University of Southern California
Thornton School of Music
Bachelor of Music in Popular Music Performance

Program Learning Objectives

Popular Music Performance (B.M.)

The Bachelor of Music in Popular Music Performance is a professional degree designed for students wishing to become uniquely qualified musicians of advanced skill who are comfortable in a variety of professional popular music environments and who will successfully compete as leaders and innovators in the global music industry and in a changing music market place. Upon completion of the Bachelor of Music program in Popular Music Performance, students will:

a. demonstrate achievement of professional, entry-level competence in their chosen instrument or voice;
b. demonstrate professional entry-level songwriting, production and ensemble leadership skills;
c. demonstrate an understanding of the musical/industry aspects, traditions and current trends of popular music – particularly American popular music;
d. be able to leverage creativity, artistry, industry knowledge and entrepreneurial skills in the creation of performance careers;
e. demonstrate practical knowledge of music production, arranging, musical direction, music licensing, music administration and teaching;
f. be able to transfer musical skills to non-music related careers;
g. be able to communicate to professionals and lay persons musical ideas, concepts, and requirements related to the practice of their major field through musical, oral, written and visual means;
h. demonstrate an advanced level of musicianship and a broad knowledge of musical elements, structure, repertories, and contexts;
i. be able to work as a leader and in collaboration in areas of musical interpretation and performance;
j. have an understanding of the societal impact of music and the ethical responsibility of a professional musician;