BACHELOR OF MUSIC: SACRED MUSIC

Program Overview

Students who choose to major in sacred music at Westminster have access to education of the highest quality and broadest scope. The major brings together students from all faiths and interests and seeks to explore the excellence of various traditions of sacred music. Faculty members have wide experience and expertise in such traditions as Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Roman Catholic, the Synagogue and Temple tradition, and others.

Undergirding the sacred music program are the offerings of the other Westminster academic and performance departments, the specialized collections containing sacred music materials in Talbott Library, and the vast network of affiliated churches in the greater New York-Philadelphia metropolitan area in which Westminster students gain personal experience in a wide range of sacred music practice.

Curriculum Overview

The curriculum aims, on the one hand, to explore how familiar tradition can be blended with unfamiliar contemporary creativity in choral, congregational, and instrumental music for worship; and, on the other hand, to provide a balanced study of theoretical matters and practical concerns. Technique, repertoire, and performance practice are therefore considered with theology, biblical and post-biblical religious history, and the development and practice of liturgy and worship.

Sacred Music Lab provides an opportunity for students to experience a wide variety of denominational traditions and worship styles. In this context students are immersed in extensive congregational, choral, vocal, organ and instrumental works, which comprise the basic corpus of sacred repertoire. New trends in theology, hynmody and composition are also explored through practical and creative liturgies.

Degree Offered

• B.M. in Sacred Music

Contact

Amanda Quist, D.M.A.
Associate Professor and Chairperson
Williamson Hall 43
609-921-7100, ext. 8244
aquist@rider.edu (joemiller@rider.edu)

Program Website: www.rider.edu/wcc/undergraduate-programs/sacred-music (http://www.rider.edu/wcc/undergraduate-programs/sacred-music)

Associated Department: Department of Conducting, Organ and Sacred Music (http://www.rider.edu/faculty/amanda-quist)

Related Programs

• Organ Performance (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/undergraduate-programs/bm-music-organ-performance)
• Music Education (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/undergraduate-programs/bm-music-education)

Additional Opportunities

A reciprocal arrangement with Princeton Theological Seminary allows Westminster graduate students to take certain courses offered by the Seminary. Enrollment in such courses is arranged after consultation with Sacred Music faculty. Speer Library at the Seminary, housing one of the nation’s most important theological collections, is another invaluable resource for Westminster students.

Faculty

Steve Pilkington • Associate Professor, Sacred Music, and Director of Chapel, 1992. B.A., St. Olaf College; M.M., University of Illinois; Ph.D., Drew University.
Amanda Quist • Associate Professor and Chair, Conducting, 2010. B.M., Western Michigan University; M.M., Western Michigan University; D.M.A., University of North Texas.

Sacred Music Program Requirements

Learn more about General Undergraduate Requirements. (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/undergraduate-programs/general-requirements)

Code   Title      Credits

Choirs and Conducting
CR 109 Chapel Choir (2 terms) 2
CR 209 Schola Cantorum (2 terms) 2
CR 509 Symphonic Choir (4 terms) 4
CR 215 Fundamentals of Conducting 3
CR 315 Techniques of Conducting 3

Applied Music and Diction
Select one primary from Organ, Piano or Voice
OR 101A Organ Primary (2 terms) 4
or Pl 101A Piano Primary
or VC 101A Voice Primary
OR 201A Organ Primary (2 terms) 4
or Pl 201A Piano Primary
or VC 201A Voice Primary
OR 301A Organ Primary (2 terms) 4
or Pl 301A Piano Primary
or VC 301A Voice Primary
OR 401A Organ Primary (2 terms) 4
or Pl 401A Piano Primary
or VC 401A Voice Primary
Voice or Piano secondary (4 terms) 4
VC 115 English & Italian Diction 2
Bachelor of Music: Sacred Music

VC 116  French & German Diction 2

Theory and Music History
TH 141  Musicianship I 12
& TH 142  and Musicianship II
& TH 241  and Musicianship III
TH 342  Contemporary Trends 3
Theory level I elective 3
Theory level II elective 3
MH 247  Music Historiography I 6
& MH 248  and Music Historiography II (2 courses)
MH 345  Music Since 1900 3
Music History elective 3

Professional Studies
SM 121  Survey of Sacred Music Lit 3
SM 122  Worship and Theology 3
SM 142  Intro to Music Ministry 2
SM 158  Intro Handbell Leadership 1
SM 360  History of American CM 3
SM 510  Choral Music for Adult Choirs 2
SM 511  Sacred Music Lab (8 terms) 0
SM 512  Choral Music for Children/Youth 2

Concentration 8

Select one of the following concentrations:

Organ (In order to be considered for this concentration, you must audition and be accepted by the Organ area.)

OR 590  Accompanying at the Organ (2 credits)
PI 101B  Piano Primary (2 terms, 1 credit each)
SM 365  Sacred Sounds (2 credits)
or SM 250  Contemporary Worship
SM 491  SM Internship (2 terms, 1 credit each)

Bells (In order to be considered for this concentration, you must audition and be selected for Concert Handbell Choir I.)

SM 365  Sacred Sounds (2 credits)
or SM 250  Contemporary Worship
SM 491  SM Internship (2 terms, 1 credit each)
SM 519  Concert Handbell Choir I (4 terms, 1 credit each)

Urban Church (In order to be considered for this concentration, you must audition and be selected for Jubilee Singers.)

SM 250  Contemporary Worship (2 credits)
SM 491  SM Internship (2 terms, 1 credit each)
SM 509  Jubilee Singers (4 terms, 1 credit each)

Children's & Youth Music
SM 365  Sacred Sounds (2 credits)
or SM 250  Contemporary Worship
SM 491  SM Internship (3 terms, 1 credit each)
ME 540  Choir Train for Young Singers (3 credits)
or ME 591  Choral Music Grades 5-12

Adult Conducting
SM 365  Sacred Sounds (2 credits)
or SM 250  Contemporary Worship
SM 491  SM Internship (3 terms, 1 credit each)
CR 524  Vocal Techniques for Choirs (3 credits)
or CR 505  Advanced Conducting

Cantor/Early Music (In order to be considered for this concentration, you must audition and be selected for Kantorei).

SM 365  Sacred Sounds (2 credits)
SM 491  SM Internship (2 terms, 1 credit each)
CR 515  Westminster Kantorei (4 terms, 1 credit each)

Arts and Sciences
LL 131  English Composition 3
Foreign Language I/II (2 courses) 6
Biblical Studies elective 3
Social/Behavioral/Natural Science elective 3
History elective 3
Arts & Sciences electives (2 courses) 6

Free Electives
Free Electives 6
Total Credits 125

Notes
1 Non-voice primary students may substitute two credits of free electives for VC 116.
2 Attendance is required of all undergraduate Sacred Music majors at weekly Lab meetings during every semester of enrollment, up to a total of 8 semesters for SM 511 Sacred Music Lab.
3 Completion of French, German, Italian, Latin, or Spanish II is required. If students are exempted from one or more semesters of foreign language study, they must replace the missing credits with other Arts & Sciences electives.

Academic Plan of Study

The following educational plan is provided as a sample only. Rider students who do not declare a major during their freshman year; who change their major; or those who transfer to Rider may follow a different plan to ensure a timely graduation. Each student, with guidance from his or her academic advisor, will develop a personalized educational plan.

Year 1

Fall Semester

CR 109  Chapel Choir 1
OR 101A  Organ Primary 2
or PI 101A  or Piano Primary
or VC 101A  or Voice Primary
PI 103  Piano Secondary I 1
or VC 103  or Voice Secondary
TH 141  Musicianship I 4
SM 142  Intro to Music Ministry 2
SM 511  Sacred Music Lab 0
LL 131  English Composition 3
Foreign Language I 3

Semester Credit Hours 16

Spring Semester

CR 109  Chapel Choir 1
OR 101A  Organ Primary 2
or PI 101A  or Piano Primary
or VC 101A  or Voice Primary
PI 104  Piano Secondary II 1
or VC 103  or Voice Secondary
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<td>SM 121</td>
<td>Survey of Sacred Music Lit</td>
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<td>TH 142</td>
<td>Musicianship II</td>
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| Semester Credit Hours | 16 |

**Year 2**

**Fall Semester**

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<td>Worship and Theology</td>
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| Semester Credit Hours | 17 |

**Spring Semester**

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<td>SM 158</td>
<td>Intro Handbell Leadership</td>
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<td>CR 215</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Conducting</td>
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<td>TH 342</td>
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| Semester Credit Hours | 17 |

**Year 3**

**Fall Semester**

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| Semester Credit Hours | 16 |

**Spring Semester**

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<td>SM 511</td>
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<td>SM 512</td>
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| Semester Credit Hours | 15 |

**Year 4**

**Fall Semester**

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<td>SM 360</td>
<td>History of American CM</td>
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| Semester Credit Hours | 13 |

**Spring Semester**

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| Semester Credit Hours | 13 |

| Total Credits | 123 |

**Courses and Descriptions**

**SM 121 Survey of Sacred Music Lit 3 Credits**

Broad survey of Christian music. Through standard repertoire, major historical genres of sacred music are explored from biblical roots in the Old and New Testament to the postmodern expressions of our time.

**SM 122 Worship and Theology 3 Credits**

A study of the content, theology, and history of the Old and New Testament narratives that the church recounts and celebrates in its liturgical year.

**SM 142 Intro to Music Ministry 2 Credits**

An introduction to the vocational needs, professional relationships, administration styles and teaching roles of the church musician. In addition to an overview of professional standards, emphasis will also be placed on music engraving skills, budgeting, recruitment, endowments and fundraising.

**SM 158 Intro Handbell Leadership 1 Credits**

A hands-on course providing a strong foundation for the beginning director/ringer. It will include information about ringing instruments, maintenance, ringing and damping techniques, articulations, part assignments, a survey of handbell literature, and rehearsal planning and directing.
SM 250 Contemporary Worship 2 Credits
This course is an exploration of the various forms of worship being practiced in urban churches across America. Practical and skill-based, it is designed to allow the student to explore praise and worship music, different styles of gospel, and other forms of music used in non-traditional worship.

SM 340 Church Field Education 1 Credits
A practical program in which students take responsibility for the music program of an assigned affiliate church. Under supervision, students exercise the skills and concepts learned in the classroom. Enrolled students also meet in a weekly preceptorial. Sacred Music majors must take two consecutive semesters, normally in the junior year.
Prerequisite(s): SM 121, SM 122.

SM 354 Hymnody & Psalmody 3 Credits
A study of the origins and development of Christian song. The first part of the course deals with the nature of the Psalms in their Biblical setting and their use in the worship of different traditions. The second part of the course deals with the history of congregational hymnody - texts, tunes, styles and functions - from the 16th century to the present. The course aims to develop an awareness of the textual and musical treasures available for both congregational and choral use.

SM 360 History of American CM 3 Credits
A broad survey of American church music beginning with colonial psalm-singing and continuing through four centuries of musical development leading up to and including the vast panorama musical practices found in post-modern Christianity. A special emphasis will be placed on the development and influence of African-American church music on contemporary musical practices. Prerequisite(s): SM 121.

SM 410 African Amer Choral Lit 3 Credits
This course is designed to give students a better understanding of the choral literature, historical context and text analysis of African American composers.

SM 454 German Church Music 3 Credits
A study of church choral literature by German composers from the 16th century to the present focusing on the pre-Bach and post-Bach cantata. Class performances of selected works. Complements SM 455. Offered in rotation with other Sacred Music electives.

SM 455 Bach Cantatas 3 Credits

SM 490 Independent Research and Study 1-4 Credits
Students may pursue a special topic for which they have prepared through prior course work. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester. The project may involve 1-4 credit hours. Students may count up to a maximum of 18 independent study hours toward graduation. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and dean required prior to the first day of the semester in which the project is to be completed. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required.
Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing.

SM 491 SM Internship 1 Credits
A practical program in which students take responsibility for the music program of a local church or work as an intern in an assigned affiliate church. Under faculty supervision, students exercise the skills and concepts learned in the classroom. Enrolled students also meet in a weekly preceptorial. Sacred music majors must take two consecutive semesters, normally in the junior year.
Prerequisite(s): CR 215.

SM 509 Jubilee Singers 1 Credits
This auditioned ensemble is devoted to the performance of sacred music from the African-American tradition.

SM 510 Conducting Adult Church Choirs: Pedagogy and Management 2 Credits
A practical, skill-based course devoted to the building and maintenance of church music programs serving adults.

SM 511 Sacred Music Lab 0 Credits
Series of classes that addresses a variety of experiences in Sacred Music while rotating principal themes and ideas. Student preparation of monthly worship services will put studied concepts into practice.

SM 512 Conducting Children and Youth Church Choirs: Pedagogy and Management 2 Credits
A practical, skill-based course devoted to the building and maintenance of church music programs serving children and youth.

SM 517 Concert Handbell Choir II 1 Credits
Open to students who have had previous handbell experience. Intermediate to advanced repertoire, with opportunities for concert performance.

SM 519 Concert Handbell Choir I 1 Credits
A choir selected by audition from the most experienced and capable bell ringers among the student body at large. This ensemble utilizes advanced repertoire and techniques, aiming primarily at presenting concerts both on and off campus, including a two-week annual tour.

SM 525 Conductors' Repertoire Ensemble 1 Credits
An auditioned chamber ensemble, offered every semester, which provides conducting podium time and coaching to all interested members. It additionally serves the conducting needs of graduate Sacred Music majors.
Prerequisite(s): CR 215 or permission of instructor.

SM 531 Colloquium in Sacred Music 2 Credits
A lecture series/colloquium intended to address a wide variety of concerns in the field of Sacred Music while rotating principal themes and ideas.

SM 541 Conducting Church Choirs: Ped & Mgt 3 Credits
A practical course devoted to the building and maintenance of church music programs serving persons of all ages.

SM 610 Foundations of Music Ministry 2 Credits
This graduate level course surveys the vocational needs, professional relationships, administrative styles, and teaching roles of the practicing church musician. In addition to an overview of professional standards, emphasis will also be placed on music engraving skills (music notation software), budgeting, recruitment, endowments and fundraising.

SM 621 Oratorio Solo Literature 3 Credits
A performance course surveying solo and ensemble portions of oratorios, masses, passions and cantatas from the early Baroque period to the present, with emphasis on appropriate performance techniques for stylistic integrity. Offered in rotation with other Sacred Music electives. 3 Credit hours.
SM 624 Choral Music for Children 1 Credits
This course is designed to acquaint the church choral director with repertoire suitable for use with children's and youth choirs. Representative repertoire from all periods of music will be discussed and analyzed. Focus will be on repertoire that can be used during special services throughout the liturgical church year.

SM 625 Choral Music for Adults 1 Credits
This course is designed to acquaint the church choral director with repertoire suitable for use with adult choirs and adult ensembles. Representative repertoire from all periods of music will be discussed and analyzed. Focus will be on repertoire that can be used during special services throughout the liturgical church year.

SM 630 Conducting Coaching 1-2 Credits
Structured preparation and faculty coaching of the culminating choral recital in the graduate Sacred Music curriculum.

SM 631 Worship Planning/21st Cent. 3 Credits
Designed to facilitate the planning of worship, this practical course will be an immersion in the musical and theological materials available to those who create worship.

SM 632 Collaborative Prep for Worship 1 Credits
Through seminars, readings and common participation in chapel services, Westminster Choir College and Princeton Theological Seminary students will explore models for pastors and church musicians to prepare collaboratively for worship.

SM 635 Choir Training For Children/Youth 3 Credits
A practical course designed to teach students how to organize and direct a comprehensive music program from preschool through high school in the church setting. The course focuses on teaching excellent vocal techniques for each level as well as appropriate music skill development. Other areas of focus include: musical readiness skills; working with preschool singers; understanding the child's voice; the changing voice; and appropriate repertoire for all ages.

SM 640 Liturgies 3 Credits
A study of the origins of liturgy, its development in the main Christian traditions, and its relation to ecclesiastical history, with particular attention given to the differing styles and traditions of liturgical music. Contemporary liturgies are viewed against this historical background.

SM 641 Hymnology 3 Credits
A study of the origins and development of Christian hymnody, with reference to the theological emphases of various periods from the beginnings to the present, aiming to arouse interest in the textual and musical content of hymns and in their effective use in worship.

SM 654 German Church Music 3 Credits
A study of church choral literature by German composers from the 16th century to the present focusing on the pre-Bach and post-Bach cantata. Class performances of selected works. Complements SM 655. Offered in rotation with other Sacred Music electives.

SM 655 Bach Cantatas 3 Credits
A study of the history, performance practices, and liturgical setting of the cantatas of J.S. Bach. Class performances of selected cantatas.

SM 690 Independent Study and Research 1-3 Credits
Students may pursue a special topic for which they have prepared through prior course work. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester. The project may involve 1-3 credit hours. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and dean required prior to the first day of the semester in which the project is to be completed. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 required.
Prerequisite(s): graduate standing.

SM 710 Panorama of Sacred Music 3 Credits
This graduate-level course is a one-semester survey of those masterworks and significant musical movements that have shaped the evolution of Western Sacred Music. Beginning with the Old Testament, this course will move through all eras, highlighting important composers and liturgical trends, placing them in their appropriate cultural and theological contexts.

SM 712 Hist of Sacred Music I 3 Credits
Study and research into the history of Western Christian music and its most important genres beginning with the Old Testament and continuing until the death of J.S. Bach in 1750.

SM 713 Hist of Sacred Music II 3 Credits
Continuation of SM 712, beginning with the Classical Viennese Mass and continuing until today. Emphasis on the development of the American church and its worship music.

SM 722 Theology, Liturgy & Worship 3 Credits
A detailed study of the Bible. Principal thematic and narrative elements are correlated to the development of the church's historic liturgies and the theological principles behind them.