

MUSIC MAJOR

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE & BEYOND

The Course

Music Major is a unique capstone program for student musicians at Cheshire Academy. The program offers a yearlong course designed for honors-level music students who are dedicated to pursuing their passion for music, exploring the art of expressing meaning through sound, and who may be considering majoring or minoring in music in college or aspire to a career as a professional musician.

At the heart of this course is the process of music mastery, with a rigorous focus on developing skills such as practice, nuance, phrasing, performance, and technical proficiency, all of which are essential for creating top-level music.

While Music Major is particularly beneficial for students who plan to apply to music programs for college, all students with a strong interest and background in music can thrive in this class. Throughout the course, students have opportunities to perform regularly and engage in audition preparation, showcasing their talents and honing their skills. All Music Major students receive individual lessons for their specialty instrument from world-class teachers.

Mastery of Skills

Through the Music Major program, student musicians hone their mastery in the following areas:

- **Ear training.** Students learn to identify intervals, chords, and melodies by ear as well as transcribe music from ear.
- **Sight reading.** Students learn to sight-read music with confidence at varying levels of difficulty.
- **Scale proficiency.** Students learn to play all major and minor scales in all keys up to the highest range of their instrument.
- **Virtuosic performance.** Students learn to perform and interpret challenging repertoire representing a variety of musical styles and periods, from Baroque to the modern era.
- **Ensemble work.** Students learn to play in ensembles and work with other musicians.
- **Performance skills.** Students hone their performance etiquette and stage presence.
- **Quality recording.** Students create audio and video recordings of their performances for use in auditions and competitions.

(continued)



Instrumental, voice, and music production

Ultimately, this course aims to inspire each student to channel their passion for music and strive to achieve their full potential, producing work that reflects their unique abilities and dedication to the art form.

Over the years, our music program has proven to be an asset to our student musicians, offering them a wide range of benefits. Graduates have gone on to pursue their musical talents at prestigious institutions, including **Berklee College of Music, Hartt School of Music at University of Hartford, Music and Performing Arts Professions at New York University,** and **Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University.**

“The program brought me a lot of support in my passion for music. It enriched my extracurricular life and allowed me to experience different music genres. Moreover, with the support and encouragement of my music teachers, I found an interest in learning music as a composer and decided to become one.”

- Harper, recent graduate

In addition to those who have pursued music as a career, many of our graduates who have chosen other professional paths continued to participate in music throughout their college years and perform throughout their lives. The skills and knowledge gained through the Cheshire Academy Music Program have enriched their lives and provided them with a lifelong appreciation for music.

Using Your Voice

Hone your vocal skills and get ready to perform on the next level. Your voice training will prepare you to participate in **The 1794s a capella choir, chorus, talent shows, regional and state festivals, National Honors Ensembles,** and **on-campus concerts, receptions,** and **weekly all-school meetings.**



Instrumental Breadth & Depth

The Music Major program serves the following instruments, through established relationships with world-class instructors and performers:

- **Bagpipes**
- **Cello**
- **Clarinet**
- **Double Bass/Electric Bass**
- **Flute**
- **French Horn**
- **Guitar** (electric and acoustic in all styles)
- **Oboe**
- **Organ and keyboard**
- **Percussion** (drum sets, mallets, snares, and other)
- **Piano** (Classical and Jazz)
- **Saxophone**
- **Trombone**
- **Trumpet**
- **Tuba**
- **Violin**
- **Viola**

New instruments are welcome and supported by the music faculty.

“Cheshire Academy’s music program allows all students to follow their musical passions. As a singer/songwriter, I have been supported throughout my journey, and have had the privilege of taking music classes that helped me grow as a musician and inspired some of my newest music.”

- Sofia, 12th grader

