



Bachelor of Performing Arts

All the world's 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
and choreographer

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 university 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, song-writing, 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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About the Bachelor of Performing Arts degree

The Bachelor of Performing Arts degree 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 Bachelor of Performing Arts degree 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, theatre and dance papers, but there is sufficient room in the degree to take a minor in another discipline. The BPA is a flexible degree allowing different study pathways and multiple specialisations.

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.

In music, you must choose one or more areas of specialisation, including singing, playing a musical instrument and/or composing/song-writing. If you choose the singing and/or playing an instrument option/s, then you must audition for entry. These papers are MUSI 140, MUSI 141, MUSI 146 and PERF 102.

Auditions for these 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 being due on September 1st for entry the following year.

For further information on the deadlines for auditions and the audition process and the audition application forms please visit the Music website at otago.ac.nz/music

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 song-writing 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.

Beginning your degree

Here is the list of papers you will take in the first year of your Bachelor of Performing Arts degree at the University of Otago.

Required Papers

THEA 153 Voice and Movement
THEA 122 Drama on Stage and Screen
MUSI 101 Materials of Music 1

One of PHSE 115 Fundamentals of Dance **or**
PHSE 116 Elements of Dance

One of the following

MUSI 131 Composition 1
(Students must be able to read and write music)
MUSI 135 Song Writing
MUSI 140 Performance Studies
(Audition required)
MUSI 141 Performance 1
(Audition required) (*double points)
MUSI 146 Professional Practice 1A
(Audition required)
PERF 102 Musical Theatre Voice 1A

Plus two other papers of your choice *or one if you have enrolled in MUSI 141 which is a full year paper with a double points value.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the degree 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 judgment

YOUR place
in the world

PROFILE

Lydia Bernard

Student, Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA)

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

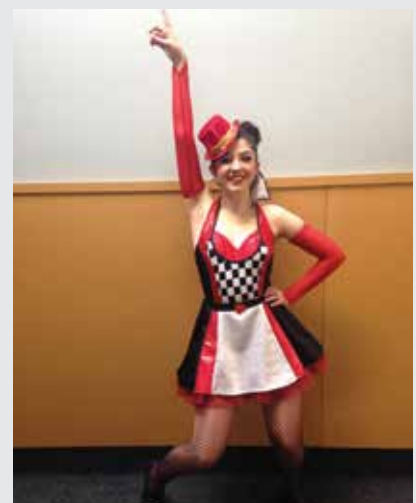
Lydia has been involved in performance and dance from early on, taking classical vocal training from the age of seven and doing tap-dance, ballet, jazz dance and aerobics. Getting involved in stage challenge and drama was what she enjoyed doing most at school.

"The BPA is 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'm 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 complement each other very well, for example, what I learned in my dance paper is helping me with my voice and movement paper. This year I have learned more about myself than I ever have before. I've learned about performance, and about how I can better express myself in music, theatre and dance.

"This is the perfect course. Everything I loved about school is here, and I have friends with the same interests and helpful, friendly lecturers. It's hard going, but it doesn't feel like work, it's what I want to do."



For questions about
Bachelor of Performing Arts
otago.ac.nz/performingarts

