



# Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA)

All the world's a stage

"There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and will be lost."

Martha Graham  
Pioneering American modern dancer

Otago's Bachelor of Performing Arts is a unique degree that is the result of a distinctive, exciting collaboration between the University's programmes in theatre, music and dance. It gives students a rare opportunity to study more than one performing art form – music, theatre and dance – within a single degree.

Students will be guided to develop their knowledge and skills in areas such as acting, dance, directing, devising, music performance (singing or instrument), composition, songwriting, technical production, and the theoretical and historical foundations of theatre, music and dance.

Bachelor of Performing Arts students will train and perform in a fully equipped theatre, as well as music and dance studios and performance spaces.

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## Why study performing arts?

The Bachelor of Performing Arts degree (BPA) is tailored for students who have interests and abilities in more than one performing art form.

The degree offers students university-level academic tuition alongside some academy-style vocational training and includes options for a variety of possible study pathways including dance, directing, acting, devising, music performance (singing or instrumental) and composition.

The BPA is a three-year full-time course of study. It is made up of a minimum of 20 papers. Most of these papers are music (MUSI), theatre (THEA), dance (DANC) and performing arts (PERF), but there is sufficient room in the degree to choose five papers in other subjects.

The flexible nature of the degree allows different study pathways and multiple specialisations. In your first year, you should take six to eight papers including two or more of the following:

THEA 153 Voice and Movement

One of the following:

MUSI 103 Popular Music

MUSI 104 World Music

MUSI 105 Music Matters

THEA 122 Drama on Stage and Screen

## Auditions are required for singing and/or playing an instrument

The Bachelor of Performing Arts is a blended specialist degree that contains practice-based training in some key areas for which students must pass an audition to be accepted.

If you choose papers in singing or playing an instrument, you must audition for entry. These papers are MUSI 141 (Performance), MUSI 146 (Contemporary Music Performance), PERF 102 (Musical Theatre Voice) and MUSI 140 (Music Studies – available in any instrument).

Auditions for these performance papers normally take place in Dunedin during the last weekend of September for entry the following year. It is also possible to audition by video, with these due by 1 September for entry the following year. Late applications may be considered.

For further information on the deadlines for auditions, the audition process and audition application forms, please visit the School of Performing Arts website:

[otago.ac.nz/performingarts](http://otago.ac.nz/performingarts)

## Requirements for other music papers

The first-year composition paper, MUSI 131, requires that beginning students are comfortable in both the reading and writing of music.

The songwriting paper, MUSI 135, does not require an audition or other requirements and is open to all students regardless of whether they can read or write music notation.

## Requirements for entry into the theatre and dance papers

There are no auditions required for entry into the theatre and dance papers.

## Career opportunities

Graduates of the BPA will be able to pursue careers in a wide range of performance forms and styles, as well as in performing arts-related education, media and other related fields. Our programme enables the development of a range of skills.

While the skills and knowledge gained will prove invaluable for those desiring a career in musical/theatrical forms and performing arts education, they are equally useful for many career paths.

Cultural knowledge and skills gained through creative practice and historical and theoretical study are valued, for example, in journalism, advertising, marketing, law, medicine, and many other occupations. You will develop many generic skills employers seek including:

- teamwork and leadership
- effective oral and written communication
- gathering and processing of information
- analysis, critical evaluation and problem solving
- organisational skills and time-management
- lateral and critical thinking
- creativity
- self-confidence and self-motivation
- independent judgement.

## PROFILE

### Lydia Bernard

Bachelor of Performing Arts

When Lydia Bernard found out about the Bachelor of Performing Arts at Otago, she thought it was a great opportunity to build on what she loved doing at school.

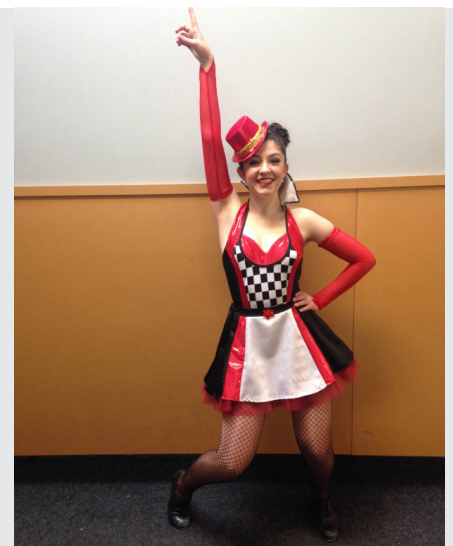
Lydia was involved in performance and dance from an early age, taking classical vocal training from the age of seven and doing tap dance, ballet, jazz dance and aerobics. Getting involved in stage challenge and drama was what she enjoyed doing most at school.

"The BPA was the perfect course, it's a mix of the practical and the theoretical. You get the opportunity to perform and you're also part of the university, learning and studying academically. There's not really anywhere else in New Zealand where this kind of course is offered.

"I was terrified, scared about leaving school for uni and about not making friends. With the BPA, I was part of a close-knit community of students and staff. You have to get to know people in order to perform with them and I now have a whole lot of friends.

"The papers in first year all complemented each other very well. For example, what I learned in my dance paper helped with my voice and movement paper. I learned more about myself than ever before. I learned about performance, and about how to better express myself in music, theatre and dance.

"This was the perfect course. Everything I loved about school was here and I had friends with the same interests and helpful, friendly lecturers. It was hard going, but it didn't feel like work – it's what I wanted to do."



For questions about the  
Bachelor of Performing Arts  
[otago.ac.nz/performingarts](http://otago.ac.nz/performingarts)

