

Music is the cornerstone of a liberal arts education and at Virginia Wesleyan, creativity is developed through a nurturing student-focused approach. Students are guided by nationally recognized faculty who are exceptional teachers and gifted artists. A well-rounded liberal arts curriculum ensures that students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed after graduation.

THE PROGRAM

The music department at VWU offers students an opportunity to explore, practice, and celebrate the musician's art in a program that unites artistic standards with the academic breadth of the liberal arts in an atmosphere of free, creative, and critical inquiry. A program of study is provided that educates its learners in a way that enables them to appreciate as well as critically articulate their responses to this important part of our culture.

VWU is dedicated to sharing its musical resources with the entire campus. Private instruction, choral ensembles, and instrumental ensemble participation is available to everyone, whether beginner or advanced, regardless of major. The department also offers the Virginia Wesleyan University Concert Series, and a non-credit certificate program through the Center for Sacred Music, which includes an annual summer conference.

THE MAJOR

Virginia Wesleyan offers a Bachelor of Arts in Music with an optional emphasis in Applied Music. Students who complete a degree with an emphasis in Applied Vocal Music can also complete the courses necessary for certification in K-12 Choral/Vocal Music Education. The curriculum can help prepare students for careers in private music studio, public school teaching, church music, music merchandising, arts management, music librarianship, or graduate studies in music or humanities.

THE COURSES

Classes at VWU are small and interactive. Courses within the music program include applied music lessons (that are available to both majors and non-majors), choral and instrumental ensembles (available to both majors and non-majors), as well as courses in musicianship and music literature.

INTERNSHIPS/UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Music majors present a formal recital or write a historical or critical thesis in their senior year, which is the culminating experience for the student. Using music selected from each major historical period, they demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge gleaned from their studies to their performances or investigations of the chosen repertoire. Students who are interested can also complete internships in church music, music management, or with one of the many non-profit arts organizations in the Tidewater area.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The music major at Virginia Wesleyan University will prepare students for a variety of careers in music. Music majors and minors are prepared to become professional musicians, educators, arts managers, and church musicians. Alumni of the department have careers as performers, church musicians, and in vocal music education. Students can also prepare for careers in music business and arts management, or go on to graduate school in musicology, music therapy, or performance.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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