

PERFORMANCE (ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS) MAJOR (B.MUS.) (125 CREDITS)

Offered by: Performance (Schulich School of Music)

Degree: Bachelor of Music

Program credit weight: 125

Program Description

The Bachelor of Music; Major Performance (Orchestral Instruments) program provides comprehensive training in the practical and theoretical elements of music. Throughout the program, students receive individual instruction, participate in chamber music and other small ensembles, and perform in large ensembles such as the McGill Symphony Orchestra, Contemporary Music Ensemble, and Wind Orchestra.

The Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) - Major Performance (Orchestral Instruments) program requires 91 credits (plus 34 credits for the Freshman requirement for out-of-province students).

Special Requirements

1. Continuation in the program requires a minimum grade of B- in practical instruction/exams and ensembles.
2. Students majoring in violin, viola, or cello must commence basic ensemble training with two terms of MUEN 565 String Quartet Seminar.

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 (34 credits)

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

22 credits of Prerequisite Courses

2 credits of Assigned Small Ensemble

4 credits of Large Ensemble

6 credits of Non-Music Electives

Prerequisite Courses

22 credits, all of the courses below:

Note: Applicants who can demonstrate through auditions and placement tests 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 (35 credits)

Performance

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUIN 280	BMus Practical Lessons 3.	2.5
MUIN 281	BMus Practical Lessons 4.	2.5
MUIN 282	BMus Performance Examination 1.	1
MUIN 380	BMus Practical Lessons 5.	2.5
MUIN 381	BMus Practical Lessons 6.	2.5
MUIN 382	BMus Performance Examination 2.	1
MUIN 480	BMus Practical Lessons 7.	2
MUIN 481	BMus Practical Lessons 8.	2
MUIN 482	BMus Performance Examination 3.	2

Theory

Expand allContract all

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

Expand allContract all

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

Music History

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 286	Critical Thinking About Music.	3

Professional Development

Expand allContract all

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

Complementary Courses (33 credits)

Performance

12 credits (2 credits per term; as assigned by audition) from Large ensembles:

¹ All ensemble courses under MUEN may be taken in multiple terms.

Expand all	Contract all
Course	TitleCredits
MUEN 563	Jazz Vocal Workshop.2
MUEN 565	String Quartet Seminar.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

¹ 4 credits (1 credit per term; as assigned by audition) from small ensembles:

¹ All ensemble courses under MUEN may be taken in multiple terms.

Expand all	Contract all
Course	TitleCredits
MUEN 540	Chamber Music Project 1.0.5
MUEN 541	Chamber Music Project 2.0.5
MUEN 560	Chamber Music Ensemble.1
MUEN 569	Tabla Ensemble.1
MUEN 580	Early Music Ensemble.1
MUEN 598	Percussion Ensembles.1

9 credits chosen from:

MUEN courses at the 400 or 500 level (maximum of 4 credits)

Expand all	Contract all
Course	TitleCredits
MUIN 269	Classical Concerto Exam.1
MUPG 229	Traditional Drumming 1: Rudiments.1
MUPG 300	Music Performance Strategies.3
MUPG 325	Improvisation for String Players.2
MUPG 326	Introduction to String Pedagogy.2
MUPG 328	Introduction to Percussion Pedagogy.1
MUPG 329	Traditional Drumming 2: Hand Drumming.1
MUPG 331	Introduction to Woodwind Pedagogy.2
MUPG 336	Introduction to Brass Pedagogy.2
MUPG 410	Violin Orchestral Excerpts.1

MUPG 411	Viola Orchestral Excerpts.1
MUPG 412	Cello Orchestral Excerpts.1
MUPG 413	Double Bass Orchestral Excerpts.1
MUPG 414	Woodwinds Orchestral Excerpts.1
MUPG 415	Brass Orchestral Excerpts.1
MUPG 416	Percussion Orchestral Excerpts.1
MUPG 425	Extended Techniques - Strings.2
MUPG 429	Percussion Seminar.2
MUPG 431	Extended Techniques - Woodwinds.2
MUPG 435	Extended Techniques - Brass.2
MUPG 473	Special Project in Performance.1
MUPG 474	Special Project in Performance.2
MUPG 571	Free Improvisation 1.1
MUPG 572D1	Free Improvisation 2.0.5
MUPG 572D2	Free Improvisation 2.0.5

(Percussionists must include MUEN 569 Tabla Ensemble., MUPG 328 Introduction to Percussion Pedagogy., MUPG 329 Traditional Drumming 2: Hand Drumming.)

Musicianship

2 credits from:

Expand all	Contract all
Course	TitleCredits
MUSP 324	Musicianship for Strings.2
MUSP 346	Post-Tonal Musicianship.2
MUSP 355	Musicianship for Percussion.2
MUSP 361	Topics in Musicianship.2
MUSP 363	Topics in Global Musicianship.2

Music History/Literature/Performance Practice

6 credits of courses with a MUHL or MUPP prefix

Percussionists must include:

Expand all	Contract all
Course	TitleCredits
MUHL 392	Music since 1945.3

Elective Courses (23 credits)

3 credits of non-Music Electives

20 credits of Free Electives (may include 2 credits of courses with a MUEN prefix)