

Stanford University



Music

“Music...can name
the unnameable
and communicate
the unknowable.”

Leonard Bernstein

Build on your understanding and experience of Music

*...and push the discipline's boundaries
in ways you never imagined.*

Stanford music supports a culture that is both firmly rooted in history and vigorously engaged with the technological evolution of sound. Join a community that cherishes rich musical traditions while also creating new and innovative works and research methods. And study with premier scholars and critically acclaimed musicians and composers whose interests span a diverse range of specialties.

A Full Spectrum

In addition to pursuing the general music major, students can choose to concentrate in one of five areas:

- Performance
- History and Theory
- Conducting
- Music, Science, and Technology
- Composition

A woman in traditional Japanese attire, including a headband and a dark sleeveless top, is shown from the chest up, playing a large taiko drum. She is holding two wooden mallets (bachi) and looking upwards with a focused expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

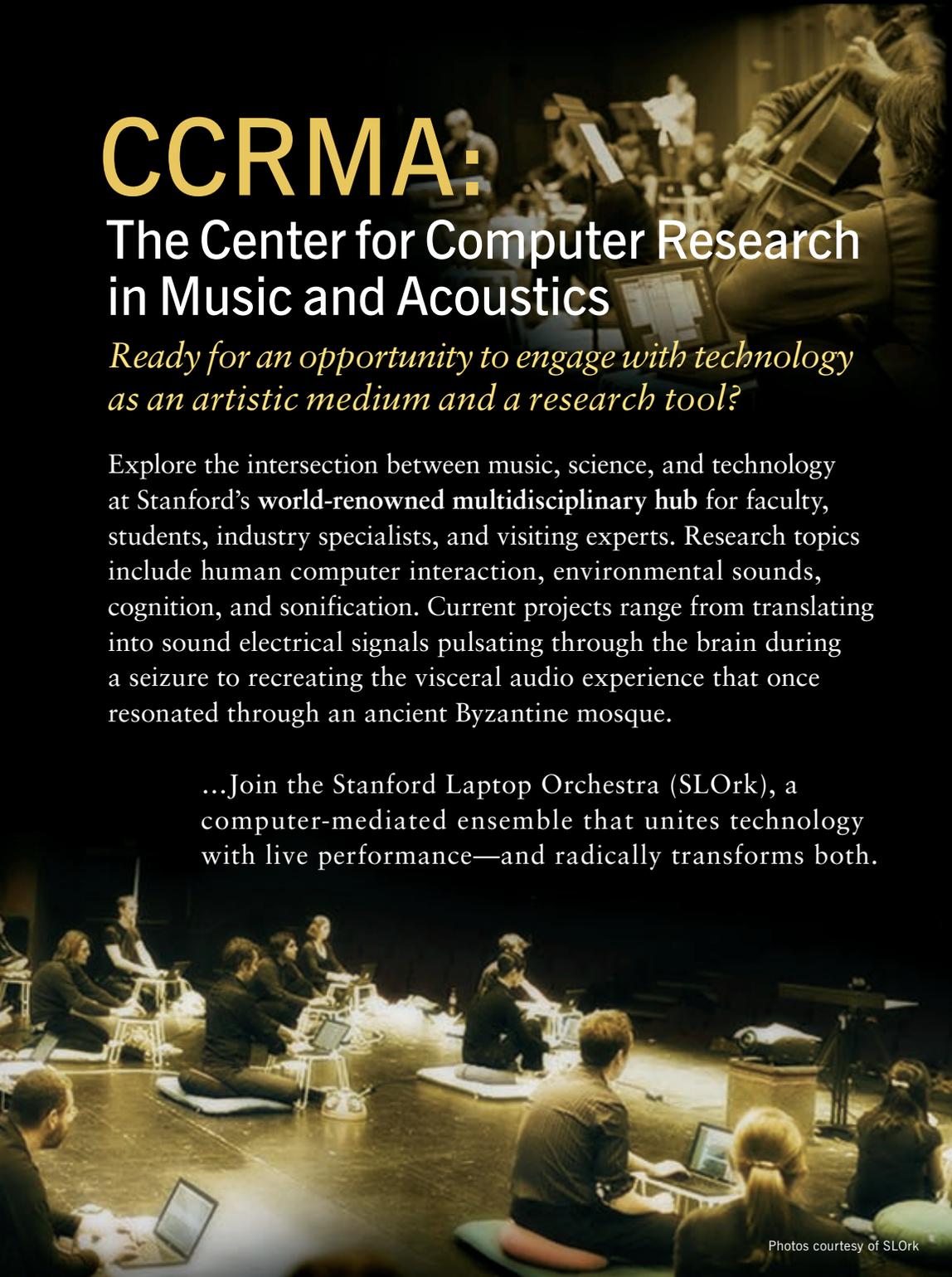
*More than 1,000
students across campus
each quarter participate
in the music department's
lessons, ensembles,
and lecture classes.*

Performance

Pursue your passion for music by participating in private study, chamber music, and choral and instrumental ensembles. Here, you can join everything from a major masterworks chorus to a laptop orchestra—and perform everywhere from Stanford's new Bing Concert Hall to renowned venues around the world.

Performance opportunities include:

- Five Choral Ensembles
- Two Orchestras
- Wind Ensemble
- Jazz Orchestra
- Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble
- Flute Ensemble
- Taiko (Japanese Drumming)



CCRMA:

The Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics

Ready for an opportunity to engage with technology as an artistic medium and a research tool?

Explore the intersection between music, science, and technology at Stanford's world-renowned multidisciplinary hub for faculty, students, industry specialists, and visiting experts. Research topics include human computer interaction, environmental sounds, cognition, and sonification. Current projects range from translating into sound electrical signals pulsating through the brain during a seizure to recreating the visceral audio experience that once resonated through an ancient Byzantine mosque.

...Join the Stanford Laptop Orchestra (SLOrk), a computer-mediated ensemble that unites technology with live performance—and radically transforms both.

“Any conservatory or music department can teach you to compose, but not every one will give you something to compose about. Stanford gave me the fundamentals of a proper musical education—conservatory-level instruction in theory and history, performance opportunities, and cutting-edge instruction. But beyond that, music majors are encouraged to engage intelligently with the wider Stanford community—an invaluable skill for a successful musical career after college.”

Christopher Tin, '98 Music Composition and English, MA'99 Grammy-award winning composer

Innovative Electives

- Rock, Sex, and Rebellion
- Music Ethnographies of the Bay Area
- Computer-Assisted Musical Composition

A Successful Future

Creative expression. Risk taking.

Thoughtful interpretation.

Music is an abstract language—a symbolic system that, with training and experience, develops interpretive and analytical skills, cultivates an appreciation of complexity and ambiguity, and provides a framework to explore creative risk taking. Studying music not only provides specialized training for those who plan careers related to the arts but also teaches critical skills that can be applied to a wide variety of fields. Students enter a range of careers, including musical performance, composition, arts management, technology, business, education, and medicine.

“ Many students at Stanford are involved with music, but majoring or minoring in music opens up a whole world of experience. The courses challenge students’ perspectives; performance groups provide fantastic opportunities to play and travel; and the department is devoted to helping students realize their visions through personal projects. Although my current career in the software industry doesn’t directly involve music, the discipline, creativity, and leadership I developed as a music major help me every day. ”

Tommy Pauly '12,
Software Engineer, Apple

“ As a music major, I was challenged to consider not only the rich history of classical music but also its influence in society today. In a department as willing to embrace Baroque performance technique as mobile phone orchestras, I learned to think in unconventional ways. My efforts to create innovative concert experiences at the Lake Forest Symphony stem directly from the training I received at Stanford. ”

Susan Lape, '11
Executive Director, Lake Forest Symphony

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY
School of **Humanities**
& **Sciences**