

Degree Level Expectations for the Honours Bachelor Degrees
Bachelor of Music, BMus and Bachelor of Music in Performance, MusBacPerf
Faculty of Music, University of Toronto

Introduction

This document provides general criteria by means of which student expectations and achievements in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music can be measured and evaluated. The Faculty of Music fosters and encourages diverse approaches to the study of music, including music scholarship (musicology, ethnomusicology, and theory), performance, music education, and composition. Students are introduced to practical and academic music studies; the synergistic relationship between the two is central to our curricular and educational goals.

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Breadth of Knowledge

Students will be introduced to a wide variety of approaches to the study of music in its historical, theoretical, practical, pedagogical, and creative dimensions. In addition, they will take elective courses in the Faculty of Arts and Science in order to become familiar with other disciplinary fields and modes of scholarly inquiry. They will investigate how the study of music relates to other academic fields and areas of human creativity, and be asked to consider how music interacts with wider social and cultural structures. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the current state of research in and knowledge about diverse fields of music study. They will also develop the ability to apply learning from other related disciplines to the study of music.

Depth of Knowledge

Students will develop detailed knowledge of and experience in a specialized area of study within music. In addition to completing the core music curriculum, which includes music history, theory, and performance courses, students will choose a specialized program of study which will emphasize more highly developed knowledge and skills. Within their chosen program of study, students will develop the ability to locate, review, analyze, and evaluate critically information about music.

2. Knowledge of Methodologies

Depending on their area of specialization, students will be expected to understand how scholarly inquiry relates to information-based music research (e.g. musicology) and/or creative activity (e.g. composition, performance). Two examples of this might include demonstrating knowledge about how diverse performance practice theories relate to specific repertoires of music, or the ability to understand new pedagogical theories and how they might relate to specific music instruction situations.

3. Application of Knowledge

Students will be expected to be able to apply the knowledge that they acquire in novel ways and to develop both practical and speculative applications of their talents. On the practical side, students will be expected to perform outreach concerts in the community, do teaching practicums, and/or perform or compose new music, according to their own particular area of specialization. On the speculative side, students will apply existing theories in new ways or apply these theories to new repertoires. They will demonstrate the ability to make critical and imaginative use of scholarship and apply it to their own area of musical study. In short, students will develop both sound judgment and also well informed judgment about sound.

4. Communication Skills

Students will be expected to listen to, think about, create, teach, analyze, and/or perform music to a high level of ability, according to their area of specialization. They will be able to communicate their ideas about music in an engaging, well informed, and persuasive way to a variety of audiences both inside and outside of the academic environment. They will be able to do this by the spoken and written word, and/or by making music.

5. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge

Within their chosen program of study, students will develop the search skills to identify and retrieve resources for scholarly or creative work, and to locate and evaluate critically the information about music found in resources from popular journals through peer reviewed articles to web sites. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the limits to our knowledge about music. They will find that most knowledge about music is in essence provisional, as it is always subject to ongoing and unceasing review, reinterpretation, and revision. Their awareness of the limits of knowledge will inform their critical engagement with prior and existing ideas about music. It will also help them to make well informed critical judgments about newly developing paradigms in their field.

6. Autonomy and Professional Capacity

Students will demonstrate their readiness to continue to learn after the completion of their undergraduate studies. They will be adept at working co-operatively (an ability they will have refined through, among other things, participation in the Faculty's major ensembles) in a wide variety of professional and community-oriented projects. They will also be able to set ambitious goals for themselves and work independently in a sustained, productive way to achieve significant results that will benefit themselves and society at large. In all that they undertake, they will exhibit behavior that is consistent with the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, and social responsibility.