



Harvard and Berklee Announce Dual Degree Program

Harvard College and Berklee College of Music have formalized a partnership to offer a new five-year dual degree that will enable students to earn a Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) at Harvard and a Master of Music (M.M.) or a Master of Arts (M.A.) at Berklee starting in fall 2017. Students may begin applying to the program July 5, 2016 (Berklee) and early August, 2016 (Harvard).

Designed for exceptional musicians interested in a diverse range of artistic careers as well as a liberal arts education, the dual degree will allow the two institutions to offer the best of their individual strengths. Driven by student demand for more opportunities and flexibility, the program allows accepted undergraduates to complete Harvard's liberal arts curriculum while pursuing an advanced degree in music.

“Berklee’s programs have steadily gained prestige and power, turning the school into a formidable cutting-edge incubator for the newest waves of performance and composition,” said Carol J. Oja, chair of Harvard’s music department. “Institutionally, the partnership represents an understanding of the arts and art-making in the 21st century, especially the growing impact of technology and the realities of a globalizing arts landscape.”

The new program fits with the Harvard Music Department’s strong interests in jazz and world musics. Director of Jazz Bands Thomas Everett brought jazz to Harvard in the 1970s. The Department’s ethnomusicology offerings (1991), appointment of the Quincy Jones Professor of African American Music (2001), course offerings in jazz (2009), and the recent faculty appointments of musicians Vijay Iyer (2014) and Yosvany Terry (2015) have all expanded the

offerings.

“The Berklee collaboration will build on our strengths and respond to a shifting world,” adds Oja.

Berklee’s master’s programs—in scoring for film, television, and video games; music production, technology, and innovation; global entertainment and music business; music therapy; and contemporary performance—cover areas not currently available at Harvard. Berklee offers four master’s programs at its campus in Valencia, Spain, and two at its main campus in Boston.

Students will pursue the A.B. curriculum at Harvard and take private lessons and other preparatory courses at Berklee during the first three years of the program. Students are also required to participate in ensembles at either institution, and pass instrumental proficiency exams at Berklee. Preparatory coursework at Berklee may be completed during fall and spring semesters, as well as during summer sessions in Boston, Valencia, or at Berklee Online. In the fourth year, students will complete all Harvard’s A.B. requirements, including a senior thesis if desired. In year five, students complete their selected master’s program at Berklee.

To get into the program, students must be accepted to both Harvard and Berklee independently, as well as complete an audition and interview with Berklee. Harvard undergraduates may also apply to the program as transfer students during their freshman or sophomore years.

Modeled after Harvard’s successful joint degree with New England Conservatory, the Harvard-Berklee partnership will be mutually beneficial, expanding opportunities for students while enriching the communities of both institutions.

“Joshua Redman, Yo-Yo Ma, Aaron Goldberg, Tom Morello and a number of other highly accomplished musicians have studied at Harvard,” said Berklee President Roger Brown. “Imagine the possibilities when a world-leading Harvard undergraduate education can be augmented by private lessons, ensembles, and music classes in jazz, production, film scoring and more at Berklee.”

“Both schools are chock full of amazing teachers and academic/musical resources,” says renowned jazz pianist Aaron Goldberg, who received a B.A. in 1996 from Harvard (concentrating in Mind Brain Behavior) and played with Berklee musicians throughout his time at Harvard. “For me personally, the challenge of balancing academic pursuits with music during college was a very welcome challenge: I was super-excited to play the piano after reading and writing and taking notes all day. The same was also true in reverse: after spending every summer playing music single-mindedly, I was moved to return to Harvard in the fall and begin to read and write seriously again.”

In addition to Harvard’s generous financial aid program, annual awards are available to support Berklee master’s students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing the joint degree through the Paul and Catherine Battenwieser Endowed Scholarship Fund, established

by Berklee Presidential Advisory Council member Paul Buittenwieser and his wife, Katie.
“Music has always been a great passion of ours, so Katie and I couldn’t be more thrilled to be part of this exciting new alliance and support the next generation of artists who will mold the future of music and the music industry.”

A celebratory open house for the Harvard/Berklee dual degree will be held at 4pm on October 13 at Harvard’s Holden Chapel. More information on the program can be found online at the [Harvard Department of Music](#) or [Berklee Office of Graduate Studies](#) websites.