What about a major in…?

Music Performance (B.M.)

What is Music Performance?
Most undergraduate students in the School of Music are enrolled in one of the three majors offered within the bachelor of music program: performance, music education, or music therapy. Music courses make up 70 to 80 percent of this professional degree, with the remainder distributed among various liberal arts disciplines. The B.Mus. in performance is a professional degree in which music courses comprise approximately 75 percent of the program.

What are the major requirements?
Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “Undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare a Music Performance major?
Admission to a music program is contingent on passing an audition. Auditions are highly competitive with students normally having studied for a number of years: a minimum of three to four years in voice, guitar, or on an orchestral or band instrument, eight to twelve years on piano. Auditions are held throughout the academic year. Incoming freshmen normally take the audition during the winter of their senior year of high school; transfer students, one semester prior to the term in which they plan to enroll. You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Music major, meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to complete a Major Program form.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community for information on the new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in Music Performance?

Skills
Music majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:
• Verbal communication skills
• Ability to work individually and as part of a team
• Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
• Creative problem solving skills
• Collaboration and compromising skills
• Project management skills

Employment
Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:
• Arts and Entertainment—music performance
• Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
• Business—marketing, human resources, sales
• Public Relations and Advertising—corporate public relations, lobbying
• Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management
• Management and Development—project management, project development

Today’s workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The Career & Community Learning Center provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!
You have not declared a major until you have:
• completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
• filed a copy with the major department,
• and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don’t forget: keep a copy for yourself!