

University of Southern California

Thornton School of Music

Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts

Program Learning Objectives

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

In Bassoon, Clarinet, Classical Guitar, Double Bass, Flute, French Horn, Harp, Keyboard Collaborative Arts, Oboe, Organ, Percussion, Piano, Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Tuba, Viola, Violin, Violoncello, Vocal Arts.

The graduate degrees in Performance are designed to heighten and further the skills of students who hold a Bachelor of Music degree or equivalent in performance. It is designed at its core to improve their technical skills, increase their knowledge of the solo repertoire, broaden and deepen their understanding of how research illuminates performance, how the music they play fits into its historical context, how classical music is important to current society, to help them to expand as human beings, to find enrichment through the devotion to the discipline, and to understand how that devotion enriches themselves as well as the world in which they create their art. Upon completion students will:

- a. demonstrate achievement of professional, high-level competence in their chosen instrument or voice, including further significant technical mastery, capability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, and to continue their set of artistic/intellectual goals from their undergraduate program;
- b. have honed a unique artistic voice;
- c. demonstrate higher competence in their body of work for evaluation in their specific repertoire;
- d. 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;
- e. demonstrate an advanced level of musicianship and a broad knowledge of musical elements, structure, repertoires, and contexts;
- f. be able to work as a leader and in collaboration in areas of musical interpretation and performance;
- g. be prepared for a career as a professional musician and academic at the university level;

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. 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. demonstrate achievement of extraordinary professional competence in their chosen specialty, 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.