

Grows out of our Lutheran Free Church heritage and leads us to:

Emphasize "vocation" (luther's "freedom of the Christain") and service.

Members of the music department are continually serving others through musical performances both on campus and off campus. Many music students go on to become professional people in a variety of jobs while continuing their advocacy in the field of music.

Value freedom (autonomy of thought and interpretation)

The music students are encouraged to study improvisation and to develop their understanding of interpretation. The faculty is committed to helping students develop their freedom as performers.

Be egalitarian (we are all children of God; "priesthood of all believers")

Programs are regularly presented in which a variety of ethnic music is studied and performed. Music students at Augsburg come from a large range of religious backgrounds; some students have no religious affiliation.

Be inclusive of all persons and faiths

As noted above the music department of Augsburg College makes a concerted effort to be diverse in the student population and in the musical programming which is done.

Be dialogical (in pedagogy and acceptance of the proposition that "we could be wrong.")

Augsburg music faculty are continually in dialogue with their classes and individual students in order to provide them with the best possible musical education.

The way we are shaped by the context of a vital metropolitan setting:

A variety of ensembles, private lessons, and course curricula comprise those departmental offerings at Augsburg which are similar to, and competitive with,

the traditional offerings of music programs at other liberal-arts colleges. Where Augsburg differs is in what it can offer the college music student that goes well beyond the traditional: for music majors, three degree programs and five separate major areas; for majors and non-majors alike, coursework in areas not commonly covered by most of today's college programs and the finest private teaching available anywhere.

That the department can offer a student such variety is largely a function of exactly where the campus itself is situated. Augsburg's location in the heart of a major artistic center makes it an ideal place to study music, and the music faculty seeks and encourages opportunities that connect the campus and the greater arts communities. These opportunities allow students to explore the links between theory and applied knowledge and may take many forms, including internships, community performances, community-based learning projects, off-campus performance, concert attendance assignments, or travel and study within and outside the United States.

The department's Bachelor of Music degree is fundamentally an applied, pre-professional degree, which for its success depends upon the support of an exemplary adjunct faculty to train the department's serious pre-professional students in their respective vocal or instrumental areas of specialization. The development of this kind of seasoned, superlative group of teaching professionals requires, in turn, the resources of a major urban environment; there is no other way to access such a large number of reliably first-rate players and singers. Entirely because of its metropolitan setting, the Augsburg Music Department can take its choice of a large number of conservatory-level artists, many of whom are members of the cities' topflight professional ensembles, to fill the ranks of its applied faculty. And, again in turn, because of the pedagogical exigencies of offering an authentic B.M. degree program, every music student at the college who chooses to take private instrumental and/or vocal lessons during his or her tenure at college reaps the benefits of study with these people.

The department also supports both individual courses and entire courses of study in not only Music Education but also Music Therapy and Music Business. Music Education is a fairly traditional major; Music Therapy and Music Business, by contrast, are relatively new areas of applied study, and very much cutting-edge as undergraduate college majors. All three, to be optimally successful, require the professional resources of an extensive metropolitan area, to allow both for effective observations, practica, and internships, and for the student's preliminary assimilation into his or her chosen professional community. The observations, practica, and internships (i.e., the "field work") all

serve as ends to one's college career, and provide necessary closure to one's education. They draw comprehensively on all the elements of a student's previous training; they require the integration of those elements; and they represent the natural, practical, experiential consequences of a student's course of study. The professional assimilation, on the other hand, serves as a beginning, and minimizes the friction of adjustment to new circumstances. It is the ideal preparation for, and transition into, one's career following college, and because of it—because, in other words, one has already “been there”—the usual fear and trepidation regarding life in the real world after school are dramatically reduced. That the Augsburg department can offer its students opportunities for such field work and professional introduction on a routine, rather than a sporadic, basis is again due in large part to exactly where the college is situated. The Music Therapy program requires—not as a single, post-curricular internship, but as a curricular practicum every semester—volunteer work at any of 30 different placement facilities, all of which are within a 25-mile radius of the college. The Music Business program numbers among its recent internship placements the SPCO, the Minneapolis Chamber Orchestra, Universal Music & Video Distribution, Clear Channel Entertainment, The Depository Recording Studio, the Music Association of Minnetonka, Tinderbox Music, etc., etc. All of these opportunities are made possible, and shaped, by the vital metropolitan setting of the college.

Finally, the Augsburg department participates in the life and culture of the Twin Cities through its faculty and students, both individually and, collectively, in its ensembles. In the same way that the preferred athletic prospect of a college admissions office today is the “scholar-athlete”, virtually the whole teaching faculty of the department consists of “scholar-performers”; no matter their particular teaching disciplines within the general field, they are all of them performers in the own rights, and their concerts can be heard on the Augsburg campus; on the campuses of other educational institutions, the majority of them within the metro area; and in the various professional musical forums in both cities. The department's student ensembles are all active locally. Gospel Praise, the popular performance group composed of the Augsburg Jazz Band and student vocal soloists, is in great demand for events all over the metropolitan Minneapolis/St. Paul area, and plays frequent “away” gigs throughout the year. And, of course, the entire department, led by its choral forces and many of its applied faculty, presents annual performances of its Advent Vespers service each December at Minneapolis's Central Lutheran Church, and to audiences of several thousand people, many of whom are in no formal way affiliated with the college.

The way we are shaped by an intentionally diverse campus community

The music department has expanded its curriculum to include World Music as an LAF. Roberta and Gabe are taking a group of students to Europe as a CGE course "Sounds and Sights of Europe." Also under consideration is taking a group of students to Jamaica next year in a CGE trip "History of Jamaican Music" which is an LAF. Our concert band and choir travel internationally and perform music from all over the world. The Gospel/Jazz group performs world music, especially that of Africa and the Caribbean. It is our intention to provide curriculum that reflects the needs of our students by expanding our music and cultural curriculum as needed.

The music department's curriculum is all-inclusive to every faith. Our performing groups celebrate the music of western culture but are equally inclusive of music from all cultures.

Diversity is addressed in the faculty make-up in race, and religion. We also study social diversity in Jazz History and History of Caribbean music. Again, our programming of the ensembles reflects diverse ethnic groups, religion and social justice issues. Faculty volunteers in countries such in Haiti bringing back to students many music, religious and social aspects of countries visited.