**Why pursue Musical Studies?**

Musical Studies is another way of describing the scholarly study of music. It is often divided into three main branches: historical, comparative (ethnomusicology) and systematic (theory and analysis), but frequently these areas overlap.

Music’s relationship to culture and the development of compositional style, criticism and performance traditions throughout history are essential to our knowledge as musicians and educated citizens. Musical Studies may lead to careers in higher education, librarianship, publishing or music criticism.

**What are the benefits of Musical Studies?**

Through the breadth and depth gained as a result of undergraduate research, students are better prepared to apply to graduate schools, become effective music educators or pursue an advanced performance degree.

**What types of music history and theory courses are offered at Crane?**

All music majors take a four-semester sequence of music theory/aural skills courses as well as three semesters of music history survey courses covering the ancient world to the present. Following this, an array of upper-division electives, selected by Musical Studies students according to their interests, addresses individual areas of study.

**Faculty**

- Dr. Gary Busch
- Dr. Nelly Case
- Dr. Rebecca Gerber
- Dr. Carleen Graham
- Dr. David Heinick
- Dr. David Heuser
- Dr. Julie Hunter
- Prof. Ed Komara
- Dr. Michelle Martin-Atwood
- Dr. John McGinness
- Dr. Andre Mount
- Dr. Jerod Sommerfeldt
- Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis
- Dr. Timothy Sullivan
- Dr. Jesse Tyre
- Dr. Michael Vitalino
- Dr. Greg Wanamaker
- Prof. Bret Zvacek

**Guests**

Recent guests have included Composer/Writer Jan Swafford, Verdi expert, librarian and musicologist Dr. Linda Fairtile, Indian master percussionist Srinivas Krishnan, West African drumming expert Martin Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng, Benjamin Britten scholar Dr. Vicki Stroeher, and musicologist Dr. J. Peter Burkholder.
A Selection of Musical Studies Electives

- German Lied
- European Folk Music
- Jazz Styles and Analysis
- Counterpoint
- 19th Century Music
- American Musical Theater
- Renaissance Culture and Music
- Introduction to Ethnomusicology
- Gender & Music: Cross Cultural Perspectives
- Analysis of 20th Century Music
- J. S. Bach
- Aesthetics
- Beethoven
- Orchestration
- Choral Arranging
- Post Modernism
- History of Jazz
- Music in America
- Music of Africa
- History of Opera
- Analytical Techniques
- World Music and Cultures

Individual Project

As a capstone experience, students pursue their own research of a topic of choice with a faculty advisor. After investigating an idea, they will present their conclusions in a senior thesis. Here is a sampling of just a few of the topics:

- A Study of the Winds in Early French Grand Opera with an Emphasis on the Clarinet
- A Non-Twelve-Tone Pitch Analysis of the First Movement of Luigi Dallapiccola’s Requiescant
- Meaning and Value in Music Through the Lens of Leonard B. Meyer
- Gender Implications of the Harp
- A Comparative Analysis of Two Composers’ Treatment of Sonata Form
- A Study of the Maqam Al-Dhil as found in Tunisian Malouf Folk Music

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