MUSIC THERAPY

Music Therapy is the systematic application of music by a trained music therapist to restore, maintain, or enhance the cognitive, socio-emotional, and/or physical functioning of persons of all ages experiencing special challenges. The Board Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC) is a skilled musician and therapist who generally serves as a member of a team of trained medical or educational professionals, participating in the assessment, treatment, and progress evaluation of the clients served.

Ohio University's Music Therapy Department was among the first institutions of higher learning to offer a Bachelor's degree in music therapy and the only school in Ohio to offer a Master's degree with a major in music therapy. Students accepted into the degree program receive a comprehensive education in music and music therapy skills through classroom study and six semesters of supervised community placements.

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy

The curriculum consists of studies in music therapy, psychology, sociology and anthropology (20-30%) of the degree program; studies in music (45-50%); general studies (20-25%); and electives (5%). A six-month internship at a facility approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), or the university, is required prior to graduation. Following successful completion of the internship and graduation the student is eligible to take the national Board Certification Examination. A student earns a Bachelor of Music with a major in music therapy (BM) and the designation of Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC).

Graduate Study

Graduate studies in the field of music therapy impart further breadth and depth to clinical competencies while providing advanced instruction in clinical specialization, documentation and research with particular emphasis given to program design, development and administration. Programs leading to the Master of Music degree require a minimum of 34 semester hours of graduate work. A thesis or its equivalent is required.

Master of Music in Music Therapy

Students with a bachelor's degree in music therapy may pursue the Master of Music in Music Therapy. This curriculum provides advanced specialization tracks to include research and teaching, management and program development, and advanced clinical specialization. The program consists of between 30 and 50 semester hours divided between music, music therapy and free electives in the student's area of specialization. A Master's/Equivalency Program is also offered for those currently holding a degree in music.

Music Therapy Division Faculty

Kamile Geist, M.A., MT-BC
Associate Professor of Music Therapy
geistk@ohio.edu

Laura Brown, M.M., MT-BC
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Therapy
brownl5@ohio.edu

School of Music Faculty biographies

www.finearts.ohio.edu/music
Application Procedures
In addition to completing the standard application for admission to the university, applicants are required to complete a successful audition on their major instrument. A personal interview for both undergraduates and graduates, as well as a paper submission for graduates is required. Additional information regarding this application process may be found on-line at www.finearts.ohio.edu/music.

Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships
Upon successful audition, students are eligible for scholarships and graduate assistantships in the School of Music. These awards are highly competitive and are dependent upon availability from year to year.

Opportunities for Research, Creative Activity, and Training
Opportunities for 20 community sites affiliated with the Music Therapy Department to provide practica placements and the Athens Community Music School compose a rich field for study and creative activity. These and other unique opportunities are available to both undergraduate and graduate students under the direction and guidance of the music therapy faculty. Students may also participate in research conducted by faculty members. The University Music Therapy Clinic housed in the School of Music provides opportunities for research in the areas of autism and community-based music therapy. Affiliations with O’Bleness Memorial Hospital, Athens County Hospice, and other health-related facilities, Ohio University’s Kids on Campus summer program for reading delayed young children, and the School of Speech and Language Sciences provide graduate students with continuing research opportunities.

Clinical Training
Students accepted into the Music Therapy program receive extensive clinical experience with children and adults with disabilities. With supervision by university faculty and clinical staff, the student is trained to transfer knowledge acquired in the classroom to clinical settings within the community. Following the completion of on-campus study, each student completes a minimum of 900 hours in internship training at an AMTA-approved clinical setting.

Music Therapy Clinic
A grant awarded to the Music Therapy Program in 2005 provided for the expansion of the Music Therapy Campus Clinic and the addition of observation facilities. The clinic, located within the School of Music, is operated by the Athens Community Music School, a university affiliated community school of the arts, with services provided by a Board Certified Music Therapist. Faculty and students also conduct research and provide services to adults and children with special needs in this area.

Student Association
The American Music Therapy Association of Students (AMTAS), Ohio University Chapter, is an organization of students dedicated to preparing themselves for the professional world of music therapy. Its purpose is to provide an enriched experience and supportive social network for music therapy majors. Service projects in the community are funded through membership dues and fundraising.

About the School of Music
One of four schools in the College of Fine Arts, the School of Music is a significant part of the vibrant cultural life of the Ohio University campus. School of Music students, faculty, and guest artists present well over two hundred concerts and recitals each year. A distinguished faculty of 43 music professors serves a primarily residential student body of approximately 230 undergraduate and 50 masters’ students. Degree programs include music education, performance, music therapy, conducting, music history and literature, music theory, composition and pedagogy. School of Music alumni hold prominent teaching and professional positions throughout the United States and abroad. The School of Music is committed to a continuing tradition of excellence and has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music since 1946.

About Ohio University
Ohio University, chartered in 1804, was the first institute of higher learning in the Northwest Territory. Today it has a student body of over 20,000, offers degrees in more than 250 undergraduate programs and grants master’s and doctoral degrees in nearly all of its major academic divisions. Located in Athens, among the rolling hills of southeastern Ohio, the