

Music Placement Information

Any Furman student with musical skill is invited to participate!

When asked what makes studying music at Furman appealing and satisfying, our students talk about the many opportunities they have to perform. Students choose from large ensembles like the Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonic Band, the Furman Singers, and the Marching Band, as well as smaller groups like the Percussion Ensemble, the Jazz Ensembles, the treble choir Belle Voci, and the String Quartets. Talented vocalists participate in full-scale productions of the Sarah Reese Lyric Theater. Dedicated performers may be honored by selection to the biannual Honors Recital. Regularly, the choral organizations combine with the orchestra to present choral-orchestral concerts of works from the oratorio repertoire. Talented instrumentalists compete for solo performances with the orchestra in our Concerto Competition. Rarely does a small liberal-arts college offer the range of performing opportunities available at Furman. **All performing groups are open to all Furman students, regardless of major.**



Auditions for Music Ensembles

◆ Furman Bands

Open to all woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians as well as dancers, twirlers, and colorguard, the Furman University Bands are comprised of students from across campus who come together to perform as the Paladin Regiment Marching Band and the Furman Symphonic Band. In the fall semester, the marching band rehearses *only 4 hours a week*--on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4-6 pm--and performs for the home football games and select exhibition and parade performances. The Symphonic Band rehearses on Mondays from 4-6 pm in the fall and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 pm in the spring semester. Students in the band should register for MUS 061- Furman Bands, and they are eligible for exciting travel performance opportunities as members of the Furman Bands. Contact sue.samuels@furman.edu for more information, and complete this form: <https://forms.gle/QRv3jYoDCCdyE2zJ6> or scan the QR here:



◆ Furman Jazz Ensemble and Combos

Horn auditions will occur in Dr. Matt Olson's office (McAlister Auditorium 207) between 2:30- 3:45 PM on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 23-25. Sign up for a time on Sign Up Genius using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A8A72BAAF9C16-furman2>. Rhythm section auditions will occur in the Daniel Music Building Room D13 ("band room") between 7:00- 8:30 PM on Tuesday, August 22. Sign up for a time on Sign Up Genius using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A8A72BAAF9C16-furman3>. The Furman Jazz Ensemble will rehearse each Monday and Thursday from 2:30-3:45 PM. The Furman Jazz Combos will rehearse twice each week for 60 minutes, once with a faculty coach. Times will be determined once the ensembles are formed. If you have ANY

QUESTIONS about the auditions, please email Dr. Matt Olson at Matt.Olson@furman.edu.

◆ Choirs: Furman Singers, Chamber Choir, and Belle Voci

The Furman Choirs are comprised of the Furman Singers, Chamber Choir, and Belle Voci (treble chorus) and are open to all students by audition, regardless of major. Auditions held Sunday & Monday, August 20 & 21 from 6-9 p.m.; Tuesday, August 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. Fill out the interest form and schedule an audition time using the link here: <https://bit.ly/FurmanChoirAuditions23> or scan this QR:



Furman Singers rehearses on Tuesday/Thursday at 4-6 p.m.; Chamber Choir meets on Monday/Wednesday at 2:30-3:20 p.m.; and Belle Voci on Tuesday/Thursday at 1-2:15 p.m. For more information contact Dr. Stephen Gusukuma at stephen.gusukuma@furman.edu or Dr. Vivian Hamilton (Belle Voci) at vivian.hamilton@furman.edu.

◆ Furman Symphony Orchestra

Auditions for NEW string students who have not previously auditioned and are interested in joining the Furman Symphony Orchestra will take place Monday, August 21 from 4-5 p.m. in DMB-117. Students will play a prepared solo piece. String Seating Auditions for ALL string students planning to participate in Furman Symphony Orchestra will take place on Tuesday, August 22 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. in DMB-13. Students will play a short solo piece. Wind and percussion assignments are given to the FSO conductor by the wind/percussion faculty and posted by Wednesday, August 23. The first FSO rehearsal is Thursday, August 24. FSO meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. For more information, contact Maestro Simón Gollo at simon.gollo@furman.edu.

Auditions for Private Lesson Placement

All students with prior instrumental or vocal experience can be considered for private instruction. Private lessons are given at variable credit (0-2) and students can sign up for 30-minute or 60-minute lessons per week. **If a student who is not majoring in music signs up for 1-credit lessons in 4 consecutive semesters, that fulfills the Visual and Performing Arts general education requirement.**

Contact us

Contact any of the following music faculty members for information on specific instruments or vocal study:

Strings: Dr. Christopher Hutton (christopher.hutton@furman.edu). Students

enrolled in lessons are required to participate in Furman Symphony Orchestra.

Woodwinds, Brass: Dr. Sue Samuels (sue.samuels@furman.edu)

Percussion: Dr. Omar Carmenates (omar.carmenates@furman.edu)

Opera and Voice: Dr. Grant Knox (grant.knox@furman.edu)

Piano: Dr. Derek Parsons (derek.parsons@furman.edu)

Guitar and Harp: Dr. Christopher Hutton

Ensembles

- ◆ Furman Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Guitar Ensemble
- ◆ Chamber Strings
- ◆ Hartness String Quartet
- ◆ Gladden String Quartet
- ◆ Cello Choir
- ◆ Wind Ensemble
- ◆ Symphonic Band
- ◆ Paladin Regiment Marching Band, Marching Drum Line, Color Guard, & Dance Team
- ◆ Basketball Pep Band
- ◆ Jazz Ensemble
- ◆ Jazz Combos
- ◆ Percussion Ensemble
- ◆ Clarinet Ensemble
- ◆ Woodwind Ensembles
- ◆ Saxophone Quartets
- ◆ Horn Ensemble
- ◆ Brass Ensembles
- ◆ Furman Singers
- ◆ Belle Voci
- ◆ Oratorio Chorus
- ◆ Furman Lyric Theatre
- ◆ Chamber Choir

All auditions are held in the Daniel Music Building. For more information, go to furman.edu/music/ and click on the “Explore Music” link, which will take you to the “Quick Links for Students, Teachers, Parents” page.



Music Theory at Furman

Music theory study (which we call Basic Musicianship) consists of four semesters of written theory, aural skills, and keyboard harmony. Intended music majors are pre-registered for the 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., or 11:30 a.m. section of Basic Musicianship I, which meets Monday-Friday.

MUS 111 satisfies the Visual and Performing Arts GER (VP).

AP Theory Credit

Furman University now accepts AP credit for music theory. Furman accepts credit for MUS 111A and MUS 111B for students who scored a 5 on the AP exam. Furman offers students who scored a 5 on the AP exam the choice to audit MUS 111A and MUS 111B. Furman highly recommends that students who scored a 5 on the AP exam in their junior year or earlier to enroll in MUS 111A and MUS 111B.

Furman accepts no other form of credit (other than transfer credit as governed by university policy for equivalent courses). Furman no longer does internal testing. Furman no longer allows students to test out of half of MUS 111A (formerly known as attendance optional).

Students who have not scored a 5 on the AP exam, but who have considerable experience in music theory, should explore Furman's Credit By Exam policy.

The Keyboard Area faculty will administer a placement exam for keyboard harmony during the first week of classes. Contact Dr. Derek Parsons (derek.parsons@furman.edu) with questions about keyboard harmony placement.

Email Dr. Benjamin Dobbs (benjamin.dobbs@furman.edu) with any questions about written theory or aural skills at Furman.

