

MUSIC HISTORY MAJOR (B.MUS.) (124 CREDITS)

Offered by: Music Research (Schulich School of Music)
Degree: Bachelor of Music
Program credit weight: 124

Program Description

The Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.); Major in Music History requires 124 credits. This program focuses on the place of music in different cultural contexts, the social conditions of musicians, the evolution of performing styles, and the different ways music can project meaning and reflect identity, including the parameters of different musical styles and musical syntax. Exposure to a wide variety of repertoire in the Western classical tradition as well as to jazz and popular idioms.

Music History provides excellent preparation not only for graduate study in musicology, but also for a considerable range of professional training programs including journalism, information sciences, arts administration, and teaching.

The Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.); Major in Music History program requires 92 credits (plus 32 credits for the Freshman requirement for out-of-province students).

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Program Prerequisites - Freshman Program (32 credits)

32 credits selected as described below, in consultation with the Program Adviser:

22 credits of Prerequisite Courses

4 credits of Large Ensemble

6 credits of Non-Music Electives

Prerequisite Courses

22 credits, all of the courses below:

Note: Students who can demonstrate through auditions, placement tests or equivalencies that they have mastered the material in any of the courses below will be exempt from them and may proceed to more advanced courses.

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 186	Western Musical Traditions.	3
MUIN 180	BMus Practical Lessons 1.	3
MUIN 181	BMus Practical Lessons 2.	3
MUPD 135	Music as a Profession 1.	1
MUSP 140	Musicianship Training 1.	2

MUSP 141	Musicianship Training 2.	2
MUSP 170	Musicianship (Keyboard) 1.	1
MUSP 171	Musicianship (Keyboard) 2.	1
MUTH 150	Theory and Analysis 1.	3
MUTH 151	Theory and Analysis 2.	3

Required Courses (23 credits)

History

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Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 286	Critical Thinking About Music.	3

Theory

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Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 250	Theory and Analysis 3.	3
MUTH 251	Theory and Analysis 4.	3
MUTH 350	Theory and Analysis 5.	3

Musicianship

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Course	Title	Credits
MUSP 240	Musicianship Training 3.	2
MUSP 241	Musicianship Training 4.	2

Performance

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Course	Title	Credits
MUIN 280	BMus Practical Lessons 3.	2.5
MUIN 281	BMus Practical Lessons 4.	2.5
MUIN 283	BMus Concentration Final Examination.	1

Music Professional Development

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Course	Title	Credits
MUPD 235	Music as a Profession 2.	1

Complementary Courses (36 credits)

History

27 credits selected from Group I, II, and III, with a minimum of 6 credits from each group.

Group I

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Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 377	Baroque Opera.	3
MUHL 380	Medieval Music.	3
MUHL 381	Renaissance Music.	3
MUHL 382	Baroque Music.	3
MUHL 383	Classical Music.	3

MUHL 591D1	Paleography.	1.5
MUHL 591D2	Paleography.	1.5
MUPP 381	Topics in Performance Practice.	3
MUTH 426	Topics in Early Music Analysis.	3

Group II

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 366	The Era of the Fortepiano.	3
MUHL 384	Romantic Music.	3
MUHL 385	Early Twentieth-Century Music.	3
MUHL 387	Opera from Mozart to Puccini.	3
MUHL 388	Opera After 1900.	3
MUHL 389	Orchestral Literature.	3
MUHL 390	The German Lied.	3
MUHL 391	Canadian Music.	3
MUHL 392	Music since 1945.	3
MUHL 396	Era of the Modern Piano.	3

Group III

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Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 314	Women in Music: A Cross-Cultural Perspective.	3
MUHL 330	Music and Film.	3
MUHL 362	Popular Music.	3
MUHL 370	History of Recorded Music.	3
MUHL 375	Introduction to Ethnomusicology.	3
MUHL 393	History of Jazz.	3
MUHL 529	Proseminar in Musicology.	3
MUHL 592	Popular Music Studies.	3

Theory

3 credits from courses with a prefix of MUTH at the 200 or 300 level.

Musicianship

2 credits from:

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Course	Title	Credits
MUSP 324	Musicianship for Strings.	2
MUSP 346	Post-Tonal Musicianship.	2
MUSP 353	Musicianship for Voice.	2
MUSP 354	Introduction to Improvisation and Ornamentation.	2
MUSP 355	Musicianship for Percussion.	2
MUSP 361	Topics in Musicianship.	2
MUSP 363	Topics in Global Musicianship.	2
MUSP 381	Singing Renaissance Notation.	2

Performance

Basic Ensemble

4 credits from:

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Course	Title	Credits
MUEN 563	Jazz Vocal Workshop.	2
MUEN 572	Cappella Antica.	2
MUEN 573	Baroque Orchestra.	2
MUEN 587	Cappella McGill.	2
MUEN 590	McGill Wind Orchestra.	2
MUEN 592	Chamber Jazz Ensemble.	2
MUEN 593	Choral Ensembles.	2
MUEN 594	Contemporary Music Ensemble.	2
MUEN 595	Jazz Ensembles.	2
MUEN 597	McGill Symphony Orchestra.	2

Elective Courses (33 credits)

9 credits of non-Music courses.

24 credits of courses to be chosen freely (excluding those with MUAR prefix)