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 Chamber Choir, and the String Quartets. Talented vocalists participate in full-scale productions of the Lyric Theater. Dedicated performers may be honored by selection to the biannual Honors Recital. Twice yearly, 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. You can choose from among more than 20 different student ensembles. 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 24-26. Sign up for a time on Sign Up Genius using this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A8A72BAAF9C16-furman. Rhythm section auditions will occur in the Daniel Music Building Room D13 (“band room”) between 7:00 - 8:30 PM on Tuesday, August 23. Sign up for a time on Sign Up Genius using this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A8A72BAAF9C16-furman. The Furman Jazz Ensemble will rehearse each Monday and Thursday from 3:00-4:15 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 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 will be held Sunday & Monday, August 21 & 22 from 6-9 p.m.; Tuesday, August 23 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Fill out this interest form and schedule an audition time using the link here: https://bit.ly/FurmanChoirAuditions. 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 22 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 23 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 24. The first FSO rehearsal is Thursday, August 25. FSO meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. For more information, contact Dr. Andy Carlson at andrew.carlson@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. Anna Joiner (anna.joiner@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)
Choir, Opera, and Voice: Dr. Grant Knox (grant.knox@Furman.edu)
Piano: Dr. Derek Parsons (derek.parsons@Furman.edu)
Organ: Dr. Charles Tompkins (charles.tompkins@Furman.edu)
Guitar and Harp: Dr. Anna Joiner

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.

AP Theory Credit

Furman University accepts AP credit for music theory. If you scored a 5 on the AP theory exam, you are exempt from the first semester of written theory and aural skills. We also invite you to take a placement exam that would allow you to be exempt from the second semester of written theory and aural skills (see below). If you scored a 4 on the AP theory exam, attendance is optional for the first half of the first semester of written theory. You should attend the first day of class for written theory, during which your professor will let you know how attendance-optional status works. If you scored a 3 or lower on the AP theory exam, you must take the complete sequence of written theory and aural skills.

Basic Musicianship Placement Testing
Friday, August 19, 3:30-5:30 p.m., DMB-104

This testing is for students who (1) scored a 5 on the AP theory exam, and (2) wish to be exempted from the second semester of written theory and aural skills. If you do not meet both of these criteria, you do not need to attend this placement test.

If you have moderate to significant experience in music theory, have not taken the AP theory exam, and wish to be exempted from a portion of the written theory and aural skills sequence, contact Dr. Benjamin Dobbs (benjamin.dobbs@furman.edu) no later than Friday, August 12, to see if placement testing is right for you.

The Keyboard Area faculty will administer a placement exam for keyboard harmony during the first week of classes. Contact Dr. David Gross (david.gross@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.