

SCHOOL OF
**MUSIC &
CONSERVATORY**



The **School of Music & Conservatory** at North-West University offers exceptional instruction in Western classical music, contemporary commercial music (CCM) and African music. Our staff comprises of world-class performers, educators and researchers, of whom more than 60% have completed doctoral degrees in their field, and almost 25% are NRF-rated researchers. Many also studied internationally, and they are all committed to providing our students with the best possible education and training as they embark on their musical careers. We continuously strive to be one of the pre-eminent institutions for music instruction and research in South Africa.

Facilities

The NWU School of Music is well-equipped for quality music instruction, research and performance with the following facilities and venues at the Conservatory:

- Conservatory Hall
- Organ Hall
- Pretorius Music Studio
- Music Library
- Music Technology Lab
- Recording Studio
- Digital Keyboard Lab
- Computer rooms
- Lecture Halls with full audio-visual equipment
- Lecturers' offices & studios
- Practice rooms



Ensembles

Students can perform in a variety of ensembles at the NWU School of Music:



- Big Band
- Brass Ensembles
- Opera Ensemble and Choir
- CCM Voice Ensemble
- Guitar Ensemble
- African Music Ensemble
- Wind Ensemble
- Youth Orchestra

There are also further opportunities for performance through ensembles affiliated with NWU Arts, like the NWU Choir, NWU Serenaders and NWU Symphony Orchestra.



Performance

Practical instruction is provided in:

- Brass instruments 
- Choral conducting
- Keyboard instruments
- String instruments
- Voice (Western Classical & Contemporary Commercial Music) 
- Woodwind instruments
- Classical guitar
- Orchestral percussion
- uHadi (Traditional African bow instrument)

Only one instrument is required, but the study of a second instrument is possible at either academic level, or on an extra-curricular basis as a Conservatory student.



Concerts

The NWU School of Music presents an annual concert series especially for music students with local, national and international musicians of the highest calibre. Students who have achieved a certain standard of performance may also be selected to perform in these concerts.

Numerous other concerts are also presented elsewhere on campus and in town during the year.

Community Engagement / Service Learning

At the NWU School of Music, our students engage in various service-learning opportunities. These opportunities form the backbone of our music education and community music modules. Through participation in the Musikhane community music programme, students experience the joys and challenges of working as music educators and community music facilitators in the South African context.

International Exchange Programmes

The School of Music currently has exchange agreements with music institutions in Scandinavia, the UK and the US providing for regular exchange visits of staff and students. Senior and postgraduate students may have the opportunity to study for a semester at partner institutions abroad as part of their curriculum at NWU.





Undergraduate Programmes

Diploma in Music (DM)

A 3-year diploma programme starting with the rudiments of music and moving towards proficiency at Grade III level. Entry requirements:

- Completed Matric / National Senior Certificate with an endorsement for diploma study
- APS of at least 18
- At least 50% (level 4) for English in Grade 12
- Successful completion of two audition rounds

BA Music & Society (BA M&S)

A 3-year degree programme focusing on music education and community music. Entry requirements:

- Completed Matric / National Senior Certificate with an endorsement for degree study, and an APS of at least 21 OR A diploma in music or an equivalent qualification in which the modules for the final year have been passed with an average of at least 60%
- At least 50% (level 4) for English in Grade 12
- Successful completion of two audition rounds: Minimum requirements and practical audition (Grade IV standard), a theoretical placement test (Grade II) and a Language proficiency test.

Baccalaureus Musicae (BMus)

A 4-year professional degree programme with specialization from the 3rd year in: Performance/ Musicology / Music Theory / Music Education / Methodology/ Composition/ Community Music/ Music Technology.

Entry requirements:

- Completed Matric / National Senior Certificate with an endorsement for degree study
- APS of at least 24
- Successful completion of two audition rounds: Minimum requirements and practical audition (Grade VI standard), a theoretical placement test (Grade V) and a Language proficiency test.



Applications & Auditions

The process to be admitted to undergraduate music study consists of **two** successive parts: an application for admission to the NWU and the School of Music, and a successful completion of the selection and audition process as music study is a selection course.

Applications for admission to the university close on **30 June 2026** and applications for auditions to any of the undergraduate music programmes, close on **31 July 2026**.

Audition link

Please visit the NWU School of Music website to view all the requirements and instructions for the auditions and how to apply.



Enquiries & Information

Please direct any enquiries to the NWU School of Music at:

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Website: humanities.nwu.ac.za/music

Blog: nwumusic.co.za




Social Media

 www.facebook.com/NWU.Music

 www.twitter.com/nwumusic

 www.youtube.com/user/NWUMusic

 www.instagram.com/nwumusic