

Arts: Music

The Arts curriculum balances performance and practice with careful academic study and analysis. Whether in Music, Theatre & Dance, or Visual Arts, students are challenged to use their intellectual, emotional, and physical intelligence to create meaningful work, exhibitions, and performances. Instructors encourage students to take the risks necessary to explore, create, and grow as artists, while providing them with a framework for understanding how their endeavors relate to the larger artistic world.

Graduation Requirement:

For the classes of 2025 and 2026, a total of two credits in grades 9 through 12, minimum. All students must take at least one half-credit in studio/performance, and at least one half-credit in appreciation.

For the classes of 2027 and 2028, a total of one-and-a-half credits in grades 9 through 12, minimum. All students must take at least one half-credit in studio/performance and at least one half-credit in appreciation. See half-credit requirement on page 4.

Music (ARTM) Courses Offered in 2024-25

200-level

- Glee Club (ARTM 210)
- Jazz Combo (ARTM 211)
- Orchestra (ARTM 212)
- Steel Drum Ensemble (ARTM 213)
- Wind Ensemble (ARTM 214)
- Recording Studio Technology 1 (ARTM 215)
- History of Jazz (ARTM 231)
- Music Theory (ARTM 233)
- Music of NYC and the Birth of Disco, Punk & Hip-Hop (ARTM 234)
- Music of Protest: The Soundtrack of Social Revolution & Activism (ARTM 235)

300-level

- Recording Studio Technology 2 (ARTM 310)

400-level Half-credit courses

- Chamber Winds (ARTM 410)
- Concert Glee Club (ARTM 411)
- Treble Choir (ARTM 412)
- String Sinfonietta (ARTM 413)
- Piano Seminar (ARTM 414)
- Music Theory and Composition A (ARTM 415)
- Recording Studio Technology 3 (ARTM 422)

HORACE MANN SCHOOL

400-level Full-credit courses

- Music Theory and Composition (ARTM 420)
- Topics in Music History Seminar (ARTM 421)

Courses Not Offered in 2024-25

- Great Music of Modern Times (ARTM 230)
- History of Music: Bach to Stravinsky (ARTM 232)

200-level courses:

ARTM 210 – Glee Club

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Studio/Performance credit

The Horace Mann Glee Club has a long tradition of performing choral masterworks, as well as a wide range of choral music from varying countries and traditions. The curriculum focuses on group vocal production, choral blend, lyric diction, phrasing, standard performance practices, and developing a love for group singing. The ensemble performs three to five times a year, and every member is required to participate in all scheduled dress rehearsals and evening concerts. Students in all grades may audition for Glee Club.

ARTM 211 - Jazz Combo

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Co-requisite: Enrollment in Wind Ensemble

Studio/Performance credit

This course is for students who are serious about studying and rehearsing both traditional and contemporary jazz music. The ensemble prepares for numerous performances and serves as a colloquium on the varied performing styles in jazz. Students are encouraged to take private lessons while in the ensemble. Participation in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is required. Students in all grades may audition for Jazz Combo.

ARTM 212 - Orchestra

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Studio/Performance credit

The orchestra rehearses and performs masterpieces from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary eras, and its members experience first-hand some of the great musical compositions of Western culture. Concerts throughout the year enable students to share the joy of music making both on campus and with audiences in Manhattan. Participation in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is required. Students in all grades may audition for Orchestra.

ARTM 213 - Steel Band

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Studio/Performance credits

Steel Band provides hands-on experience with the steel pan family of instruments and other non-pitched percussion instruments. The musical repertoire and curriculum are rooted in the rich cultural heritage of Trinidad and Tobago and also include different popular genres. Throughout the course, students will learn the fundamental techniques of playing steel pans within the Afro-Trinidadian tradition and explore the diverse repertoire, rhythm, melody, and harmony surrounding the performance tradition. Students will develop essential skills in music theory, ensemble participation, and the cultural history of the steel band, as they learn music both by rote and using Western staff notation. Prior music performance experience and the ability to read music notation are encouraged but are not required. Participation in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is required. Students in all grades may enroll in the Steel Band.

ARTM 214 - Wind Ensemble

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Studio/Performance credit

The Wind Ensemble performs both new and standard wind band works. The group performs three major concerts throughout the school year. Advanced members of the Wind Ensemble may be invited to perform additional concerts and repertoire with chamber ensembles. Participation in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is required. Students in all grades may audition for the Wind Ensemble.

ARTM 215 - Recording Studio Technology 1

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Studio/Performance credit

This course is a hands-on study of modern music creation utilizing Horace Mann's ProTools-equipped recording studio. Students study the nature of sound and vibrating bodies, sound generating devices, as well as how to record, manipulate, mix, and master music. Previous experience in a performing group or private music lessons, strong computer skills, and some knowledge of music theory are recommended.

ARTM 231 - History of Jazz

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Appreciation credit

This course focuses on the development of jazz in America as it has manifested itself in cities such as New Orleans, Kansas City, Chicago, and New York. Tracing jazz's roots through ragtime, big band, be-bop, and fusion, the class covers such legendary performers as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis. The course utilizes detailed texts and listening materials to help students gain the skills necessary to understand and evaluate jazz music and the way it has made its way through the 20th century. Students should expect occasional guest performances in class and may have to attend one live jazz event as a class.

ARTM 233 - Music Theory

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Appreciation credit

This course focuses on studying, writing, and analyzing basic tonal harmony and musical form. Beginning with a survey of music terminology and concepts, students will examine the evolution of harmonic vocabulary while being exposed to a wide range of musical styles and works.

ARTM 234 – Music of NYC and the Birth of Disco, Punk & Hip-Hop

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Appreciation credit

This course explores the birth of disco, punk, and hip-hop, along with the marginalized communities in NYC that created them (namely, Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+, and counter-culture groups), the cultures that they in turn created, and what happens when counterculture goes “mainstream.” Through a careful exploration of the music itself, the key players, fashion, attitudes, and lasting legacies, this class investigates how time, place, and identity can combine to create music and art that can change the world.

ARTM 235 – Music of Protest: The Soundtrack of Social Revolution & Activism

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Appreciation credit

Around the globe, across the years, music has been at the forefront of social change. From the folk songs of the Great Depression to the scathing political commentary of Public Enemy in the 1980's, musical artists have both reacted to and catalyzed change in the world. We will explore some of the ways in which musicians take on the role of spreading social messages and influencing change, as well as listen to and discuss some of the seminal works that emerged from different areas of the world over the past one hundred years of social and political activism through music.

300-level courses:

ARTM 310 – Recording Studio Technology 2

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Recording Studio Technology 1 (ARTM 215) and approval of the instructor

Studio/Performance credit

The Recording Studio Technology 2 course provides an in-depth and hands-on study of recording, mixing, and mastering techniques. While the instructor determines the course's scope and sequence, individual student talents and interests help to shape the course's content and breadth. Topics covered include multi-tracking, pitch correction, compiling alternate takes to create a polished product, the subtleties of microphone types, microphone techniques, and creating lead sheets and rhythm charts for studio musicians.

400-level courses:

ARTM 410 - Chamber Winds

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Co-requisite: Wind Ensemble (ARTM 214)

Studio/Performance credit

Chamber Winds is an advanced wind and percussion group that focuses on classic and contemporary works for chamber ensembles. This select ensemble performs at least four times per year with additional opportunities available. Throughout the year, students explore the fine details of ensemble playing, including tone production, technique, and

an understanding of each part within the complete texture. Additionally, Chamber Winds members are encouraged to study privately on their instrument and serve as musical leaders in UD and MD ensembles. Every student is required to participate in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts.

ARTM 411 - Concert Glee Club

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Open to students in Grades 10-12

Studio/Performance credit

The Concert Glee Club is a select ensemble that performs advanced choral literature from both Western and non-Western traditions, vocal jazz, and pop. The ensemble performs four to eight times a year, both on and off campus. Students are encouraged to take private lessons while in this ensemble. Participation in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is required.

ARTM 412 - Treble Choir

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Open to students in Grades 10-12

Studio/Performance credit

The Treble Choir is a select ensemble open to treble singers that performs advanced choral literature from a large range of musical traditions. The ensemble performs four to eight times a year both on and off campus. Students are encouraged to take private lessons while in this ensemble. Participation in all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is required.

ARTM 413 - String Sinfonietta

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Co-requisite: Orchestra (ARTM 212)

Studio/Performance credit

The String Sinfonietta is a select ensemble that performs advanced string repertoire from a wide variety of eras and musical traditions, with special attention given to works composed in the last one hundred years. In addition, members of Sinfonietta are expected to serve as musical leaders of the HM Orchestra community, and to actively contribute to the well-being of both UD and MD ensembles. The ensemble performs a minimum of four times a year, both on and off campus. Private music lessons are encouraged and attendance at all dress rehearsals and evening concerts is mandatory.

ARTM 414 - Piano Seminar

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Audition and approval of the instructor

Open to students in Grades 10-12

Studio/Performance credit

The Piano Seminar is a select group of auditioned advanced piano students. The curriculum begins with a brief overview of Western classical music and styles, followed by an extensive study of music and styles of the 20th and 21st centuries, including avant-garde, jazz, non-Western music, Broadway, and improvisation. With in-class masterclasses, performances in and out of class, listening to and watching recordings of today's most significant concert pianists, and exploring extended techniques, this class aims to create a community for pianists to share their love of everything piano and expand upon their pianist tool kit. This course can be taken only once.

ARTM 415 - Music Theory and Composition A

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Music Theory (ARTM 233) and/or departmental approval

Open to students in Grades 11 and 12

Appreciation credit

This course is designed to develop a student's ability to understand, manipulate, and create music. Through a series of compositional assignments, the analysis of form and structures, aural recognition, sight singing, and dictation, students will gain a much deeper understanding of musical composition, as well as a greater understanding of musical analysis. By the end of the year, the students can expect to have created a portfolio of original compositions for a variety of instruments and ensembles.

ARTM 420 - Music Theory and Composition

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Music Theory (ARTM 233) and/or departmental approval

Open to students in Grades 11 and 12

Appreciation credit

This course is designed to develop a student's ability to understand, manipulate, and create music. Through the creation of a large number of musical compositions, the analysis of form and structures, aural recognition, sight singing, and dictation, students will gain a deep understanding of musical composition, as well as a greater understanding of musical analysis. By the end of the year, the students can expect to have created a robust portfolio of original compositions for a variety of instruments and ensembles.

ARTM 421 - Topics in Music History Seminar

Full credit, meets 5 days/week

Prerequisites: Departmental approval

Open to students in Grades 11 and 12

Appreciation credit

This is a topics-based course for students with advanced knowledge in music history and analysis. This class explores and examines musical traditions from around the world and challenges students to analyze music's function and role from cultural and political perspectives. Independent research, class presentations, discussions, listening/viewing sessions, and reading assignments may be supplemented by field trips to musical events in New York City.

ARTM 422 – Recording Studio Technology 3

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: Recording Studio Technology 2 (ARTM 310), and approval of the instructor

Studio/Performance credit

Recording Studio Technology 3 is an advanced, in-depth and hands-on study of recording, mixing, and mastering techniques. This class focuses on larger individual and group projects, an in-depth study of sampling, practical interactions with the Advanced Composition and the HM Film classes, and it will introduce students to DAW comparisons and live sound application. A Studio Technology concert and presentation will take place at the end of the school year.

Private Music Lessons

Lessons occur once per week during students' free periods or after school and do not fulfill graduation requirements in Arts. Arranged through the Music Department office, private music lessons are available to students in all grades. Lessons are given once a week by professional musicians on the staff of the department and are available on all instruments, including voice. All students taking private lessons are expected to practice diligently and come to their lessons prepared. Students pay an annual fee of \$2,000.

Courses Not Offered in 2024-25:

ARTM 230 - Great Music of Modern Times

[Course not offered 2024-25]

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Appreciation credit

We all love listening to music, but why do we like some artists and not others? Why do some recordings stand up to repeat listening, while others turn out to be passing fads? From Mahler and Bernstein to Jimi Hendrix and Radiohead, there are common elements that have added to the rich, fertile musical soil we know today. In this course, students will learn how to thoughtfully listen to and analyze music to search for answers to these questions. Along the way, students will explore select examples of many different genres and expand their knowledge and awareness of contemporary music.

ARTM 232 - History of Music: Bach to Stravinsky

[Course not offered 2024-25]

Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle

Prerequisites: None

Appreciation credit

This course provides students with an overview of Western classical music history. Through listening, viewing, and analyzing representative musical works from all major style periods, students will study the evolution of each style period, Western harmony, as well as noteworthy composers and the cultures and times in which they created their work.