Strings Program Degree Options

BM in Performance

Students pursuing the BM in Performance engage three principal curricular paths: private lessons, chamber music, and orchestra. Mason performance majors enjoy many opportunities to participate in concerts, dramatic productions, masterclasses and rehearsals, and gain valuable job experience as a freelance musician. They present two mandatory recitals to partially fulfill degree requirements.

BM in Music Education

Designed for students whose primary goal is to teach in public schools, Mason’s BM in Music Education provides a nationally recognized teacher preparation/certification program approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Students successfully completing this degree obtain a K-12 Virginia Teaching License.

BA in Music with a Concentration in Pedagogy*

Designed for students whose primary goal is to teach private lessons, the BA in Music with a Concentration in Pedagogy examines the theories of major pedagogues, develops students’ practical skills to manage a private studio, offers a sequential approach for teaching string literature, and prepares students to understand age appropriate development. Students pursuing this degree are in high demand as teachers in the community and complete their degree well prepared to engage multiple career opportunities.

Minor in Pedagogy*

As teaching remains a vital part of any professional musician’s career, music majors are encouraged to pursue the Minor in Pedagogy while completing their Bachelor of Music degree. However, highly qualified non-majors may pursue the Minor in Pedagogy as a stand-alone minor. The program includes four levels of pedagogy, as well as an internship, elective coursework in education, educational psychology, arts management, business, and communication.

*Admission to both programs requires an audition and is currently limited to students in high strings. The Pedagogy Minor may not be taken in combination with a BA in Music.

Minor in Music

Students who have primary career goals in other fields may choose to minor in music. These students are committed to improving abilities on their primary instrument and must pass an audition. Aside from core music classes, music minors are welcome to participate in private lessons and ensembles.

Strings Area Faculty

Prof. June Huang, Director of Strings; Violin  
Dr. Charles Giorba, Director of Music Education  
Dr. Dennis Layendecker, Director of Orchestral Studies  
Prof. Karen Johnson, Violin  
Dr. Joanna Owen, Violin  
Dr. Peter Wilson, Violin  
Prof. Philippe Chao, Viola  
Dr. Renate Falkner, Viola  
Prof. Gerald Fowkes, Cello  
Dr. Dorotea Racz, Cello  
Prof. Glenn Dewey, Double Bass/Electric Bass  
Prof. Elizabeth Blakeslee, Harp

To find more information and apply now, visit music.gmu.edu