

Preparing to be a Music Major at the University of Wyoming

<http://www.uwyo.edu/music/> 307-766-5242 musicdpt@uwyo.edu

Preparing for a life and career in music—whether you want to be a teacher, performer, composer, conductor, music historian, music theorist, ethnomusicologist, jazz improviser, etc. —is an exciting endeavor that can be quite rich and rewarding.

In order to take the first steps, you will probably find yourself better prepared to begin this journey if you learn some basic Theory and Musicianship skills before you enter the program.

The theory faculty at the University of Wyoming have devised the following list to help you get a good start. If you are unfamiliar with the following terms and concepts, we have provided internet links and theory text suggestions below for more information. You can also ask your local music teachers for help.

1. **Treble and Bass Clefs.** Be able to read both treble and bass clef and be able to write notes on appropriate lines/spaces in the staff.
2. **Key Signatures.** Know your major and minor key signatures. Know the relative and parallel minor of each major key, and the relative and parallel major of each minor key.
3. **Scales.** Be able to write and identify major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic.)
4. **Rhythms.** Be able to write, clap, and count simple rhythm patterns. It would be helpful to be able to distinguish simple and compound meters.
5. **Singing.** Every music major, regardless of their instrument, is asked to sing on a weekly, if not daily, basis. This is true of most every music program in the nation. Generally, this skill is requested during classes where musicianship skills are developed, and includes such activities as pitch matching and sight singing melodies. You should also be able to sing a major scale and all forms of the minor scale.
6. **Piano Skills** Basic piano skills are required of all music majors. You must pass a piano proficiency exam at some point in your first two years before you can graduate from the UW Department of Music. If you haven't already, it would be good to get introductory lessons to set you on the right course.

You will study all of these topics as part of your first year courses in music. Students who have some background in these areas will be more successful in their courses.

Music Theory Resources

Websites

- <http://musictheory.net/> Offers *lessons* that explain the material and trainers that provide interactive exercises to practice.
- <http://www.smu.edu/totw> Theory on the Web
- www.murraystate.edu/qacd/cfac/music/mus109entry.htm Murray State University Theory On-line

Texts

- *Tonal Harmony with an Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music* by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne. (The current edition is the fifth edition, but most any edition can get you started.)
- *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis* by Jane Piper Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin. You can also check out the companion book, *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills*.
- *The Music Kit* by Tom Manoff. 4th edition. Includes CD and computer software with interactive exercises.

For more information about the Music Theory Program at UW contact Dr. Anne Guzzo at (307) 766-5109 or e-mail guzzo@uwyo.edu

Scholarships and Ensembles

University of Wyoming Department of Music

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Scholarships

- <http://www.uwyo.edu/music/Scholarship/Scholarship.asp>
- March 2, 2007 Scholarship Application Deadline
- Students receiving Department of Music scholarships are required to participate in two ensembles and sign up for applied lessons in your applied area.

Ensembles

- Auditions for all ensembles are on the first day of classes.
- Marching Band meets the week before fall classes. Information at <http://www.uwyo.edu/MARCHINGBAND/>

Marching Band	Prof. Chris Nicholas	cnich@uwyo.edu
Wind Ensemble. By Audition	Dr. Robert Belser	belserrs@uwyo.edu
Symphonic Band	Chris Nicholas	cnich@uwyo.edu
Community Concert Band	Dr. Robert Belser	belserrs@uwyo.edu
Jazz Ensemble I. By Audition	Dr. Scott Turpen	sturpen@uwyo.edu
Symphony Orchestra. By Audition	Dr. Michael Griffith	symph@uwyo.edu
Chamber Orchestra. By Audition	Prof. Jim Przygocki	przygcki@uwyo.edu
Collegiate Chorale. By Audition	Dr. Michael Krueger	krueger@uwyo.edu
Civic Chorus	Dr. Michael Krueger	krueger@uwyo.edu
Bell Canto Women's Choir	Dr. Michael Krueger	krueger@uwyo.edu
Statesmen Men's Choir	Dr. Michael Krueger	krueger@uwyo.edu
Vocal Jazz. By Audition	Dr. Michael Krueger	krueger@uwyo.edu
Opera Theatre	Dr. Larry Hensel	lhensel@uwyo.edu