School of Music graduates are equipped with all the tools they need to transform the power of their knowledge into action. That action—teaching, performing, leading, researching, creating—makes a direct impact on the world every day.

WHY JMU MUSIC?

“The School of Music has helped me to become the leader I am today in both a musical and academic sense. I am so grateful for the many wonderful experiences I had at JMU.”

Jordan Wright (‘20)
Music Education - Viola
Lisanby Scholar

“JMU has a tradition of holding the door open for each another. Knowing that even people you’ve never met care about you just because you’re walking through the door is amazing.”

Miracle Ogbor (‘22)
Vocal Performance - D.M.A.

“I became interested in going into film music when I was 14. When I was at JMU, my teachers were supportive of that path and encouraging of everything I wanted to do.”

Evan Duffy (‘12)
Music Composition and Piano Performance
Composer - Charlie’s Angels, Crazy Rich Asians
BEING THE CHANGE

The School of Music offers a comprehensive program that strives for the highest quality in music performance, education and academic study. The B.M. curriculum includes music theory, music history, applied study, ensemble participation and concentration-specific courses. Many of our professors are widely known as concert performers, researchers, pedagogues, composers and conductors. Additionally, the School of Music seeks to provide cultural benefits for the surrounding community.

Each year, JMU music students have the opportunity to work with numerous master class professionals. Recent guest artists include Pat Metheny, Chick Corea, Denyce Graves, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and The King’s Singers. The School of Music is accredited by NASM.

16:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
ENSEMBLES

30 large and small ensembles, including:
- Brass Band
- Chamber Orchestra
- Collegium Musicum
- Jazz Ensembles and Combos
- Madison Singers and Chorale
- Marching Royal Dukes
- Monticello Strings
- Opera Theater
- Percussion Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Symphony Orchestra
- Wind Symphony

2019 North American Brass Band Association Championship Section Runner-up

PERFORMANCE

Nationally-recognized faculty, small class sizes, and state-of-the-art facilities give our performance majors the tools they need to be versatile and successful graduates.
- Private lessons with professors in all disciplines
- Music performance areas of study:
  - Brass
  - Percussion
  - Piano
  - Strings
  - Voice
  - Woodwinds

Four first-place winners at the NATS National Student Auditions since 2014

90% FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE

THE MRDs: ONE OF THE LARGEST COLLEGIATE MARCHING BANDS IN THE COUNTRY WITH 490 MEMBERS
MUSIC EDUCATION

More music educators in Virginia studied at JMU than any other college. The state-approved licensure program for K-12 music educators offers both instrumental and vocal concentrations.

- Primary, secondary and broad-based instrumental and vocal training
- Full semester of student teaching
- Specialized teaching certifications
- Music and Human Services minor

The new Center for Inclusive Music Engagement (CIME) facilitates opportunities to create, perform, respond, and connect with music.

COMPOSITION

The Composition program stresses form, harmony, counterpoint and orchestration, but also emphasizes developing a personal creative style. Students learn from recognized composers such as Libby Larsen, Augusta Read Thomas and Bright Sheng in the Contemporary Music Festival. Students also get to have their work performed by the Madison Modern Music Ensemble, a student-faculty group dedicated to new works.
The JMU Jazz program offers a comprehensive curriculum, including courses in improvisation, jazz theory and history, arranging and composition, and private lesson instruction.

Highlights of the program include:
- Study abroad program in Montreal
- Regular, local gig opportunities
- Annual JMU George West Jazz Festival
- Big band and jazz combo opportunities

The Music Industry program offers a broad course of study suiting the needs of a diverse profession.

Program graduates land a wide variety of jobs in music businesses including:
- Concert production companies
- Major and independent record labels
- Radio and television stations
- Music copyright firms
- Music business entrepreneurs
Wayland Hall, a renovated bluestone building located off the Quad, is home to a thriving arts living-learning community for first-year students. The residence hall features classrooms, practice rooms, a student gallery, an art studio, and a performance space. Students participate in a one-credit seminar class that emphasizes artists as citizen leaders.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

As the premier destination for the arts in the Shenandoah Valley, the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts houses first-class venues for curricular and educational purposes. Students have opportunities to work with nationally-recognized guest artists, and award-winning faculty and alumni. The Forbes Center encourages creative synergy between faculty and students.

- 175,000-square-foot facility in the heart of JMU’s campus
- 250 student performances each school year
- 5 modern performing arts venues:
  - 600-seat Concert Hall
  - 198-seat Recital Hall
  - 450-seat Mainstage Theatre
  - 200-seat Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre
  - 200-seat flexible, black box Studio Theatre

Visit jmuforbescenter.com for show listings.
EXPLORE JMU ARTS!

For a full schedule of recruiting events, auditions and portfolio review days, go to:

jmu.edu/arts/admissions

These photos were taken before COVID-19. Campus life looks much different during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing are steps Dukes take to support each other and the world.