Music

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<th>COURSE CODES:</th>
<th>TR002</th>
<th>TR001 (TSM)</th>
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<td>PLACES 2015:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>POINTS 2014:</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>450-580</td>
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<td>DEGREE AWARDED:</td>
<td>B.A.</td>
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TSM points: See page xx

Related courses:
TR0009: BMusED

What is Music?

Music is a discipline that stretches back to the ancient world. One of the seven original liberal arts, music maintains a place in the university as a subject of broad and passionate interest to composers, sound artists, musicologists, performers, technologists, and theorists. Our community is dedicated to furthering a knowledge and love of music. Using abundant musical resources—which include a renowned collection of original manuscripts, books, scores, current and historic recordings, and outstanding computing facilities—the Department of Music at Trinity provides an extraordinarily rich and dynamic musical environment.

Is this the right course for you?

Studying music will allow you to engage with a range of traditions to acquire a profound understanding of how music works in theory and in creative practice. If you are interested in understanding music's place in society, developing music technology skills, writing music, or improving your skills as an informed performer, this course could be for you. As an academic discipline, music fosters independence of thought, creativity, critical and analytical skills, and intellectual awareness. A music degree prepares students for a wide range of careers in the creative arts, journalism, music production, arts management, research, and teaching.
Why study Music at Trinity?

Trinity’s Music Department is Ireland’s oldest and most internationally renowned venue for the study of music. With a distinguished team of academics and practitioners, the department attracts Irish and international students of the highest calibre. Alumni include Derek Bell, harpist in the Chieftains; Niall Doyle, Head of Music at the Arts Council; Deborah Kelleher, Director of the Royal Irish Academy of Music; and Donnacha Dennehy, Assistant Professor of Music at Princeton University. Our curriculum integrates practical musicianship with rigorous scholarship. We offer a balanced musical education that provides specialisation in three key areas—composition, music technology, and musicology (the historical and analytical study of music). The course includes a wide range of options, allowing students to focus on their chosen areas of interest. A particular strength is the department’s commitment to small-group teaching, with many subjects taught in groups of ten students or fewer.

The facilities in the Music Department include a recital room, practice rooms, a suite of computer workstations, a recording studio, listening equipment, and a substantial lending collection of CDs and videos. Trinity students have access to the largest research library in Ireland, in which music is extremely well served.
Since the Music Department became part of the School of Drama, Film, and Music in 2006 it has developed interdisciplinary connections, which include a jointly-taught undergraduate module in film production. Music is embedded in Trinity’s Creative Arts, Technologies and Cultures initiative, closely affiliated with the College-wide research themes of Creative Arts Practice, Creative Technologies, Manuscript, Book, and Print Cultures, the Trinity Long Room Hub (the Arts and Humanities Research Institute of Trinity College). The department hosts a Music Composition Centre and collaborates with the Lir (National Academy of Dramatic Art) as well as Trinity’s Arts and Technology Research Lab. Music is the only academic department still situated in Front Square, at the heart of college life in Dublin.

In 2013, the Royal Irish Academy of Music became an Associate College of Trinity—a move designed to facilitate collaborations to benefit performing arts education and practice. The motivation for the link is summarized by Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast: ‘building on each institution’s expertise, together we aim to develop an internationally renowned centre of excellence in the performing arts. Linking research to practice and focusing on the interface between innovation and tradition are key values that Trinity and the RIAM share.’

2015 marked the appointment of a new Chair of Music. The appointment of Professor Jane Alden is historic. Not only is she the first Professor of Music in twenty years but she is the College’s first female Professor of Music since the Chair was founded in 1764. Since her arrival, she has launched a series of lectures, concerts, seminars, symposia, and workshops that form part of Trinity’s ongoing commitment to social engagement and educational outreach.

What will you study?

The single honor and two-subject courses provide a thorough grounding in the basic skills of musicianship and academic study. From the second year onwards, and especially in the third and fourth years, both courses offer a wide range of options. Students receive extensive training in aural and keyboard skills, learn the history and theory of art music from the medieval period to the present day, and can choose modules in jazz, rock, popular, and vernacular musics. Taught performance modules (e.g., conducting) allow students to contextualize their practical skills. In the specialisations (composition, music technology, and musicology), students are closely supervised in their chosen area. Students may
continue to take modules outside of their specialisation. All students complete a final-year capstone project.

Many students come from non-classical backgrounds. A wide range of musical activities takes place on the campus, with the support of many music societies. In addition to copious performance opportunities, students can gain experience of arts administration, music production, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

**Modules**

**Junior Freshman (first year)**
Aural training, Keyboard skills, Introduction to harmony, History of music, Introduction to music analysis, Music technology, Style and presentation.

**Senior Freshman (second year)**
Continuation of subjects from first year, addition of Instrumentation, beginning exploration of specialist area—composition, musicology, or music technology. Single honor students also select a Broad Curriculum course; TSM students choose from a wide range of options.

**The Sophister years (third and fourth year)**
Concentrated study in chosen specialisations, with possible options from other specialisations. All students may opt to present a recital for up to approximately 10% of their degree.

Regarding specialisations, composers receive a thorough grounding in compositional techniques; music technologists develop expertise in theory and studio practice; and musicologists study historical, cultural, and theoretical subjects. Final-year projects take the form of a portfolio of compositions, a major technology project, or a dissertation.

Recent sophister options have included Advanced aural, Bob Dylan, Byrd and the politics of polyphony, Counterpoint and fugue, Experimental theatre music and contemporary opera, Figured bass, Film music, Handel and the English oratorio, Heavy metal, Hit music and industry, Japanese music, Java programming, Music and language, Nineteenth-century German Lied, and Sonata structures. More detailed information is available at [www.tcd.ie/Music/undergraduate/ba-music.php](http://www.tcd.ie/Music/undergraduate/ba-music.php).
Study abroad and Work placements

Music students can apply to study abroad in European universities with the EU-funded Erasmus programme (e.g., Universitat Regensburg; University of Paris, Sorbonne; Stockholm University, Royal Holloway, University of London) and non-EU universities (University of Toronto, Peking University) via College-wide exchanges. The Department of Music is in the process of forming a partnership with a leading university in Malaysia. Music students who study abroad find the experience hugely enjoyable, academically and culturally rewarding, and of value to prospective employers. Further information on study abroad can be found at www.tcd.ie/study/non-eu/study-abroad/from-trinity/.

Many students work while completing their studies, as trad musicians, church organists, chorus masters, conductors, instrumental and vocal coaches and theory instructors. Opportunities sometimes arise for undergraduates to assist staff research projects outside of term time.

Careers

The employment record for Trinity’s graduates in Music is excellent. Recent alumni have established successful careers as composers, music producers (for television, radio, or recording companies), performers, conductors, administrators, teachers, and academics in institutions worldwide. Several recent graduates have been commissioned by organisations such as RTÉ. Trinity Music students have an outstanding record of obtaining scholarships for further study abroad, as well as from the Arts Council of Ireland. Some have used the analytical and intellectual skills that a Music degree offers to build successful careers in medicine, law, financial investment, and public relations.

Visit the Department of Music

Anyone considering studying Music is welcome to visit the department, to sit in on lectures, to speak to members of staff, and to meet current
students. To make an appointment, contact the Music Executive Officer on +353 1 896 1120 or at musicsec@tcd.ie. Office hours are 10.00-16.30, Mondays to Fridays.

**Further information**

www.tcd.ie/Music

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**Student Profile**

**Eileen Hogan**

‘Being from Galway, obtaining a university music degree locally wasn’t an option. I am very glad that I chose Trinity College Dublin for music studies. Since day one I have found the faculty inspiring, supportive, and willing to help. The course has allowed for many incredible opportunities that have aided my personal and musical development, including directing the music department chamber choir, The Campanile Consort, and attending seminars in Oxford University. Most recently, I have been granted a scholarship from Indiana University which will allow me to continue my studies with an MA in musicology in the States.’

Eileen Hogan (2015)
Student Profile

Sophie Lee

‘The BA music course in Trinity College Dublin provides wide ranging module options, from medieval counterpoint to film composition to sound design, and allows a thorough specialisation in either musicology, composition or music technology. The strong academic standing of the lecturers of the department enables them to draw from a wealth of experience in each of their respective fields and prepare students for specific career paths. In my final year, I have composed music for a short film which I created with a group of students from the Music, Film, and Drama departments, composed works for performance by professional chamber groups, and developed several new skills, including keyboard realisation of figured bass and sound recording.’

Sophie Lee (2015)