



Music

Music at Ursuline Academy offers students the opportunity to both study and perform music within several disciplines. Through a variety of choral and instrumental ensembles, students with any level of experience can participate in the department through singing, playing an instrument, or dancing! Students are able to meet with teachers individually to study their repertoire for either solo or ensemble work to better understand their musical selections. Students compete locally and nationally in both solo and ensemble categories. In addition to music classes, the Ursuline Academy Performing Arts Department produces three stage performances each year: a fall musical, an entirely student-produced winter production, and a spring play.

Course Offerings

A Cappella Choir

The A Cappella Choir is an exceptionally select ensemble that specializes in accompanied and unaccompanied vocal repertoire spanning all periods in music history and languages. This group is an auditioned ensemble open to students in grades 10-12. Members must demonstrate music-reading skills at an accelerated level, as well as the ability to carry their own part individually. This class meets four times a cycle for 3 mods each.

Beginning Guitar

Beginning Guitar is designed to introduce students to basic music theory and the guitar. The focus for the class is on reading music, understanding scales, basic chords, rhythms, and tablature. Beginning guitar techniques will include guitar maintenance and tuning, strumming and picking styles, finger picking basic melodies, and song accompanying. The class will study pieces from all musical periods as well as the history of the guitar. The class is offered during the school day, thrice a cycle for 2 mods each.

Beginning Piano

Beginning Piano is designed to introduce students to basic music theory and the piano. The focus for the class is on reading music, understanding scales, basic chords and rhythms. Beginning piano techniques will include finger placement and hand formation, one-hand melodies, two-hand melody with accompaniment, chord reading, and correct pedal use. The class will study pieces from all musical periods as well as the history of the piano. The class is offered during the school day, thrice a cycle for 2 mods each.

Instrumental Music

Instrumental Music is a concert band designed for woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians who would like an opportunity in school to hone their craft on an instrument. This course focuses on improving individual skill on the instrument as well as ensemble playing and listening. Students must have at least two years' experience on their instrument and auditions will be held to determine chair placement. This class meets twice a cycle for 3 mods each or as an Early Bird three times a cycle.

Intermediate Piano

Intermediate Piano is designed to advance a student's knowledge on music theory and the piano. Focus will be on reading music, learning scales, basic chords and rhythms, and elementary transposition at sight. Piano techniques will include finger placement and hand formation, one-hand melody, two-hand melody with accompaniment, chord reading, and correct pedal use. The class will study music from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Neoclassical

musical time periods as well as some operas and musical theatre. A brief history of the piano will also be discussed throughout the year.

Music History

This course will offer students a deeper understanding of the background and historical significance of music. It is designed to take students on a brief historical journey through a musical perspective. Focus for the course will be on music composition and the noteworthy composers of the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical eras. We will also cover the Romantic and 20th century periods.

Music Mod

An opportunity for students to receive one-on-one individualized instruction on the voice or instrument of their choice, preparing them for possible college or scholarship auditions. Lessons will consist of basic and advanced techniques as well as an introduction to a wide range of repertoire. Students will participate in OMEA's Solo and Ensemble event in late winter. Students would also be encouraged to participate in other performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Music Theory

This course is focused on preparing students for college music theory. Over the course of the year, students are instructed on the fundamentals of Western Music theory with the potential to construct music utilizing the latest music notation software. Students gain a greater understanding of the "how and why" of music rules.

Show Choir

This select ensemble combines the love of singing with the joy of dance. The class, which is held every Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m., offers students the opportunity to study a variety of pieces, from classic show tunes to popular music. They then unite their vocals with complex and entertaining choreography.

Sinfonia

Sinfonia is a string ensemble for musicians who would like an opportunity in school to hone their craft on an instrument. This course focuses on improving individual skill on the instrument as well as ensemble playing and listening. Students must have at least two years' experience on their instrument and auditions will be held to determine chair placement. This class meets twice a cycle for 3 mods each or as an Early Bird three times a cycle.

Women's Choir

This choral ensemble performs music spanning all choral periods and genres. Throughout the course of this class, students work to develop their sight-singing skills, pitch recognition, ear training, interpretive and expressive practices, and vocal ensemble techniques. The class is open to any student who enjoys singing in grades 9-12. The class is offered during the school day, twice a cycle for 3 mods each, or as a class after school every Monday and Wednesday from 3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m., so students may choose to take whichever best fits into their schedule.

