



school of the  
arts, media,  
performance  
& design



[ampd.yorku.ca](http://ampd.yorku.ca)

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

➔ DEFINING THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY

The Department of Music in York's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) seeks to reflect the cultural mosaic of Canada by promoting the "world of music" through performance, research, and a broad and innovative curriculum. Undergraduate music students don't study by discipline; they create their own program that integrates academic studies and studio training across musical cultures and traditions, incorporating theory, musicianship, composition and arranging, music history, improvisation, digital music and ethnomusicology.

## THE LANDSCAPE

Musicians have always forged their own path to success but the demand for a dynamic range of skills is even greater today than in years past. Traditional musical careers in symphonies, for example, are giving way to jobs that demand skills in performance, research and business, coupled with experience across the intersecting areas of digital media, film, dance and theatre. Success as a professional musician is a factor of imagination, versatility and innovation.

## OUR VISION

The Department of Music is now applying its uniquely eclectic approach across the arts disciplines. A joint course in sound design is offered with the Department of Film and plans are underway to launch a program in composition for visual media and performing arts, including film, gaming, digital media, dance and theatre. The department is also actively considering the introduction of a ground-breaking new requirement for every student to engage in interdisciplinary experiences before they graduate. This vision is only possible with the infrastructure to support it.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Most university music programs educate students by stream. Students choose a course of study and become “expert” jazz musicians, composers, pianists and so on. York’s Department of Music stands apart as one of the only Canadian university music programs to challenge students to build a course of study grounded in the fundamentals but tailored to their own diverse areas of interest. Even at a time when interest in the formal study of music is at a province-wide low, York boasts the third-highest enrolment in its history. Students are embracing York’s innovative approach to music education.

## YOUR INVESTMENT

Gifts to one of the following priority areas will help foster disciplinary rigour and interdisciplinary daring across AMPD Music:

- a **Recording Studio and Media Lab** will support the emerging Composition for Visual Media and Performing Arts program with specialized recording hardware, microphones and mixing consoles, and computers and software for recording and editing audio
- high-profile **Guest Musicians and Scholars** who can lead workshops and seminars on their craft and the realities of the music industry today
- a dramatically renovated **Martin Family Lounge** and other student gathering spaces to allow for professional presentations and performances
- **Entrance Scholarships** to attract exceptionally talented students to York

## YOUR IMPACT

Your investment will help AMPD Music:

- further distinguish itself as the go-to place for academic music exploration and experimentation
- apply its unique approach to music education across the arts disciplines
- equip students with the skills, imagination and versatility to work in any number of music industry careers or apply their education in other unexpected ways keep up with the continuing demand from students and meet the need for divergent thinkers and practitioners in the industry

## INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED FACULTY

The department’s capacity to deliver interdisciplinary experiences is testament to its diverse and exceptional faculty—including Grammy award winner Rob Bowman; renowned mezzo-soprano Catherine Robbin, recipient of the Order of Canada; Gospel music powerhouse Karen Burke; internationally recognized pianist Christina Petrowska Quilico and trombonist Ron Westray, Oscar Peterson Chair in Jazz Performance.

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## CONTACT US

For more information about York’s Department of Music and how you can help define our creative future today, contact:

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