

# Music at Pomona College: A World of Opportunity

1. Distinguished faculty – an unusually large number for a small liberal arts college.
2. Full roster of performing ensembles committed to high quality performance of a wide repertoire of music.
3. Equal access to performing opportunities and individual study for all students – not just music majors.
4. Additional performing opportunities for outstanding students (not restricted to majors) both on and off campus.
5. Excellent facilities and extensive collection of Western and non-Western musical instruments available for student use.
6. Array of free concerts, lecture/demonstrations and other presentations by guest artists, faculty members, and students.
7. Broadly designed curriculum which includes music theory, history, ethnomusicology, composition and performance.
8. A rigorous music major combining Western and non-Western music and designed to prepare students for further study in fields of music including performance, history, theory, composition and ethnomusicology.
9. Opportunities for close collaboration with faculty members in performance and research projects.

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*There are over 1000 enrollments in Music Department classes, ensembles, and lessons each year.  
It is not necessary to major in music to participate in the Department's musical offerings!*

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## Performance:

1. **FACULTY:** Pomona has 10 full-time faculty, all active performers, with a wide variety of specializations (including performance, composition, music history, music theory and ethnomusicology) and national and international visibility. There are also 30 part-time faculty, all of them active performers in Southern California.
2. **ENSEMBLES:** Our **Western ensembles** (Pomona College Choir, Glee Club, Pomona College Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble) perform an ambitious range of standard repertoire and new works at a very high level. The Orchestra presents major works by such composers as Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Stravinsky and Shostakovich. Collaborative efforts between the Orchestra and Choir include large works such as the Mozart and Verdi *Requiems* and Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*. The elite chamber choir, the Glee Club, **tours** annually at the end of the spring semester; recent destinations include Poland, England, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hawaii, New York, and Washington, D.C. Our **non-Western ensembles** include a Balinese Gamelan and a second group that has rotated among Afro-Cuban, Hindustani, Balkan, Flamenco and Mbira ensembles.
3. **PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES AND INDIVIDUAL STUDY:** Individual lessons with members of the faculty and membership in ensembles are open to all students. Lessons and ensembles **earn academic credit**. They can be taken to fulfill general education requirements and many students choose to participate during their entire time on campus. Students enrolled in lessons at Level II are eligible to perform in in public Student Recitals offered several times each semester. Lessons are offered free of charge to Pomona College students.

**4. ADDITIONAL PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES:** Additional performing opportunities for outstanding students include the Pomona College Orchestra's annual Concerto Competition, Junior and Senior Recitals, and master classes with visiting artists. Financial support is available for participating in summer programs.

### Facilities:

**5. EXCELLENT FACILITIES** include Bridges Hall of Music with 600 seats, which serves as the rehearsal and performance venue for the large student ensembles, faculty and guest artists. It houses two 9-foot Steinway grand pianos, a 2-manual Dowd harpsichord and the 3-manual, 41-stop C.B. Fisk pipe organ.

The Thatcher Music Building contains 45 Steinway pianos, 2 more pipe organs and a 1-manual Martin harpsichord, distributed between the 250-seat Lyman Recital Hall, classrooms, practice rooms, teaching studios and offices. It also contains the Electronic Music Studio and the Montgomery Music Library.

### Events:

**6. CONCERTS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS**, numbering between 60 and 70 each year, feature our own faculty, students and prominent guest artists and are open to the public free of charge. In addition to the standard repertoire, Pomona students explore new and experimental music and have collaborated with colleagues in Theater and Dance. The annual Ussachevsky Memorial Festival combines live performance and electronic music, and students are regularly involved in premiering student compositions and those of faculty members.

### Beyond Performance:

**7. THE MUSIC CURRICULUM**, which is open to musicians and non-musicians alike, is broadly constructed to include theory, history, ethnomusicology, composition and performance. Popular courses include History of Jazz, Musical Theater, Seven Musical Wonders of the Western World, Listening to American Popular Music, and Introduction to World Music.

**8. THE MUSIC MAJOR** allows for individualized attention to students. Many move on to prestigious graduate programs in music, which in recent years have included Harvard University, Yale University, University of Michigan, University of Southern California and the University of California at Berkeley. Others pursue graduate studies in diverse fields including medicine, law, and business. Alumni are active throughout the world as professional performers, composers, scholars and teachers.

**9. STUDENT/FACULTY COLLABORATION.** The Music Department provides opportunities for close collaboration between students and faculty in research projects, chamber music and specially designed concerts. Many of these collaborations are initiated by students.

*Prospective students who intend to participate within the department in lessons or ensembles should submit a music supplement with their application so that the music faculty can assess their abilities.*