

University of Southern California

Thornton School of Music

Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in

Program Learning Objectives

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

The graduate degrees in Performance Studio Guitar:

- a. demonstrate a high level of professional competence in guitar performance;
- b. have the knowledge, technical skill and musicianship to perform in a broad range of musical styles in solo, small group, and larger ensemble settings at a high level of professional competence;
- c. demonstrate an understanding of the jazz canon of the 20th and 21st centuries;
- d. demonstrate an understanding of the traditions and current trends of popular music – particularly American popular music, blues, folk music, and an awareness of World music trends;
- e. demonstrate competence working as a leader and a collaborator in areas of musical performance;
- f. demonstrate a firm background in guitar/music education and pedagogy
- g. understand the societal impact of music and the ethical responsibility of a professional musician;
- h. demonstrate professional entry-level songwriting, arranging, and ensemble leadership skills;
- i. demonstrate the technical and musical skills necessary for contemporary recording and music production;

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 guitar performance, 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 guitar and contemporary music.