INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

The School of Music offers a variety of performance ensembles, ranging from classical to contemporary styles. Students earn one credit hour per semester for successful participation in each instrumental ensemble except the Mighty Sound of the South which provides two credit hours. Numerous performing opportunities are available to music majors and non-majors. In addition to U of M ensembles, the Memphis community offers students participation in such organizations as the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, River City Concert Band, Germantown Symphony Orchestra, and Memphis Civic Orchestra. For more information on U of M ensembles, contact the individual directors listed below.

Orchestral

University Symphony Orchestra

The University Symphony Orchestra (USO) includes approximately 85 undergraduate and graduate students. It performs at least two symphonic concerts and one chamber concert each semester which are presented on the U of M campus in Harris Concert Hall. In addition to USO concerts, orchestra members perform in University Opera Division productions and have the opportunity to play with many area musical organizations in Memphis and the Mid-South Delta region. Positions in the orchestra are filled by audition at the beginning of each semester. For more information, please contact the Director, Dr. Pu-Qi Jiang at pjiang@memphis.edu or at 901.678.3775. (MUAP 3005-001; M/W 1:30 pm-3:15 pm and F 1:45-3:15 pm; MU 006)

Bands

Wind Ensemble

With a goal of being one of the premier ensembles of its kind, the University of Memphis Wind Ensemble is selected from the most outstanding musicians attending the Scheidt School of Music. The ensemble pursues a relentless commitment to artistically render performances that are the highest caliber of performance. Attention is placed on the creative and adventurous programming process, an approach that personifies the diversity and originality of the Memphis area. The University of Memphis Wind Ensemble pursues the highest possible professional standards, and brings its audiences the finest artistic repertoire from all musical periods, cultures and styles. The Wind Ensemble is conducted by Dr. Albert Nguyen. For information, contact Dr. Nguyen at tnguyen6@memphis.edu or call 901.678.2263. (MUAP 3004-001; Fall T/R 3:30 pm-5:30 pm; Spring M/W/F 3:30 pm-5:30 pm; CFA 137)

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band, conducted by Mr. Armand Hall, consists of 55-65 players who perform masterwork grade five and six wind literature designed for the rich sonorities of an expanded instrumentation. Auditions are held each semester and participants
receive one hour of undergraduate credit. For more information, contact Mr. Hall in the band office at 901.678.2263. (MUAP 2001-001; T/R 3:30 pm-5:30 pm; MU 006)

University Band

The University Band is the largest band during the spring semester. This group performs grade four and five wind literature and some transcriptions. Students are required to audition. Participants, who are primarily non-music majors, receive one hour of undergraduate credit. For more information, contact the band office at 901.678.2263. (MUAP 2003-001; T/R 6:00 - 7:25 pm; CFA 137).

Mighty Sound of the South

The Mighty Sound of the South Marching Band is a group of over 200 members. Conducted by Mr. Armand Hall, the Band performs for all home football games and two away games each fall. Membership is by audition, which can be scheduled by calling the band office at 901.678.2263. Talent based scholarships are available by audition. Students must be prepared to perform two pieces of music that are contrasting in style, several major scales, and the chromatic scale. Students will also be asked to sight read. School instruments are available by paying a locker fee of $25.00 per semester. There is no uniform rental fee. When the band travels, the University provides transportation, lodging, and meal allowances. Marching band members receive two hours of academic credit for the fall semester. Band Camp is held one week before classes begin for the fall semester. The marching band performs three different halftime shows each fall in addition to the traditional pre-game show. All University of Memphis home games are played at the Liberty Bowl Stadium. For more information, contact Ms. Carol Rakestraw at 901.678.2263 or email clrkstrw@memphis.edu. (MUAP 2002-001; M/W/F 3:30 pm-5:30 pm; CFA 137 and practice field)

Jazz

Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra

The Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra has a long reputation of musical excellence at the University of Memphis. The group is comprised of seventeen outstanding university musicians who play a wide range of styles of jazz from Duke Ellington to modern composers such as Jim McNeely and others. The group performs and records student compositions, commissions, and new works from outside composers on an annual basis. Recent performances include presentations at the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference, and the Tennessee Music Educators Association Convention. The ensemble recently opened for the Woody Herman Orchestra to much critical acclaim. Auditions are held every fall semester, and scholarships are available. Members receive one hour of undergraduate or graduate credit per semester. For more information contact Dr. Jack Cooper, conductor, at jcooper1@memphis.edu or at 901.678.2547. (MUAP 3012-001; TR 1:00 PM-3:00 PM; MU 006)

Jazz Ensemble II
Jazz Ensemble II is a 17 piece jazz ensemble. Participants receive one hour of undergraduate credit. The group works on sight reading and skills necessary to play in the jazz ensemble genre. Auditions are held every fall semester. For more information contact Dr. Cooper at jcooper1@memphis.edu or at 901.678.2547. (MUAP 3012-002; MWF 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm; CFA 137)

**Specialty**

**Sound Fuzion**

Sound Fuzion is a touring ensemble of eight vocalists, six instrumentalists, and two sound engineers that represents the University at high schools, corporate functions, and University sponsored activities in addition to performing as part of the School of Music’s annual concert season. The ensemble performs many different styles of popular music from the 1940s to the present, including Top 40, rhythm & blues, jazz, alternative and country. Sound Fuzion is regionally known for its professional and dynamic style and has performed with the Memphis Symphony to standing-room-only crowds. All members of Sound Fuzion receive full tuition scholarships and earn one undergraduate or graduate credit per semester. Membership requires a one-year commitment to the ensemble. Auditions for Sound Fuzion are held in the spring semester for membership during the following academic year. Incoming freshmen may arrange an audition by emailing soundfuzion@memphis.edu. Or you may call 901.678.3525 and leave your name, phone number and email address. See memphis.edu/music/ensembles_new/ensm_sfuz.php. (MUAP 3016-001; W 3:25 - 5:25 PM MU 286 and T/R 2:35 - 5:25 PM; PA A0200)

**Percussion Ensemble and the Memphis Mallet Masters**

The Percussion Ensemble gives exciting concerts in the fall and spring for the Memphis community. The ensemble’s repertoire has something for everyone, including traditional, contemporary, jazz, pop, and multi-media. Concerts often feature the Memphis Mallet Masters, a highly entertaining ragtime xylophone and marimba group. Some of the ensemble’s major appearances have included concerts at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Music Teachers National Association Convention, the Tennessee Music Educator’s Association Convention, and Memphis Calvary and the Arts Series. The ensemble has performed with vibraphonist Arthur Lipner, Brazilian percussionist/composer Ney Rosauro, and the Britain/Moore Duo in residencies on the U of M campus, and vocalist Aaron Neville at the Canon Center for the Arts. All percussionists who are music majors may become members of the ensemble after passing the entrance audition for admission to the School of Music.

Non-music majors may audition during the week prior to the start of classes in the fall and spring semesters. Members receive one hour of graduate or undergraduate credit. For more information, contact Dr. Frank Shaffer at fshaffer@memphis.edu or at 901.678.3559. (MUAP 3401-001; Fall T/R 1:00 pm-2:30 pm; Spring T/R 1:00 pm-2:30 pm; CFA 137) (MUAP 3401-002; TBA)
Slide Society

The University of Memphis Slide Society is the official trombone ensemble of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. Comprised of students from the studio of Dr. John Mueller, they perform a wide variety of original works and arrangements that span from the Renaissance to the 21st Century. Capable of performing symphonic, jazz, and choral style works, the ensemble can be heard in the Memphis area, Mid-South region, and at national events. Students receive one hour of graduate or undergraduate credit. For more information, contact Dr. John Mueller at jtmuellr@memphis.edu or at 901.678.3780. (MUAP 3506-001 and R 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm; MU 006)

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

The Vocal Arts Division offers a variety of performance ensembles, ranging from classical to contemporary styles. Numerous performing opportunities are available to music majors and non-music majors. In addition to U of M ensembles, the Memphis community offers students participation in such organizations as Opera Memphis, the Memphis Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Memphis Early Music Ensemble and Southern Opera Theater. Students earn one credit hour per semester for successful participation in each vocal ensemble. For more information, contact the individual directors listed below.

University Singers

The University Singers is a mixed ensemble of undergraduate and graduate students performing choral literature from the 14th through the 21st century. During the fall semester, the group tours area high schools. International tours are planned every few years. The size of the group varies depending on the number of singers required for each voice part. The ensemble meets for an hour and a half, three times a week. Members earn one hour of undergraduate or graduate credit per semester. Auditions are held at the beginning of each semester. For additional information, contact Dr. Lawrence Edwards, conductor, at 901.678.3767. (MUAP 3006-001; M/W/F 1:45 pm-3:15 pm; MU008)

The University of Memphis Opera

With multiple performance opportunities, students gain experience in ensemble, comprimario roles, young artist contracts and leading roles. Opera workshop, vocal coaching and master classes focus on the many aspects of vocal performance and stage presentation. The Opera Area also provides opportunities for aspiring vocal coaches and conductors. Recent U of M music alumnus Tom Raines has worked with The New Opera Festival of Rome, received a career grant from The Solti Foundation, and has been appointed apprentice coach with The Washington Opera. Mark Ensley, who has served on the artistic staffs of Des Moines Metro Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Memphis and is currently a faculty member of the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, is Director of Opera Activities. In addition to faculty in residence, the Rudi
E. Scheidt School of Music is dedicated to a program including today’s leading figures in opera. The recent roster of guests included Giovanna Maresta (State Director, La Scala), Hemdi Kfir (Language Specialist, New Israeli Opera), Michael Scarola (Stage Director, NYC Opera), Ira Siff (Artistic Director, LaGran Seena Opera), Mignon Dunn (Mezzo Soprano Metropolitan Opera), and Kallen Esperian (Soprano Metropolitan Opera). A limited number of graduate assistantships are available which provide full tuition waiver. Auditions for the full year of opera productions are held at the beginning of the fall semester. For further information, contact Mr. Mark Ensley at 901.678.3787 (MUAP 3602-001; T/R 3:30 pm-5:30 pm MU113; M/W/F 3:30 pm-5:30 pm MU006)

Chamber Choir

Chamber Choir is a 15-20 voice, select choir of undergraduate and graduate students. Singers are selected by audition at the beginning of each semester. The ensemble presents works of many style periods ranging from early Renaissance through contemporary. The group performs on the University campus and in schools throughout the Memphis area and the Mid-South. Members earn one hour of credit per semester. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Dr. Ryan Fisher, conductor, at 901.678.3765. (MUAP 3601-001; T/R 1:00 pm-2:25 pm; MU008)

Collegiate Choir

If you love to sing, join the Collegiate Choir. All students, regardless of major, are welcome and there is no audition. Earn one hour credit toward your degree. For more information, contact Rocky Tejada, director, at rocky.tejada@stlukesumc.org. or 901.678.3525. (MUAP 2007-001; T/R 8:00 - 9:25 am; MU008)

Jazz Singers (University Voice Jazz Ensemble)

The University of Memphis Jazz Singers is comprised of 10-15 male and female vocal students. This group performs a wide range of music from traditional arrangements of jazz standards to more contemporary fusion jazz. Students rehearse twice weekly and receive one hour of graduate or undergraduate credit. Auditions are held at the beginning of each semester. For more information, contact Tim Goodwin at 901.678.3069. (MUAP 3013-001; M/W 5:30 pm-7:00 pm; MU101); (T/R 4:00 pm-5:30 pm MU003A)

Sound Fuzion

Sound Fuzion is a touring ensemble of eight vocalists, six instrumentalists, and two sound engineers that represents the University at high schools, corporate functions and University sponsored activities, in addition to performing as part of the Music School's annual concert season. The ensemble performs many different styles of popular music from the 1940s to the present, including Top 40, rhythm & blues, jazz, alternative, and country. Sound Fuzion is regionally known for its professional and
dynamic style and has performed with the Memphis Symphony to standing-room-only crowds. All members of Sound Fuzion receive full tuition scholarships and earn one undergraduate or graduate credit per semester. Membership requires a one-year commitment to the ensemble. Auditions for Sound Fuzion are held in the spring semester for membership during the following academic year. Incoming freshmen may arrange an audition by emailing soundfuzion@memphis.edu. Or you may call 901.678.3525 and leave your name, phone number and email address. See memphis.edu/music/ensembles_new/ensm_sfuz.php. (MUAP 3016-001; W 3:25-5:25 PM MU 286 and T/R 2:35- 5:25 PM; PA A0200)