Welcome!

Congratulations on your acceptance to Carleton College! We are delighted to learn of your interest in studying Music at Carleton. The Music Department is a vibrant department that enrolls over six hundred students every term in a flexible and broad curriculum. We offer an array of courses in composition, theory, history, jazz and popular music, ethnomusicology, electronic music, and film music and new media. We offer an extensive array of performing experiences in traditional ensembles, such as the Carleton Orchestra, Symphony Band, Carleton Choir, and Jazz Ensemble, as well as private lessons in all orchestral instruments, voice, and many folk and non-Western instruments. We have an Electroacoustic lab where you can take courses in electronic music, and a “Rock Lab,” where you would learn to play and record rock music. All of these offerings are available to you regardless of your major.

Carleton music students enjoy artistic and academic collaborations across the curriculum, with a wealth of opportunities for unique and personal creativity. The personal attention each student receives as a music major is from faculty members who represent excellence and diversity on the international stage and scholarly community, including academic presentations at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, performances around the world, and research with collaborators around the US, and in China, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Finland. In fact, one of our piano faculty recently performed a recital at Carnegie Hall.

Carleton offers a major in music, a flexible major well suited to a double major, and we offer three minors: one in American music, another in general music studies, and a third specialized minor in music performance. Our students have presented work at national conferences, and recent graduates have continued their studies at Harvard, The Royal College of Music (London), Indiana University, and the Boston Conservatory, among others. Alumni have also continued on to law school, medical school, and other professions where the unique skills of an undergraduate music major are highly valued, and where the choice to study music has been integral to their continued personal growth and professional success.

We regularly host internationally acclaimed guest artists and scholars, and these guests often work with our students in master classes and through campus residencies. Recent guests have included So Percussion, Van Cliburn gold medal pianist Jon Nakamatsu, Jeff Zeigler (Kronos Quartet), DJ Spooky, Greil Marcus (critic for Rolling Stone magazine), early music icon Malcolm Bilson, The Bad Plus, Musicians of the Sichuan Conservatory (China), and the Minnesota Orchestra.

The Music Department moved into brand new facilities in the fall of 2017, and we are now housed in the beautiful Weitz Center for Creativity. We have a state of the art 410-seat performance hall suitable for music, dance, theater, and electronic music, an 80-seat recital/rehearsal hall, a dedicated chamber music room, the Electroacoustic Lab, and all-new practice rooms and rehearsal spaces with built-in A/V recording capabilities.
For more information about music at Carleton, please go to the Department of Music website at https://www.carleton.edu/music/, or contact me with any questions. Once again, I congratulate you on your acceptance to Carleton College, and hope to see you on campus in the fall.

Sincerely,

Ron Rodman, Ph.D.

Dye Family Professor of Music
Chair, Department of Music