



## BA in Music

The BA in Music provides a course of study through which students develop a breadth and depth of musical knowledge, engaging with how music works technically, psychologically, and socially, and its cultural importance both historically and across the world. As a field, music encompasses a diverse set of skills, including performance, composition or songwriting, quantitative analysis, cultural interpretation, and research. The BA in Music offers a set of paths to help students tailor their course of study to their particular musical interests and goals. Students are not required to follow one advising path, but are encouraged to explore them and consult relevant path advisors as they discover their passions and the field’s possibilities.

## Paths

Through the paths below, students can pursue a variety of specialized areas of musical study. Students are not required to follow one advising path, but are encouraged to explore them and consult relevant path advisors as they discover their passions and the field’s possibilities.

- All paths assume that the student will take MUSC 1000 Music at Northeastern, and MUSC 1001 Music in Everyday Life.
- Note that the number of music electives recommended may exceed the number of music electives required for the major (4).
- Note that recommended non-music electives do not count toward major requirements.
- To see complete list of courses in the BA major, including courses that satisfy each “Music in Context” category, visit: <https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/music/music-ba/#programrequirements>

## Popular Music Studies

Through the Popular Music Studies path, students focus not only on some of the most widely known and beloved musics of the present and recent past, but also grapple with complex questions of pop music’s social and cultural impacts. This path highlights a selection of courses that approach music as part of the culture industries, with attention to its aesthetic, economic, political, technological, and legal dimensions. Having honed skills in research, writing, and cultural analysis, students may go on in such directions as music criticism careers, or graduate studies in popular music.

Path advisors: Andrew Mall, David Herlihy

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Recommended Non-Music Electives	Relevant Co-ops
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1	Western Art Music – MUSC 2340 Divas, DJs, and Double Standards (or other WAM offering)	MUSI Ethnography in Creative Industries	MUSI 2234 Festivals MUSC 2317 Punk Rock MUSC 2351 Music, Sound, and the Screen	MSCR 2220 Understanding Media and Film MSCR 2400 Hip Hop in and as Media	Boston Globe Island Records Republic Records

MUSC 1204 Analyzing Popular Genres MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2 (or other music theory elective)	Global Music/Ethnomusicology – MUSC 1140 Global Pop Music (or other global offering)  Contemporary/Pop Music – MUSC 2310 Popular Music Since 1945 (or other contemporary offering)  Creative – MUSC 1142 Pop, Jazz, and Rock Singing (or other creative offering)	or MUSC 4651 Music Research Capstone	MUSC 2101 Black Popular Music MUSC 3353 Music and the Racial Imagination MUSC 3337 Writing About Music MUSI 3401 Hip Hop and the Music Industry	MSCR 3426 Popular Music as Media Form MSCR 3437 Media and Identity AFAM 1113 Black Popular Culture: Music, Movies, and More SOC 2100 Popular Culture WMNS 1101 Sex, Gender, and Popular Culture ANTH 3120 Consumer Cultures	
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### Music Performance

The Music Performance path combines the theoretical, historical, and global exploration of music essential to all Northeastern’s music degrees with a special focus on performance activities – from lessons on an individual instrument and solo recitals, to ensembles and concerts, to the collaborative and multidisciplinary stage practices of theater. This path of study is also complemented by many extracurricular performance opportunities, such as through campus a capella groups or Boston’s local music scene.

Path advisors: Brian Robison, Hubert Ho

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Recommended Non-Music Electives	Relevant Co-ops
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1 MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2 additional music theory elective (ex. MUSC 2208 Jazz Improvisation or MUSC 2303 Tonal Form)	Western Art Music – choose any offering  Global Music/Ethnomusicology – choose any offering  Contemporary/Pop Music – choose any offering  Creative – choose any offering	MUSC 4651 Music Research Capstone Or MUSC 4611 Music Technology Capstone/Senior Recital	MUSC 1142 Pop, Jazz, and Rock Singing MUSC 3337 Writing About Music MUSC 3410 Recital 1 MUSC 4622 Recital 2 Lessons Ensemble Additional courses from “Western Art Music,” “Global Music/Ethnomusicology,” “Contemporary” or “Creative” categories	THTR 1130 Introduction to Acting THTR 1500 Musical Theatre Performance 1: “Acting the Song” THTR 1260 Movement for the Actor THTR 3570 Musical Theatre Performance 2	Experiential Co-op

## Music Composition & Songwriting

The Music Composition & Songwriting path highlights courses in which students engage hands-on with composition or songwriting. Through this path, students hone the skills and aesthetic sensitivities essential to their creative practice, while also broadening their knowledge of music's histories and cultural impacts.

Path advisors: Allen Feinstein, Tony De Ritis, Melissa Ferrick

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Relevant Co-ops
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1 MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2 MUSC 2303 Tonal Form (or other music theory elective)	Western Art Music – MUSC 2105 Songs that Made History  Global Music/ Ethnomusicology – choose any offering  Contemporary/Pop Music – choose any offering  Creative – choose any offering	MUST 4611 Music Technology Capstone/Senior Recital	MUSC 1250 Instrumentation and Orchestration MUST 1301 Introduction to Composition MUSC 2150 Making a Musical: Analysis, Craft, and Creation MUSC 2210 Introduction to Songwriting MUSC 2211 Advanced Songwriting MUST 2320 Sound Design MUSC 2351 Music, Sound, and the Screen MUSC 2420 Music Composition Seminar MUST 3422 Music Composition Seminar 2 MUST 4610 Composition for Electronic Instruments	Homestead Artists/ Maine Youth Rock Orchestra

## Music History & Ethnomusicology

Gaining historical and global perspectives on music is an essential part of all our music degrees, but the BA's Music History & Ethnomusicology path puts special focus on developing deep understandings of how music works in and as culture. Students develop historical or global expertise in music that can inform their performance or other creative practice, as well as research, writing, and analytical skills that are transferrable across domains. Students may pursue this path to broaden their horizons, to prepare for careers in arts & culture, or with an eye to graduate programs in music history or ethnomusicology.

Path advisors: Deirdre Loughridge, Francesca Inglese

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Recommended Non-Music Electives	Relevant Co-ops
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1 MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2	Western Art Music – choose any offering	MUSC 4641 Seminar in Ethnomusicology: Issues in Fieldwork and Methodology	MUSC 2303 Tonal Form MUSI 2234 Festivals MUSI 3351 Music and Social Justice	ARTH 1111 Global Art and Design History: Renaissance to Modern HIST 2311 Colonialism/Imperialism	World Music/Crasharts Boston Globe Yarn Wire

Additional music theory elective (ex. MUSC 1204 Analyzing Popular Genres)	Global Music/ Ethnomusicology – choose any offering  Contemporary/Pop Music – choose any offering  Creative – choose any offering	or MUSC 4651 Music Research Capstone	MUSC 3353 Music and the Racial Imagination MUSC 3337 Writing About Music Additional courses from “Western Art Music” or “Global Music/Ethnomusicology” categories	LING 1150 Introduction to Language and Linguistics LING 3412 Language and Culture LING 3442 Sociolinguistics SOCL 2270 Race and Ethnic Relations SOCL 2450 Class, Power, and Social Change SOCL 4520 Race, Class, and Gender ANTH 1101 Peoples and Cultures ANTH 2300 Reading Culture through Ethnography ANTH 3421 Foundations of Anthropological Theory	
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**Music Theory, Analysis & Visualization - New and Traditional Approaches**

The Music Theory path provides a selection of courses through which students delve especially deeply into how musical works are organized, how musical multimedia works, and how musical structures can be represented visually. The music theory and analysis skills honed in these courses are applicable to careers in music information at such companies as Spotify and Pandora, and can also prepare students for graduate study in music fields.

Path advisor: Deirdre Loughridge, Hubert Ho

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Recommended Non-Music Electives
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1 MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2 MUSC 2303 Tonal Form	Western Art Music – choose any offering  Global Music/ Ethnomusicology – choose any offering  Contemporary/Pop Music – choose any offering  Creative – choose any offering	MUSC 4651 Music Research Capstone	MUSC 1250 Instrumentation and Orchestration MUSC 2111 Algebra and Geometry of Music MUSC 2350 Acoustics and Psychoacoustics of Music MUSC 3300 Music Perception and Cognition MUSC 2351 Music, Sound, and the Screen MUSC 3337 Writing About Music MUSC 3541 Music Analysis Seminar	INSH 1500 Digital Methods for Social Sciences and Humanities ARTG 3451 Information Design

### Music in the Community (Education, Activism, Outreach)

Music is a social activity, and the Music in the Community path supports students with a special interest in using their musical knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on their communities. Through courses that develop students' cultural sensitivities, knowledge of historical inequities, and specialized communication skills, this path prepares musicians to be change agents – whether by working with youth, harnessing the power of music to social or political activism, or bringing music to underserved communities.

Path advisors: Rebekah Moore, Doug Bielmeier

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Recommended Non-Music Electives	Relevant Co-ops
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1 MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2 additional music theory elective (ex. MUSC 2303 Tonal Forms)	Western Art Music – choose any offering  Global Music/ Ethnomusicology – choose any offering  Contemporary/Pop Music – choose any offering  Creative – choose any offering	MUSC 4651 Music Research Capstone	MUST 1220 Introduction to Music Technology MUSI 3351 Music and Social Justice MUSC 2330 Musical Communities of Boston	EDUC 1111 Education in the Community THTR 1215 Activism and Performance THTR 1220 Race, Power and Performance THTR 2340 Theatre and Society THTR 2335 Boston Theatre Experience ENGL 2740 Writing and Community Engagement ARTD 2380 Video Basics (service learning) COMM 3409 Advocacy Writing	Brookline Public Schools Homestead Artists Newport Festival Jamspot Mmm Maven – DJ and Music Production School Assistant Farm Aid Music & Youth Initiative Volunteer Lawyers Project Yarn/Wire

### Music & Health Research

The Music & Health Research path highlights courses that explore the relationships between music, mind, and body, as well as courses that address how understanding such relationships can benefit society. This path is especially suited to students who are also pursuing premed requirements, as outlined here: <https://undergraduate.northeastern.edu/prehealth/academics/overview/> Students interested in this path may also wish to consider a combined major in Music & Psychology.

Path advisor: Psyche Loui

Theory (3 courses)	Music in Context (4 courses, 1 from each category)	Capstone	Recommended Music Electives (4 electives complete the major)	Recommended Non-Music Electives
MUSC 1201 Music Theory 1 MUSC 1202 Music Theory 2 MUSC 2350 Acoustics and	Western Art Music – choose any offering  Global Music/ Ethnomusicology – choose any offering	MUSC 4651 Music Research Capstone	MUSC 1118 Music Therapy MUSC 3300 Music Perception and Cognition INAM 3200 Creative Cognition MUSC 4510 Music and the Brain Research	SOCL 1120 Society and Health INSH 1300 Introduction to Health and Humanities PHTH 2350 Community and Public Health AFRS 1270 Introduction to Global Health PHIL 1295 Religious Perspectives on Health and Healing

Psychoacoustics of Music	Contemporary/Pop Music – choose any offering  Creative – choose any offering			HLTH 2302 Alternative Medicine
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## Music Humanics

A unique feature of studying at Northeastern University – in addition to co-op opportunities – is the university’s forward-thinking approach to equipping students to thrive in a world of increasingly intelligent machines. The new realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century call for an updating of education to cultivate both human-machine collaborations and special human capacities (such as creativity, sociality, and ethical reasoning). The result is a focus on synthesizing humanities and sciences, qualitative and quantitative domains, a synthesis called *humanics*, involving human, technological, and data literacies.

The Music Humanics track offers a course of study in music that also encompasses these three essential 21<sup>st</sup>-century literacies. Music is a medium of emotional communication, spiritual practice, creative expression, social bonding and community formation; it is a product and driver of human-technology interactions from musical instruments to recording studios to computers, and of developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning; and it is a rich field for data analysis, to advance business interests as well as research. The Music Humanics track not only offers courses that delve into music’s cultural, technological, and quantitative dimensions, but emphasizes interconnections between these areas - so that as students develop technological and quantitative skills with which to advance musical creativity, industry and research, they also develop sophisticated understandings of history and culture with which to reason about the implications for human experience and community. These music courses also appear in our other advising paths, as well as our other music majors (BS in Music Industry and BS in Music Technology), meaning that any course of study in music will also foster students’ development of human, technological and/or data literacies.

Music Humanics advisors: Deirdre Loughridge ([faculty bio & contact info](#)), Ron Smith ([faculty bio & contact info](#))

Technological Literacies	Technology-Human	Human Literacies	Human-Data	Data Literacies
MUST 1220 Intro to Music Tech*  Additional electives: MUST 2431 Computer Music Fundamentals MUST 4520 Interactive Music Programming	MUSC 2320 40,000 Years of Music Technology* MUSC 3352 Sounding Human*  Capstone option: MUST 4611 Music Technology Capstone/Senior Recital	Take at least one*: MUSC 2330 Musical Communities of Boston MUSC 3353 Music and the Racial Imagination MUSI 3351 Music and Social Justice	Take at least one: MUSC 3300 Music Perception and Cognition INAM 3200 Creative Cognition MUSI 2233 Music in the Online and Mobile Environment  Capstone option: MUSI 5900 Ethnography in Creative Industries  Recommended non-music electives:	MUSC 2350 Acoustics and Psychoacoustics of Music*  Additional elective: MUST 3421 Digital Audio Processing

			INSH 1500 Digital Methods for Social Sciences and Humanities INSH 2102 Bostonography: The City through Data, Texts, Maps, and Networks	
<p>* indicates these courses fulfill the Music in Context requirements and one music theory requirement for the BA in Music</p> <p>To complete the BA in Music, also take:</p> <p>Music in Everyday Life</p> <p>Music Theory 1</p> <p>1 additional music theory elective</p> <p>3 Music Humanics electives (from other courses listed above)</p> <p>1 Music Humanics capstone (from the two options listed above)</p>				

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