Albright College offers many opportunities for students interested in music. You may wish to become a performer, enrich your musical skills, or prepare for a career in the business side of the industry. You may simply want to improve your appreciation, understanding and performance of music as a hobby. Whatever your dream is, Albright’s Music Department will help you fulfill it.

Why Should I Major in Music at Albright?

Albright music majors have exceptional opportunities, because the College is a national leader in interdisciplinary studies.

First, music majors at Albright choose a focus for their major:
- music performance
- music business
- music history

Second, students interested in studying music at Albright take a combined major. That means that they combine their music major with another major, such as business, theatre, psychology, digital media, etc. This broadens their education, experience and career opportunities.

Third, private vocal or instrumental instruction is available from full-time faculty and professional adjunct faculty who are active in the regional music scene.

Fourth, there are wonderful opportunities for students to deepen their musical skills through live performances. Instrumental ensembles include the Concert Band and String Chamber Orchestra. From these, ensembles are formed, including the Pep Band and woodwind, brass, percussion and string ensembles.

Choral ensembles include the Concert Choir and Women’s Chorale. Two select ensembles, Chamber Choir and Mane Men, are formed by invitation of the director.

Finally, the Music Department has well-equipped practice rooms and an electronic music lab and recording studio for students interested in pursuing computerized musical media. For organists, the Maier Memorial Pipe Organ, installed by the Schantz Organ Company, is located in Memorial Chapel.
Options in Music at Albright

Students choose to focus on one of three music tracks:

- **Performance** — Students in this track participate in performing ensembles, take private instruction, and perform in a recital as their senior seminar.

- **Business** — Students interested in the music industry and who wish to enter the industry upon graduation should opt for this track. Ensemble participation and private instruction are required. The senior seminar is an off-campus internship in music business.

- **History** — The emphasis of this track is on upper level music history courses. Students also participate in the performing ensembles and take private instruction. The senior seminar involves a music thesis.

Albright also offers music programs (minors) in general music and in music business. The general music program is designed for students who want to continue to improve their vocal or instrumental performance skills within a structured academic program of music study. This program includes music literature courses, private instruction and participation in a major performing ensemble.

The music business program is designed for students interested in music industry associated fields, but who do not wish to participate in performing ensembles.

“While studying at Albright I was never told THIS is what music means. Rather, I was given a sense of context – theoretical, historical and philosophical – and encouraged to find my own meaning as a performer and composer.”

Nathan A. Roberts ’00

Performing Ensembles

Credited

Students who participate in a credited instrumental or choral ensemble receive one course credit upon completion of four semesters of participation.

Concert Choir

The Concert Choir rehearses twice weekly in preparation for two on-campus concerts each semester. This choir experience gives all members the opportunity for personal vocal development through a variety of choral traditions, from chant to contemporary. Membership is determined by audition.

Women’s Chorale

The Women’s Chorale rehearses twice weekly in preparation for two on-campus concerts each semester. This choir includes literature, from chant to contemporary, written specifically for treble voices. It gives all members the opportunity for personal vocal development through a variety of choral traditions. Membership is determined by audition.

Concert Band

Albright’s Concert Band introduces students to classic and contemporary music through programs that often feature guest artists. The band, which rehearses at least twice a week, presents two concerts per semester. Numerous small instrumental ensembles are formed from band members, providing additional instruction and performance venues.

String Chamber Orchestra

The String Chamber Orchestra meets twice weekly and presents one concert per semester. The analysis of traditional literature is complemented by performance.
“What I liked most about being in the choir was the fact that students were always given the opportunity to act as leaders and share in decision making.”
Lindsay Phillips ’00

Extracurricular (Non-Credited)
Music adds a dimension of creative expression that greatly enriches your college years and the rest of your life. Students of all abilities and interests will find Albright to be a place where they can let their talents soar. Students who participate in a non-credited ensemble receive no course credit.

Chamber Choir
The Chamber Choir rehearses twice weekly in preparation for a variety of on- and off-campus events, in addition to the two semester concerts. This group performs a wide variety of mostly unaccompanied literature, particularly madrigals, motets and vocal jazz works. Membership is determined through audition and by invitation of the director.

Mane Men
The Mane Men are dedicated to the choral art of performing literature written specifically for men’s voices. Their repertoire consists of a variety of styles and genres, encompassing music from the Renaissance to the present. The ensemble performs at various on- and off-campus concerts.

Brass Ensembles
Brass ensembles meet once a week and play during band concerts and student recitals, and for other campus functions. Most members are also in the Concert Band.

Pep Band
The Pep Band is a student-run organization that performs for home football and basketball games. They meet once a week during the football and basketball seasons.

String Ensembles
Mixed string ensembles, formed from String Chamber Orchestra members, rehearse once a week and perform at student recitals each semester.

Percussion Ensemble
Members of the Concert Band comprise the Albright Percussion Ensemble. They meet once a week and perform at student recitals and band concerts.

Woodwind Ensembles
Woodwind ensembles, such as a flute choir, woodwind quintet, clarinet and saxophone ensembles, meet once a week and perform for band concerts, student recitals and other campus functions.

Talent Grants
Albright seeks to attract musically gifted students through a program of talent grants. Auditions for talent grants are held by appointment on Saturdays in February. The awards range from $500 to $1,500 and are contingent upon the student’s participation in at least one major performing ensemble and one student recital each semester.

Audition information is available from the Admission Office at (800) 252-1856.

Area Arts and Culture
Albright College, located one hour from Philadelphia and within three hours of New York, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., offers a multitude of concert-going experiences. In the local community, Reading boasts a rich and varied musical life. You may attend performances by the Reading Symphony Orchestra, Star Series and Reading Choral Society, as well as the Reading Pops Orchestra, the Reading Chamber Music Series and the Ringgold Band.

Outcomes
Opportunities in the music industry are varied. Albright graduates hold positions as:
- Cruise line entertainers
- Performers with the New York City Opera, San Diego Opera, Olney Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony Chorus and the San Francisco Opera
- Directors of musical theatre and church ensembles
- Freelance performers
- Record producers
- Music educators
Several graduates have continued their music education at graduate schools, including:

- Columbia University
- Temple University
- University of Maryland
- University of Texas at Austin
- Yale University

**Faculty**

- Adlai Binger, director of choral music and music lecturer - B.S., Gettysburg College; M.M., Shenandoah University
- Rebecca Gass Butler, associate professor of music, director of instrumental music and department chair - B.M., Oberlin College; M.M., Temple University
- Andrew Kaye, assistant professor of music - B.A., University of California (Berkeley); M.A. & Ph.D., Columbia University
- Kristel Kemmerer, lecturer in music business - B.M. & M.M., Ithaca College; Ed.D., Lehigh University
- Jeffrey Lentz, artist in residence - B.A., Albright College, M.M., Yale University School of Music

“For more information about the Music Department, contact Professor Butler at (610) 921-7715 or by email at bbletcher@alb.edu.”

—I wouldn’t be a professional musician if it weren’t for the disciplined, yet nurturing guidance I received while at Albright. The best part was being respected as an ‘artist.’ The Music Department threw down a gauntlet to me – ‘focus your energies, prove you really want to be taken seriously and we will guide you all the way!’”

Jeffrey Lentz ’85, actor & singer (major roles with the New York City Opera, *Phantom of the Opera* (Toronto) and PBS’s *Great Performances*), artist in residence, Albright College