Thanks to technological advances and evolving social structures, the music world is undergoing monumental changes. Old ways of making music are breaking down, while new ones are developing. Business models and social conventions that worked to support music in previous decades are now being forced to adapt and change in order to serve society at large. Because of these profound changes, young musicians are faced with more demands than ever before. It is no longer enough to just play your instrument superbly, although that is still a necessity!

Modern musicians must be able to write and speak well. They must be able to think broadly, entrepreneurially, and creatively about the world in which we live in. They must possess a greater set of skills that will allow them to serve the art of music and, even more importantly, propel the art of music forward.

The Bard College Conservatory of Music's double degree program is designed to give young musicians this broader skill set. The five-year program combines rigorous conservatory training with a challenging and comprehensive liberal arts program at one of the finest undergraduate colleges in the country. Students pursue a bachelor of music (BM) and a bachelor of arts (BA) in a thoroughly integrated and supportive educational community.

Tan Dun, Dean

Bard College Conservatory welcomed renowned composer and conductor Tan Dun as dean in September 2019. As dean, Tan Dun guides the Conservatory in fulfilling its mission of educating well-rounded musicians through the deepening of their understanding of music's connection to history, art and culture, and society at large. Tan Dun has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. A winner of today's most prestigious honors including the Grammy Award, Academy Award, Grawemeyer Award, and the Bach Prize, Tan Dun's music has been played throughout the world by leading orchestras, opera houses, international festivals, and on radio and television.
Double Degree Curriculum

Bachelor of Music

In addition to providing a strong foundation of private studio instruction, the bachelor of music program contains many innovative components. All performance majors explore the abstract and practical study of music theory, as well as musical form and its application in composition. In the Conservatory Seminar, students have the opportunity to assimilate all of their acquired musical, historical, and theoretical knowledge in order to deepen their understanding of the repertoire.

The curricula of the Conservatory and College are flexible, allowing participants to create the sequence of music and other courses that best suits each student. The aim is to foster a unified learning environment where the serious study of music goes hand in hand with the education of the whole person.

Bachelor of Arts

Bard’s core curriculum ensures that students receive a broad academic foundation, with particular emphases on writing, the sciences, and mastery of the tools of scholarly inquiry.

Undergraduate students can earn a bachelor of arts degree in one of approximately 35 stand-alone programs in the following academic divisions: The Arts; Languages and Literature; Science, Mathematics, and Computing; Social Studies; and Interdivisional Programs and Concentrations. In addition, Bard students may instead pursue interdisciplinary, individualized programs of study, rather than choosing from standard departmental majors.

For more information on the bachelor of arts curriculum, please visit: bard.edu/undergraduate/programs
Conservatory Undergraduate Course Work

**Studio Instruction**
Weekly private lessons with artist teachers are at the center of the educational experience of every student at the Bard Conservatory. Drawing from the professional music world of New York City, Bard is able to attract world-class faculty who believe strongly in the special mission of the Conservatory double degree program. Private studio lessons and studio classes are supplemented with frequent master classes with visiting guest artists.

**Chamber Music**
Chamber music plays a particularly important role at the Conservatory. In addition to performing the standard masterworks of the chamber music repertoire, students work closely with the composition program of the Conservatory to perform works of the late 20th and the 21st centuries. Studio faculty members serve not only as coaches but often as players in ensembles, allowing students to learn firsthand from the playing of a more experienced musician. The chamber music program is further enriched by master classes and concerts by conservatory faculty members and guest artists.

**Orchestra**
The growth experienced by rehearsing and performing music with peers in a large ensemble is an irreplaceable part of any musician's education. Bard places considerable emphasis upon this aspect of the Conservatory experience. The Bard College Conservatory Orchestra rehearses twice a week and performs at least twice each semester in the beautiful and acoustically superb Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College. Under the direction of its music director, Leon Botstein, the orchestra also performs in major cities in the United States as well as overseas in tours of Asia and Europe.

**Conservatory Core Sequence in Theory, Analysis and Composition**
The Conservatory Core Sequence is a unique, four semester sequence of classes that integrates the study of music theory, music history, and composition in order to give students a richer understanding of these topics as vital and relevant to their work as interpreters. The Core Sequence curriculum consists of:

- **Harmony and Counterpoint:** This class gives students an accelerated introduction to species counterpoint and traditional harmony.
- **Composing in Classical Forms:** Students learn about musical form through the creation of model compositions, including a Baroque dance movement, a set of variations on a ground bass, a waltz, and a complete sonata exposition.
- **Composition for Performers:** By learning to compose, students develop a deep understanding of the compositional process, which is an integral skill for all performing musicians. Students produce several original compositions, which they perform with others in a final concert. The class is taught by Joan Tower and George Tsontakis, two members of the Conservatory faculty who are among our most celebrated composers and teachers of composition.
- **Conservatory Seminar:** This is the capstone class for the Conservatory Core Sequence, designed to give students the ability to place their music making in a larger historical, musical, sociological, and expressive context. Conservatory Seminar examines pieces from the Conservatory orchestral repertoire and addresses broad questions such as the political and social context in which they were composed and understood, the relationship between the formal structure of a work and others of similar genres, how the form of the work conveys meaning for particular sets of listeners, and how these meanings have evolved through time.

**Music History and Aural Skills**
In addition to the four-semester Conservatory Core Sequence in theory, analysis, and composition, students are required to take two upper-level music history classes. The Aural Skills sequence of courses provides Conservatory students with skills in sight-singing: harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic dictation; clef reading; keyboard harmony; harmonic analysis; and other requirements of functional musical literacy.

**Wellness Class**
All first year students enroll in a Wellness class, which meets once a week for the first 8-9 weeks of the fall semester. This class exposes students to basic ideas that will help them throughout the double-degree program and throughout their musical careers, offering range of tools, techniques and working strategies that they can use in their daily work. Topics for this class include: how to practice; the science of deliberate practice; how to rehearse and prepare for rehearsals; time management; how to take care of your body (Alexander technique, yoga, physical therapy); how to deal with performance anxiety; and, how to stay mentally healthy.

**Orchestra Repertoire Class**
In this class for wind, brass, percussion, and harp players, students study and rehearse works drawn from the core of the symphonic repertoire throughout the semester. This course addresses issues of ensemble playing, intonation, and musical expression, and broadens students’ knowledge of the symphonic canon through practical experience.

**Performance Requirements**
Students are assessed through solo performance during each of their five years of the double-degree program. They present juries in their first and second year, heard by their studio teachers. In the third year, students present a full-length Mid-Point Recital, usually given in the fall or early spring. In the fourth year, students present a recital off-campus, encouraging them to connect with the broader community and to see themselves as musicians with a larger mission in our society. Finally, students present a full-length degree recital in their fifth year. In all cases, repertoire selections are chosen in conjunction with the primary studio teacher and should demonstrate the unique musical strengths and artistic goals of the student.
Studio Instruction Faculty

**Violin**  
Shmuel Ashkenasi  
Luosha Fang  
Yi-Wen Jiang  
Ani Kavafian  
Honggang Li

Weigang Li  
Daniel Phillips  
Todd Phillips  
Laurie Smukler  
Arnold Steinhardt

**Viola**  
Marka Gustavsson  
Honggang Li  
Melissa Reardon  
Steven Tenenbom  
Ira Weller

**Cello**  
Peter Wiley

**Double Bass**  
Bradley Aikman  
Leigh Mesh

Flute  
Nadine Asin  
Tara Helen O’Connor

Clarinet  
David Krakauer  
Pascual Martínez-Forteza  
Anthony McGill

Oboe  
Elaine Douvas  
Alexandra Knoll  
Melissa Hooper

**Bassoon**  
Marc Goldberg

**Trumpet**  
Carl Albach  
Edward Carroll

Horn  
Barbara Jöstlein Currie  
Julie Landsman  
Jeffrey Lang  
Julia Pilant

Trombone  
Demian Austin  
John Romero  
Nicholas Schwartz  
Weston Sprott

Tuba  
Derek Fenstermacher  
Marcus Rojas

**Harp**  
Sara Cutler  
Bridget Kibbey

Percussion  
Eric Cha-Beach  
Jason Haaheim  
Jason Treuting

Piano  
Jeremy Denk  
Richard Goode  
Benjamin Hochman  
Peter Serkin

**Composition**  
Da Capo Chamber Players  
Joan Tower  
George Tsontakis

*masterclasses

Additional Faculty

**Chamber Music**  
Frank Corliss  
Raymond Erickson  
Luis Garcia-Renart  
Marka Gustavsson  
Blair McMillen  
Raman Ramakrishnan

Orchestral Studies  
Leon Botstein  
Erica Kiesewetter

Music Theory and History  
Christopher H. Gibbs  
Peter Laki  
Eric Wen

US China Music Institute  
Jindong Cai  
Yu Hongmei  
Wu Man  
Xu Yang  
Qiang Zhang  
Wang Zhou

Performance Studies  
Luis Garcia-Renart  
Alexander Technique  
Alex Farkas

Performance faculty also coach chamber music

For information on admission, fees and expenses, financial aid, additional programs, and more, visit: bard.edu/conservatory