University of Southern California

Thornton School of Music

Master of Music in Community Music

Program Learning Objectives

Community Music (M.M.)

The Master of Music in Community Music is for musicians with a commitment to developing the necessary skills and best understandings of music teaching and learning in community settings. With the wide range of courses available, the program can be tailored for a variety of student goals. This degree provides an academic link to the rich music learning opportunities available through community programs in urban Los Angeles and, in particular, to the Thornton Community Engagement Programs. Upon completion students will:

a. build upon music preparation from the undergraduate level with course work designed to nurture skills in community music teaching, program development, professional practice, scholarship and research
b. be able to meet the growing demand for musician-educators working in community settings
c. will gain skills and experience to function in a variety of community roles: as teachers, teaching artists, and facilitators and administrators who guide the music-making of others
University of Southern California

Thornton School of Music

Master of Music or Doctor of Musical Arts in Teaching and Learning

Program Learning Objectives

Teaching and Learning (M.M.) or (D.M.A.)

The goal of the graduate degrees in Teaching and Learning is to prepare the student for an advanced level of pre-college teaching and leadership in the music education profession by developing core knowledge and expertise in pedagogical skills and scholarship. The degrees have been designed to extend beyond the public-school setting and prepare students for collegiate teaching in both traditional and alternative settings (such as community-based and online programs). Upon completion students will:

a. learn techniques to teach with cutting-edge technological tools
b. develop core knowledge and expertise in pedagogical skills and scholarship
c. will acquire writing and design skills for a wide range of multimedia publications, while being able to pursue a choice of research activities or advanced creative work that will enable them to lead our profession to new heights

Doctor of Musical Arts

This degree represents the highest level of expertise in a major field of musical practice and competence in several additional areas. Students choose an academic field from among Musicology, Theory and Analysis, Music Teaching and Learning, Choral Music or Sacred Music in addition to two elective fields to complement their major field of Music Teaching and Learning. In addition to the objectives above, graduates will also:

a. gain the pedagogical tools to teach at the collegiate level in their chosen specialty;
b. gain cross-disciplinary knowledge to teach introductory collegiate courses in their academic field;
c. develop a comprehensive knowledge of and ability to communicate about the broader music field through the lens of their chosen specialty.