
School of Performing Arts Te Kāhui Tau

Music | Theatre | Dance



Nau mai, haere mai, tauti mai

Welcome to the creative heart of the University of Otago.

If you are passionate about music, theatre and dance, you'll find your home at Otago's School of Performing Arts.

Our teachers are both practitioners and researchers who understand the industry and are immersed in the world of performance. They will foster your excitement and help you develop your skills and knowledge in their respective fields.

From individual papers to full degree options, discover our range of unique, innovative and flexible programmes that can be designed specifically for you.

The Otago School of Performing Arts community is:

- **Collaborative.** You'll benefit from our knowledge and experience across all the performing arts disciplines.
- **Supportive.** Our close-knit community of staff and students encourage and support personal growth and self-expression.
- **Inclusive.** This is a fun and accepting place – we welcome everyone and cultivate a culture of respect.

Gain the skills employers want

The skills and knowledge you'll gain for a career in performance are also valuable in many other professions. You'll learn how to express yourself and communicate with others, work in a team, solve problems creatively and gain discipline-specific knowledge and transferable skills.

We offer:

- Flexible programmes that balance theory and practice. You can choose papers and programmes tailored to your needs.
- The best teaching. Our lecturers are leading performers, talented teachers and internationally recognised researcher academics who actively pursue their passions as performers, actors, composers, songwriters, directors, choreographers and more; their national and global networks can help you build industry-wide connections.
- Learning opportunities outside the classroom, including weekly lunchtime music and theatre/performance, concert programmes, local community events and industry internships. Students have many performance options in local bands, musical productions, orchestras, theatre groups and dance collectives.
- Location. Dunedin is a student city with an active, welcoming and supportive performing arts community (you won't be a small fish in a big pond!).
- More connection. Our classes are small, so you'll get more time with your lecturers and tutors.
- Career-ready graduates. The skills and knowledge you'll gain for a career in performance are also valuable in many other professions.

Outstanding venues

As a student in the School of Performing Arts, you'll train and perform in our unique combination of state-of-the-art facilities and historic buildings full of character – the perfect learning environment for performance and collaboration.

Te Korokoro o te Tūi: Otago's Performing Arts centre

Te Korokoro o te Tūi is a brand new facility with nine purpose-built studios, teaching and performance spaces, and communal areas for students to collaborate and showcase their work.

The industry-leading two-storey studio is equipped to record everything from small orchestras to solos, and teach contemporary and rock music performance. Dunedin's wider performing arts community also uses Te Korokoro o te Tūi, connecting students, professional musicians, community groups and arts organisations.

Allen Hall Theatre

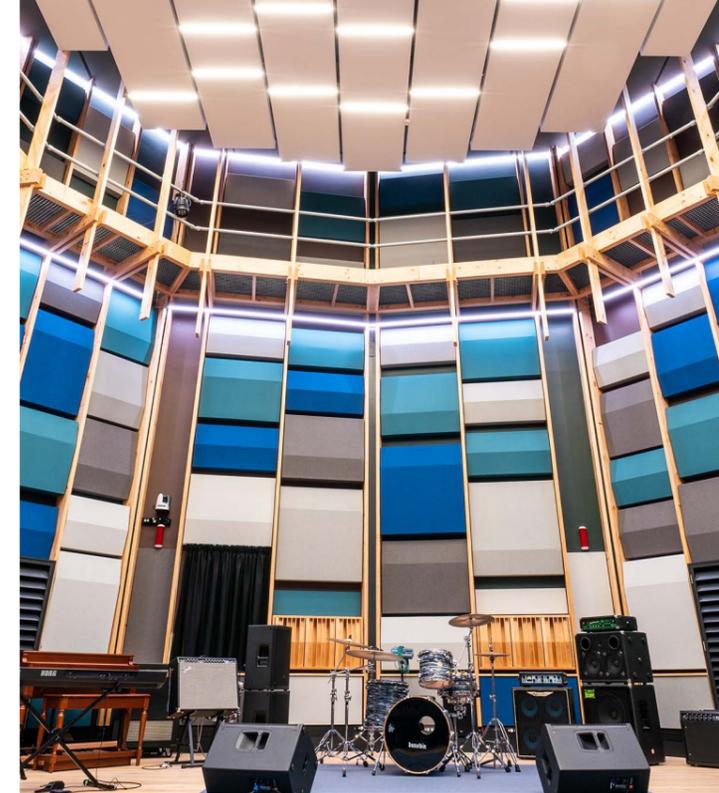
Allen Hall Theatre is a teaching space and performance venue for Theatre Studies students and groups outside the University who appreciate the versatility of the main theatre and rehearsal spaces, and its state-of-the-art lighting technology.

Marama Hall

Marama Hall was officially opened in 1923. It is now home to the classical music performance programme.

Dance studio

Our dance studio is a fully-equipped teaching space used by our dance students and for workshops by professional and community groups outside the University.



Music

At Otago, we make music, know about music, and are passionate about nurturing and developing musicians. We teach performance, composition, songwriting and music production, as well as music theory and history, and you'll have the opportunity to explore classical, traditional and contemporary music from Aotearoa and elsewhere in the world.

Study options

If you want Music to be the main focus of your degree, apply for the Bachelor of Music (MusB). The programme is mainly made up of Music papers but may include up to five papers in other subjects.

There are no major subjects for the MusB, although the degree can include a minor subject. You can complete a MusB without any specialisation, or it can be endorsed in Composition, Performance, or Music Production.

If you'd like to study papers from other subject areas in addition to Music, a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree with a major in Music is a good option. Or you can study Music as a major alongside Commerce or Science subjects when you take the Bachelor of Arts and Commerce (BACom) or Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc) degrees.

You can also study Music as part of a double degree – for example, a Bachelor of Music (MusB) and a Bachelor of Arts (BA).

Music is available as a minor subject (five papers) for a range of degrees, in many specialisations:

- Classical Music
- Ethnomusicology
- Music
- Music Production
- Popular Music

You can also add stand-alone Music papers to most degrees.



100-level papers

- MUSI 101 Materials of Music 1
- MUSI 103 Popular Music
- MUSI 104 World Music
- MUSI 105 Music Matters
- MUSI 131 Composition 1
- MUSI 132 Music Production 1
- MUSI 135 Songwriting
- MUSI 140 Performance Studies 1*
- MUSI 141 Performance 1*
- MUSI 146 Contemporary Music Performance 1
- MUSI 191 Introduction to Music

*Entry into this paper requires an audition, see page 8.

Career opportunities

Our graduates become performers, teachers, composers and studio producers. There are many career options in the wider music industry including music journalism and writing, advertising and public relations, or as a music agent or event manager. Advancements in digital technology have also expanded employment opportunities in the music industry worldwide.

Theatre Studies

Theatre Studies explores and presents human experience and imagination in a dynamic, immediate and relevant way. At Otago, you'll reflect on and inhabit lives that are different from your own and develop your creative expression, teamwork and communication skills. You'll study different times and cultures from a theatre perspective, ranging from Shakespeare and performance art to the theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our lecturers have professional and academic expertise in acting, devising, producing, directing, theatre analysis and reviewing, stage design, lighting and sound design, playwriting, dramaturgy and translation.

Lunchtime Theatre programme

Our weekly Lunchtime Theatre programme at Allen Hall Theatre is your testing ground in all aspects of stagecraft – get practical experience as a performer, director, playwright, lighting and sound designer, or stage manager.

Study options

Theatre Studies is available as a major in the Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Arts and Commerce (BACom) or Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc). The major consists of ten Theatre Studies papers plus an additional ten papers from within the programme and/or from other departments.

You can also take Theatre as part of the Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA).

Theatre Studies is available as a minor for a range of degrees. The minor comprises five Theatre Studies papers.

You can combine Theatre Studies with another subject (e.g. English, Music, Dance, Anthropology, Film and Media, Psychology, Māori Studies and many more) for a double major or with another degree, such as Law, Marketing or Education, for a double degree. And you can also add stand-alone Theatre Studies papers to most degrees.

100-level papers

If you intend to major in Theatre Studies, you must take the following 100-level papers:

- THEA 122 Drama on Stage and Screen
- THEA 151 Improvisation
- THEA 152 Theatre Technology

A recommended paper is:

- THEA 153 Voice and Movement

Career opportunities

Theatre Studies graduates work as actors, directors, publicists, script-writers, TV/radio journalists, filmmakers, comedians, designers, teachers, musicians and theatre technicians. Others take up careers in arts administration, advertising and marketing, or undertake further training in theatre-related fields.

Studying Theatre papers will give you an exciting, stimulating combination of practical skills and academic training, preparing you for a wide variety of careers both within and far beyond theatre and the performing arts.



Nathaniel Otley

Bachelor of Music with Honours

Winner of the 2019 NZSO Todd Corporation Young Composers Award and international scholarship award recipient 2020/2021

“The Bachelor of Music allowed me to pursue performing, composing, conducting and musicology, and also gave me the flexibility to explore other disciplines. Students are involved in the local music scene, from playing in orchestras and singing in operas to performing at local music venues. The people at the School of Performing Arts were really supportive and fantastic. I had a lot of help from my lecturers and many other members of staff, including those from the contemporary side and other disciplines. That all contributes to enjoyment and development as a creative practitioner.”



Victoria Abbott

Bachelor of Arts (Theatre Studies)

“I've had some wonderful jobs since graduating; working for Jane Campion twice, filming *Educators* with my comedy heroes, and international theatre tours to London, New York, Jeonju, Melbourne, Perth and LA. I formed a theatre company with another Otago graduate, and we worked for years together making theatre. I've also worked full-time on the TV show *Power Rangers*, and directed my first play, *Contractions* by Mike Bartlett. The Theatre programme has produced some incredible industry professionals. Once you've been through Allen Hall Theatre, you belong to a special club for life.”

Dance

Study dance as an art form and feel the exhilaration of moving, choreographing and performing. In a combination of theory and practice, you will explore dance styles and develop an understanding and critical appreciation of dance as a performative medium and creative expression within various cultural contexts. While a basic understanding of the different dance genres would be useful, it is not essential. Entry into the dance papers does not require audition.

Study options

Dance is a minor subject for many degrees made up of five papers. It is also part of the Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA).

You can add an interest paper in Dance to most degrees.

Dance papers

- DANC 101 Dance and Popular Culture
- DANC 201/301 Contemporary Dance Fusions
- DANC 204/304 Dance for Musical Theatre
- Additional papers for the Dance minor are THEA 153 Voice and Movement, PERF 205 Creative Industries and HUMS 301 Internship Practicum.

Career opportunities

Our Dance programme will enhance your choreographic, performance and research skills and prepare you for a successful career as a dancer performer, choreographer, researcher or dance educator. The skills you gain are also useful for a wide range of occupations including arts administration, dance festivals or events management, marketing, design, photography or arts journalism.



Bachelor of Performing Arts

The Bachelor of Performing Arts is a unique and exciting degree that allows you to study different performing arts in one degree. If you have an interest and abilities in more than one performing art form (theatre, music or dance) then the Bachelor of Performing Arts degree is tailored for you.

You can choose to study music performance (singing or instrument), composition, songwriting, music production, dance performance and choreography, directing, acting, devising and technical production. And you'll also learn about the history, theories and key practitioners in each performing art form.

If you opt for practical classes, you'll have opportunities to perform in our fully-equipped Music and Theatre venues (Marama Hall, Allen Hall Theatre, Te Korokoro o te Tūī), our dance studios and other teaching/performance spaces..

Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA)

The BPA is made up of music, theatre and dance papers but may include up to five papers in other subjects or in further specialisations in music, theatre, or dance. One of your first-year papers will be THEA 153 Voice and Movement, which explores the way we communicate with the world using our bodies and voices. Beyond this paper, there is a lot of flexibility within your degree, so you can tailor your studies to your strengths and interests in music, theatre and dance.

You don't have to be a performer to undertake a BPA degree; we offer many papers which explore other elements of the performing arts. It is important to keep in mind that some of the papers you may wish to take beyond first year require specific prerequisite papers to have been passed before entry can be approved. You should bear this in mind from the beginning of your studies.

If you seek entry into a music performance paper as part of your BPA degree, you'll need to audition (see page 8 for details).

Career opportunities

BPA graduates pursue careers in a wide range of performance forms and styles and performing arts-related education, media, and other fields. You will develop many skills that employers seek, including teamwork and leadership, effective oral and written communication, analysis, reflective practice, and problem-solving, organisational skills and time management. Cultural knowledge and skills gained through creative practice and historical and theoretical study are valued, for example, in journalism, teaching, advertising, marketing, law, and many other occupations.



Tiara Nafatali

Studying for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Physical Education, Activity and Health, with a minor in Dance

“At Otago, I’m exploring a diverse range of dance styles, including break dancing, K-pop, and hiphop in Aotearoa, learning different skills and passing my knowledge on to others. After university, I hope to teach dance and physical education in secondary schools. Dance has helped me develop my choreographic process and creativity, which will definitely help me as a coach. I am also really enjoying interacting with other students in the practical classes, and our teacher is amazing, engaging and passionate.

“I’d encourage anyone who wants to enhance their creativity, practical skills, knowledge, study skills and ability to think critically to add Dance as a minor to their degrees. Dance also teaches strong communication skills – so it’s great for learning to work effectively with other people.”



Michelle Keating

Bachelor of Performing Arts

Speech Therapist, Clinical Voice Specialist and Vocal Coach

“Otago’s BPA differs from most other programmes in New Zealand as it balances the practical aspects of performance with theory as well. My degree gave me skills and knowledge that most speech therapists don’t have. A thorough understanding of the techniques professional voice users require when performing meant I could specialise early in my career. I now work at a private clinic aligned with a performing arts organisation where I also teach dance and drama and help direct community theatre productions.”

Auditions and key dates for Music Performance papers

(no auditions are required for Theatre or Dance)

Entry into most musical performance papers and programmes depends on completing an audition*. You may audition for voice (classical, contemporary, music theatre), violin, cello, piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone and brass instruments. You are strongly advised to submit an application form in the year prior to study. Leaving the process to the start of the year in which you wish to study is unwise: there are not likely to be many places available at that point, no matter how good you are. If possible, you are also advised to attend the audition in person at the School of Performing Arts.

*No audition is required for World Music Performance instruments Taonga Pūoro, Taiko drums, koto. Students applying for bagpipes and Scottish drumming may be required to undertake an audition.

Application deadline

The audition deadlines for Classical Performance, Contemporary Performance, Professional Practice and Musical Theatre Voice is 1 September. Classical Performance applicants who prefer an earlier audition should contact us to arrange an audition. Late applications will be considered, subject to lecturer availability. To arrange a late audition, please contact us as soon as possible.

Auditions take place in September. Application forms and confirmed audition dates will be available online: otago.ac.nz/auditions

DVD / YouTube auditions. Applicants who cannot attend an audition in person or on the dates allocated for auditions can send a high-quality DVD to the School of Performing Arts or email a YouTube link to spa@otago.ac.nz for consideration. The DVD or YouTube link, and your completed application form, must be received by 1 September.

Notification of acceptance

Following your audition, you will be notified of the result. You should receive an offer of a place by early to mid-October. If you are offered a place, you must let us know if you intend to accept this offer.

Contact us

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otago.ac.nz/performing-arts

