Chicago College of Performing Arts

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Roosevelt University

Chicago

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Chicago College of Performing Arts provides Conservatory level Music and Theatre training within the context of a vibrant university in a world-class city. This is a place where students come to enhance their unique talents and polish them to perfection. Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) is well situated on the top floors of the historic ten-story Auditorium Building on Michigan Avenue, part of the city’s famous downtown Loop. Across the street are the flower gardens of Grant Park, the magnificent Buckingham Fountain, and sparkling Lake Michigan. CCPA counts 575 student artists filling its concert halls and theatres. These musicians and actors study with 127 Music Faculty members and 37 Theatre Faculty members, creating a dynamic energy throughout CCPA and Roosevelt University.

Our musicians and actors are among thousands of students enrolled at various educational institutions—37,000 in the Loop alone—making Chicago one of the nation’s great “college towns.” Within the Loop are many of the city’s major cultural institutions, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric Opera, the Goodman, Chicago, Oriental, and Cadillac theatres, and a wide variety of jazz and blues clubs, including the Blue Chicago and the Jazz Showcase. This ideal location provides opportunities for learning from some of the most accomplished actors and musicians in the world—many of whom comprise our faculty of artist-teachers, from principals in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to professional actors who have appeared on stages throughout the country.

As a CCPA student, you’ll develop your artistic voice through the numerous University-sponsored concerts, recitals, opera, theatre, and musical theatre productions presented every year. You’ll gain insight and inspiration from attending the various events that invigorate the city, from Broadway musicals to jazz and Shakespearean festivals. You’ll acquire additional experience through internships with nationally known music and theatre companies—and you’ll build a strong network of professional contacts that can give you a head start on the career you envision.
From its inception, Roosevelt University was—and has remained—a place of opportunity, bridging generations, ethnic differences and life circumstances. The University provides undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as pre-professional, certificate and post-baccalaureate programs. It now serves more than 7,200 students from the city, across the nation and more than 65 countries around the world. In addition to the urban Chicago campus, Roosevelt extends its reach through a northwestern suburban campus in Schaumburg.

Music and theatre students benefit from professional training within the rich context of a well-rounded university, where academic growth keeps pace with artistic development. Founded in 1945 to honor both Franklin and Eleanor, Roosevelt University is an independent, nonsectarian, metropolitan institution. It moved into the Auditorium Building on Michigan Avenue in 1947, naturally defining itself as urban. Chicago Musical College, which was founded in 1867, merged with Roosevelt University in 1954 and is now The Music Conservatory.

In the last ten years support for the arts has grown exponentially in Chicago as artists seek new and exciting ways to create a life in music, in theatre, in the arts. By any standard, Chicago is a world-class city, a center for culture, education, and commerce. The College is within easy walking distance of such major cultural attractions as Symphony Center, the Lyric Opera, Art Institute of Chicago, Soldier Field, Adler Planetarium, Field Museum, and Shedd Aquarium. Other historic venues such as Second City and the Green Mill are a bus or train ride away. A fascinating mix of restaurants, shops, and other amenities serve the Loop’s vibrant community. Additional city attractions are accessible by bus and the "L" which connects to O’Hare and Midway airports to our campus. The shoreline of Lake Michigan is an appealing contrast to the urban environment, and municipal leaders are currently capitalizing on the social and recreational possibilities of the Chicago River, which includes a river walkway from Lake Michigan to downtown, complete with parks and riverside cafes, as well as new venues for waterside music and theatre events.
Preparing for a life in music requires an unwavering desire to perform and perfect one’s art. Music performance majors arrive with artistic desire and leave with the skills and knowledge to begin a life in music. Studio lessons and participation in recitals, chamber music, opera, and large ensembles form the nucleus of a performer’s training. Orchestral studies majors focus their attention on preparing specifically for careers in orchestral performance. In recent years, alumni have won orchestra positions in Spain, Germany, Colorado, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Los Angeles, Gaines, Malaysia, Fort Worth, Japan, France and Kansas City.

Led by Associate Dean and Director Linda Berna, the Music Conservatory faculty, many of whom are in positions of prominence in the Chicago musical community, provide mentorship and direction to our students. They include more than 25 members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera Orchestra, such as concertmaster Robert Chen and principals Dale Clevenger, horn; John Sharp, cello; Eugene Izotov, Oboe, Jay Friedman, Trombone; Sarah Bullen, harp as well Principal Flute Emeritus, Donald Peck. Other esteemed musical entities are represented by such faculty members as Metropolitan and Lyric opera stars Samuel Ramey, Judith Haddon, David Holloway and Richard Stilwell; and renowned classical guitarist Denis Azabagic. All provide their students with technical expertise, knowledge of repertoire, and an inspiring love of music.

Our students also benefit from hearing the range of fine music that sweeps through the city. They watch great conductors from around the world conduct the Chicago Symphony, enjoy outdoor performances at Pritzker Pavilion in the nearby Millennium Park, or see jazz greats appearing at the famous Jazz Showcase.

Part of a lively continuum of artistic success, our music alumni perform with major orchestras and chamber ensembles and become educators, conductors, composers, and critics. Among our alumni are trombonist Jay Friedman, the great Opera bass Donald Gramm, concert pianist Jeffrey Siegel, and Robert McFerrin, the first African-American male soloist at the Metropolitan Opera.

**Music Programs and Majors**

- Bachelor of Music
  - Classical Performance
  - Orchestral Instruments
  - Piano
  - Voice
  - Guitar
- Music Education
  - Instrumental
  - Choral
- Classical Performance/Music Education Double Major
- Composition
- Jazz Studies
  - Instrumental
  - Vocal
- Master of Music
  - Classical Performance
  - Orchestral Instruments
  - Piano
  - Voice
  - Guitar
- Composition
  - Orchestral Studies (Winds, Brass, Percussion only)
- Professional Diploma
  - Orchestral Studies (Winds, Brass, Percussion)
  - Opera (in conjunction with Chicago Opera Theater)
- Performance Diploma
  - Orchestral Instruments
  - Piano
  - Guitar

**Music Ensembles**

- Symphony Orchestra
- Wind Ensemble
- Conservatory Chorus
- Women’s Chorus
- Jazz Orchestra
- Vocal Jazz
- Opera Theatre
- Plus-
  - Opera Scenes Productions
  - Chamber music ensembles
  - Classical guitar ensembles
  - Piano ensembles
  - Jazz combos

**Classical Music Performance and Orchestral Studies**

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If you want to study jazz, you’ll thrive in Chicago, where a flourishing community of jazz clubs—many within walking distance—feature some of the best talent in the world. From the early jazz and blues recordings of the ’20s to the internationally known Chicago Jazz Festival today, this city is alive with the sounds of jazz.

The Jazz Studies program prepares students for professional careers in jazz and its related idioms. Success requires technical mastery, stylistic knowledge, and versatility—all of which are instilled and honed here at CCPA. The Music Conservatory offers degrees in both instrumental and vocal jazz.

Our talented faculty includes active jazz professionals, such as Grammy winner (and Head of Jazz Studies) Paul Wertico of the Pat Metheny Group. Trumpeter Rob Parton is well known for his JAZZTECH Big Band recordings, and his lead-trumpet skills are regularly in demand in the city. Other faculty members include innovative guitarist John McLean, longtime lead-alto of Frank Sinatra’s band Mike Smith, and Latin artist Ruben Alvarez.
**Music Education**

We seek artists who have a passion for teaching and a desire to influence and shape future musical generations. Students in Music Education have the option to complete the program in four years, or combine their Music Education Degree with a second Music Performance degree in five years. Our music education degree program prepares and certifies students to teach all types of elementary and secondary music classes in public or private school systems. Two tracks are available: choral and instrumental. The program’s structure is based upon the certification requirements of the State of Illinois and our own high standards of musical and academic performance. Through regular and varied field experience in the second and third years, students also establish a strong presence on the podium and a passionate, authentic teaching style. CCPA is an excellent choice for students who are looking for a music education degree in a performance-intensive setting.

**Composition**

The art and craft of creating original music requires a clear understanding of how music is structured and the creative energy to develop an original voice through composition. The major in composition develops students’ creativity while providing a thorough grounding in music theory. Through weekly Composition Seminar meetings, students experience the music and perspectives of award winning faculty members Stacy Garrop and Kyong Mee Choi as well as visiting composers Augusta Read Thomas, Aaron Jay Kernis, Darren Hagen and David Baker. Composition recitals and readings of student works provide the opportunity to hear our student’s original pieces in performance. In recent years our students have used skills cultivated at CCPA to win international competitions, publish and produce their works and present lectures at conventions throughout the U.S. Among the College’s noteworthy graduates are composers Howard Sandroff (Professor, University of Chicago) and Alex Lubet (Professor, University of Minnesota).

**Additional Music Opportunities**

Students have a range of options, both within the school and in the larger musical community of Chicago. They perform individually or as members of ensembles in more than 250 concerts, operas, and recitals every year. They also participate in internships and performing opportunities with groups such as the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Grant Park Apprentice Choir. Recent students have interned and performed with the Philadelphia Pops, Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago Symphony and the Newberry Library Foundation. In addition, our location provides access to recording sessions and other commercial music opportunities.

Theory faculty member Rudy Marzucchi and composition student
Percussion faculty member Ed Harrison and students
Piano student practicing in the Ganz Studio
Voice faculty member Judith Haddon
Student Chamber Ensemble
Theatre study at the Chicago College of Performing Arts is rigorous and intense. We seek students with a passion and commitment to the perfection of their craft and an interest in understanding both on stage performing and back stage production. The Theatre Conservatory offers professional degree programs for students who want to pursue careers in acting and musical theatre. High school theatre teachers from around the country have completed CCPA’s Summer Fast Track M.A. degree, which focuses on directing. Whether you ultimately choose to work in front of the lights or behind the scenes, you’ll be solidly grounded in the fundamentals and acquire the advanced professional knowledge you’ll need to step out with confidence.

Led by Associate Dean and Director Joel G. Fink, a nationally recognized artist and teacher, the theatre faculty and staff include such notable professionals as Christine Adaire, Jane Alderman, Belinda Brenner, June Compton, Ray Frewen, Ted Hoerl, Sean Ryan Kelley, Stephen Kraske, Luis Perez, Steve Scott, Bonnie Shadrake, Dan Stetzel and Candace Taylor. Our faculty members teach from direct experience on New York and Chicago stages, in regional companies, feature films, and commercial work. Others work in lighting, casting, directing, producing, costume design, and fight choreography—in fact, every facet of theatre.

theatre programs and majors

bachelor of fine arts

Acting
Musical Theatre

master of fine arts

Acting

master of arts

Fast Track Program in Directing

The Unkindness of Ravens

Professor Sean Kelley working with students in an acting class

Dr. Joel G. Fink, Director, working with Theatre Conservatory Students
The Theatre Conservatory plays an important role in Chicago’s vibrant arts community. Every season we offer a stimulating mix of classic and contemporary plays, musicals, and experimental works. Our 16-20 annual productions include studio, mainstage, and musical productions. O’Malley Theatre, our primary production space, has been transformed into Anne Frank’s hidden room, Macbeth’s castle, and Cabaret’s Kit Kat Club.

The city of Chicago itself serves as our ultimate theatre teaching space. The city is a cultural mecca that includes more than 150 professional theatre companies. You’ll see touring Broadway shows as well as productions at the nationally recognized Chicago Shakespeare, Steppenwolf, Goodman, Court, and Second City theatres. The famous Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University is an important part of Chicago’s theatrical heritage and in recent years has been home to such long running hits as Mamma Mia, Phantom of the Opera, Oklahoma!, and Evita.

Internships with Chicago’s professional theatre community provide immeasurable advantage to CCPA’s students artists. Students have interned in acting, directing, stage and arts management, design, theatre technology, business and marketing, public relations, development, and front-of-house with companies like the Goodman, Lookingglass, Organic, Oriental, Court, Steppenwolf, and Chicago Shakespeare theatres. Students come away with both academic credit and key professional contacts. Recent alumni have formed their own theatre companies, taken postgraduate internships with top national theatres, and obtained acting positions locally, in New York, and across the country.

“Today … stage musicals by Stephen Sondheim and Cole Porter receive as much scholarly attention and academic respect as anything by Verdi or Puccini. The response from students around the world has been striking, with enrollment more than doubling in the last decade. … Intensive courses in cabaret, musical theatre and other distinctly American musical genres defy the stereotype of the typical, European-focused arts school.”

Chicago Tribune
The Auditorium Building, a National Historic Landmark, is recognized as the masterpiece of Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler—who had assistance from a young apprentice named Frank Lloyd Wright. The building displays exquisite artistry, from decorative ironwork in staircases to carved mahogany wall panels to the award-winning stained-glass creations of George Louis Healy and Louis Julian Millet. Students enjoy public events held in our famous Auditorium Theatre (shown above), which also hosts select College performances and University commencement exercises.

Performing arts students have access to all University facilities. Our Performing Arts Computer Lab boasts state-of-the-art equipment—the latest Apple computers, printers and MIDI keyboards—as well as WiFi access and specialized software for music and theatre.

Music students use soundproof, air-conditioned practice rooms, many of which house grand pianos; teaching studios are similarly equipped. The Piano Lab has 16 digital pianos, and the Electro-Acoustic Studios contains sequencers, MIDI equipment, and computers that support both Windows and Apple platforms. Students perform in concert facilities that include the historic, 200-seat Ganz Memorial Recital Hall (shown at right). The Music Library houses more than 100,000 books and music scores, sound recordings, periodicals, and archival materials. It provides Internet access as well as audio and video equipment for a variety of recorded mediums.

The 230-seat Patrick O’Malley Theatre boasts a sophisticated lighting system and holds the College’s mainstage theatre productions as well as lectures and conferences. The flexible seating and more intimate space of the Miller Studio Theatre is well suited for student projects in directing and performance. Both theatres serve as laboratories for student-artists to learn their craft and present their visions to the public.
After taking conservatory classes and Chicago’s cultural experience, students come home to the University Center of Chicago (UCC), CCPA’s dormitory in the heart of the loop. University Center of Chicago, our state-of-the-art residence hall is just one block away at the corner of State Street and Congress Parkway. This facility features a mixture of studios, suites, and apartments with ample spaces for studying and socializing, including a beautiful rooftop garden terrace. Upperclassmen and graduate students may also live off campus in Chicago’s beautifully diverse neighborhoods, easily accessible by mass transit.

The Adams Street L stop, two blocks from the building. Students receive a UPASS which provides 24/7 access to the bus and train system throughout the city.

For More Information

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We seek student artists who believe passionately in the transformative power of music and theatre and who seek to create lives as performers, teachers and scholars. Our sincerest concern is that students find an institution that best suits their academic and artistic goals. Our faculty are dedicated to their disciplines and possess a desire to help young artists and teachers find their own personal voices so they can, in turn, fulfill their own dreams and enrich the communities in which they live and work.

As you explore the many possibilities ahead of you, we look forward to helping you in any way we can as you make important decisions about your life and future.

Sincerely,

Rudy Marcozzi, Ph.D. Heather McCowen
Interim Dean Assistant Dean
Chicago College of Performing Arts

FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships are available from the College. CCPA considers grades, test scores, and audition results within the context of financial need as demonstrated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For U.S. Citizens, Roosevelt’s financial aid office will use the results of the FAFSA to determine grant, loan, and federal work-study eligibility. Please visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information about the FAFSA and www.roosevelt.edu/financialaid to download the Roosevelt financial aid application.

CAMPUS VISITS

We welcome prospective students and families for campus tours and classroom observations. Please call 312.341.3789.