Our Program

The Department of Music is committed to providing the highest quality instruction in an environment that nurtures the intellectual and creative development of the individual. Our goal is to provide a complete and specialized music education to every student, regardless of his or her prior experience. Our classes are small, allowing us to offer an extraordinary level of personal attention to every individual.

Music students have the opportunity to perform in a wide variety of ensembles, including symphonic orchestra, symphonic band, jazz orchestra, steel drum band, opera workshop, choir, madrigal singers, vocal jazz, jazz combos, chamber groups, and more. Students and faculty regularly collaborate on the approximately 100 concerts the department presents each year.

Nationally-recognized artists perform frequently at Humboldt State. In addition, music students often have the opportunity to work one-on-one with guest artists in master classes. Summer chamber music workshops, which attract musicians from across the United States, provide still more opportunities for the serious performer. We have an extensive collection of chamber music—the most comprehensive library of chamber music on the West Coast.

We offer private instruction in composition, voice, piano, guitar, and all orchestral instruments. Our highly qualified faculty members are active musicians and scholars with a broad range of collective expertise. Their specialties include music technology, world music, conducting, jazz, musicology, music education, and performance.

The vast majority of our concerts and rehearsals take place in Fulkerson Recital Hall, a 227-seat performance space located within the main music building. Larger productions take place in the 750-seat Van Duzer Theater, located in the neighboring Theatre, Film, and Dance facility. As a Humboldt State music student, you will have access to a computer-assisted instruction lab, an electronic piano lab, practice rooms, and a large collection of quality instruments which are loaned to students at no cost. Our excellent pianos are expertly maintained by a skilled full-time piano technician.

The Department of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.