

University of Southern California

Thornton School of Music

Master of Arts and Doctor of Musical Arts in Early Music Performance

Program Learning Objectives

Early Music Performance (M.A.) and (D.M.A.)

The graduate degrees in early music performance prepare students for a dynamic range of careers, including solo and ensemble performance, research and writing, program planning, preparation of performing editions and historically-informed arrangements, and ensemble direction and teaching. Through seminars, lectures, and performance ensembles, early music students perfect the craft and culture of the style, immersing students in all facets of the profession and ensuring that graduates possess ample knowledge and expertise to launch their own careers in early music anywhere in the world. Upon completion students will:

- a. master early music performance practice through weekly rehearsals, 4-6 ensemble programs per year, and collaborative student recitals;
- b. learn about historical improvisation, notation, and composition through hands-on practice;
- c. take courses in performance practice topics and musicology and pursue individual research;
- d. take advantage of the larger Thornton network to perform in Los Angeles's professional early music community.
- e. acquire teaching skills through teaching assistantships and course preparation alongside experienced music educators;
- f. interact with and learn from international experts who travel to USC to conduct lectures, masterclasses, or serve as artists in residence;
- g. create awareness of the societal impact of music and the ethical responsibility of a professional musician;
- h. have the practical, technical and historical knowledge to communicate their values and understanding of music to the world at large

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 Early Music. In addition to the objectives above, graduates will also:

- a. gain the pedagogical tools to teach at the collegiate level in their chosen instrument and specialty;

- b. gain cross-disciplinary knowledge to teach introductory collegiate courses in their academic field;
- c. demonstrate achievement of extraordinary professional competence in their chosen instrument or voice, and develop a unique artistic/intellectual voice;
- d. develop a comprehensive knowledge of and ability to communicate about the broader music field through the lens of their chosen specialty.