

# Music and Music Education

*Musical talent is a special gift, but students contemplating higher education sometimes ask if it's a practical field of study. At St. Ambrose, the Music Department believes that you don't have to choose between financial success and your love of music. With the right education and guidance, you can have both.*

## Degrees offered and required hours

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Music and a Bachelor of Music Education. A minor also is offered in Music.

The Music major requires participation in major ensemble, instrument technique, foreign language, a piano proficiency exam, and a recital in the applied major during the senior year.

The Music Education major requires credit hours depending on choice of general-vocal or instrumental focus. Requirements include participation in major ensemble, 2 credit hours of technique for piano, advanced sight-singing and ear training or successful completion of a sight singing/ear training exam, a piano proficiency exam, and a public recital in the applied music major during the senior year.

See our course catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog) for a full description of required and elective courses.

## Program highlights and courses

Music students receive a comprehensive education in their field, including study in music theory, conducting, music education, music history and literature, musical theatre, liturgical music, and all areas of applied performance studies. Students also specialize in piano, organ, guitar, voice, or an orchestral instrument.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Music is tailored to students who intend to continue their studies in graduate school, pursue a music-related career, or perform professionally. Within this program, students are encouraged to develop individualized fields of study. Professors and students work together to design programs in any number of specialized areas, including liturgical music, music business, music therapy, and arts management.

The Bachelor of Music Education degree prepares students to teach band, orchestra, chorus, and general music in grades K–12. Music Education students work one-on-one with faculty ensemble directors, and they also conduct public performances—opportunities not available at many schools.

## Contact us

Keith Haan, Department Chair  
 HaanKeithA@sau.edu  
 563/333-6146  
 St. Ambrose University  
 518 West Locust Street  
 Davenport, Iowa 52803  
 Visit the Music Department  
 Web site at [www.sau.edu/music](http://www.sau.edu/music)  
 For general information about  
 St. Ambrose or how to apply:  
 Admissions Office  
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627  
 email: [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Performance opportunities and resources

The Music Department has a variety of audition and non-audition ensembles to join throughout the year, for both majors and non-majors. They perform in a variety of settings, from informal weekly performance classes to concerts on- and off-campus and on tours.

Non-audition groups include the Symphonic Band, University Chorale and St. Ambrose Community Orchestra. The Symphonic Band is the primary instrumental concert group at St. Ambrose. It is open to students of all majors, and the group gives several concerts throughout the year. The University Chorale is a mixed choral group comprised of students from all majors who perform a wide variety of music from many stylistic and historical periods. The St. Ambrose Community Orchestra provides an opportunity for SAU students and community members to play music from a rich and varied orchestral repertoire.

A few ensembles do require an audition for admittance into the group. The Jazz Combos explore a wide variety of jazz and jazz-influenced styles. STAMVOJA, the

St. Ambrose Vocal Jazz ensemble, is an a cappella group that sings a variety of bee-bop, pop and jazz arrangements. Chamber Singers is an ensemble of approximately 12 singers who perform a spectrum of music from the Renaissance to Broadway.

One full wing of the Galvin Fine Arts Center is devoted to Music Department activities, including classrooms, rehearsal space, faculty offices, and practice rooms. A newly furnished state-of-the-art MIDI computer lab is in constant demand as both an educational and composition tool.

Other facilities in the Galvin Center include Allaert Auditorium, with a seating capacity of more than 1200, and Madsen Hall, which serves as a recital and performance hall for vocalists and instrumentalists alike.

## Financial assistance

St. Ambrose has many financial aid opportunities for students with special talents in music. In addition to need-based financial-aid packages, the Music Department has scholarship funds available for both music majors and qualified non-majors. Music scholarships range up to \$3,000 per year for non-majors, and up to \$6,000 per year for Music majors. Awards are fully renewable every year until graduation. Scholarship candidates must make an appointment to audition with Prof. Gene Bechen.

It is expected that scholarship students study at least two semesters with a St. Ambrose faculty member on their instrument/voice and are enrolled in the major ensemble of their discipline (Symphonic Band, University Chorale or the Community Orchestra).

See the Music Web site at [www.sau.edu/music](http://www.sau.edu/music) for specific audition details.

## What can you do with a Music degree?

Many career paths are open to students who wish to work in music. By combining your musical talents with a background in education, business, communications or performance, music graduates find success in a wide variety of fields.

Teaching music at the elementary and high school levels is an excellent way to enjoy a financially sound, rewarding career in the field of music. Just ask Ted Reicher '85, Davenport Central High School Band Director. In 2001, he took the first Iowa high school band since 1981 to the prestigious Bands of America Grand National Championship.

A high percentage of St. Ambrose students choose to attend graduate school and have been accepted at such highly acclaimed music programs as Indiana University and the University of North Texas.

Music graduates also are employed as:

- Instrumental music director, Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa. Graduated in 1980.
- President, the Dallas School of Music, Dallas, Texas. Graduated in 1983.
- Broadway actor, New York, N.Y. Graduated in 1983.
- Music teacher, Southeast Webster Community Schools, Dayton, Iowa. Graduated in 1998.

## About the faculty

**Eugene Bechen** PhD, Assistant Professor

[BechenEugeneF@sau.edu](mailto:BechenEugeneF@sau.edu)

As Director of Bands, Prof. Bechen teaches instrumental music education courses and directs the St. Ambrose Symphonic Band and Jazz Combos. He holds a master's degree in music education from the University of Iowa, where he also earned his PhD in the same area of study. He began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2004.

**William Campbell** PhD, Assistant Professor

[CampbellWilliamG@sau.edu](mailto:CampbellWilliamG@sau.edu)

Teaches music theory courses including Harmony, Ear Training, Counterpoint, Form and Analysis, and Composition. Prof. Campbell earned a PhD in music composition and theory from the University of Oregon, and also holds a master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 2005.

**Keith Haan** PhD, Associate Professor and Department Chair

[HaanKeithA@sau.edu](mailto:HaanKeithA@sau.edu)

Teaches Applied Voice, Choral Conducting and music education courses, in addition to directing the Chorale and Chamber Singers. He received his doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 1999.

**Joan Trapp** DMA, Professor

[TrappJoanM@sau.edu](mailto:TrappJoanM@sau.edu)

Teaches Piano; Music History and Literature; and World Music. She received her doctorate from the University of Iowa in 1978. She regularly performs in the bi-state region, twice as a soloist with the Quad-City Wind Ensemble. Prof. Trapp joined the Music Department faculty in 1974.

The music department also has many adjunct faculty who are highly regarded musicians in their own right, including Marti Dunn-Hall (voice and vocal jazz), Judy Hyland (piano), Deborah Sanborne (organ, piano, music history and literature), and Michael VanEchoute (guitar).