



Music Department Statement of Philosophy

At the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists (SPCPA) our mission is to provide authentic training in fundamental performing arts skills. Real training happens in classes; regular attendance is critical to individual and collective success. We believe in the importance of performance as the greatest teacher. During the school year students participate in showcases, workshops, concerts, a J Term project and in the spring, Juries. Students are granted equivalent credit for genuine outside arts involvements. The Music Department at SPCPA is committed to the success of the engaged and committed student in the fields of instrumental and vocal music. A successful and engaged student attends our school regularly and puts forth maximum effort towards proficiency and discipline in musical practice. In accordance with the vision of our school board the faculty is connected to the professional community through professional associations and work opportunities.

SPCPA Instrumental Music Curriculum

SPCPA instrumental music students are involved in each of the following areas every year: **Music Theory, Music History, Music Electives, and Music Ensemble**. Student success is our goal, so participation is dependent upon student readiness for each level/course and decided upon by SPCPA faculty. Hence, 9th graders could be placed in Theory I, but also an upper ensemble if their skill dictates and upper level ensemble. Growth and development as a musician guide where our students are placed, not grade level, although when they enter, they are placed at grade level until evaluation.

	9 th Grade		10 th Grade		11 th Grade		12 th Grade	
	Sem I	Sem II	Sem I	Sem II	Sem I	Sem II	Sem I	Sem II
Music Theory (all year)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Music History (each 1/2 year) American Popular Music Appreciation History of Jazz World Music		X		X		X		X
Music Elective (each 1/2 year) Music Business I & II Electronic Music I & II Sr. Prep (QTR 2) Jr. Prep (QTR 4) Conducting Music Therapy	X		X		X		X	
Ensemble/Sectionals (all year) Ensemble I & II (4 periods/week) Piano Lab (1 period/week) Orchestra (4 periods/week) Jazz (4 periods/week)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

There may also be independent opportunities for students throughout the year, including interning with local music organizations. Those opportunities are posted within the department each term. Student placement is based on scheduling, interest, and academic proficiency.

Instrumental Music Courses

Music Theory

Music Theory (9th/10th)

Provides fundamental exercises leading to knowledge and skill in the rudiments of music. Includes rhythmic notation as well as scales, keys, and intervals along with exercises in sight reading and ear training. Discusses elements of musical construction of scales, intervals, triads, and chord progressions. Develops ability to sing at sight and write from dictation. Introduces the analysis of the Bach chorale style. Expands facility with harmonic dictation and enables the student to use these techniques at the keyboard

Music Theory (11th/12th)

Increases facility in the analysis and usage of diatonic and chromatic harmonies. Continues harmonic analysis of Bach style. Includes exercises in sight-singing, ear-training, and keyboard harmony. Emphasis of structural analysis and advanced harmonic procedures using secondary function chords to modulate. Enhance understanding of non-chord tones within the chordal analysis. Being able to sight-sing in the bass, tenor, alto and treble clef using the fixed DO sofege system. Students who reach this level will also have independent study opportunities within the department as well as composition study, if they so choose.

Music History : offered each year for one semester.

American Popular Music (9th/10th)

This course explores the development of American popular music, from its roots in the merging of colonial European, African, and Native American styles, to the development in the twentieth century of blues, rock-and-roll, rap, salsa, and other popular contemporary styles of North and South America.

Music Appreciation (9th/10th)

This class introduces students to the different genres and styles of music through listening. Music from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries is explored. The class utilizes a learner-centered approach to familiarize students with musical compositions and terminology, and to develop active listening skills. Concentration is on Western musical history with focus on a variety of composers and their styles, including various historical periods and various performance settings.

History of Jazz (11th/12th)

This course explores the evolution of jazz from its early roots to the present. Students will study the musical elements of jazz styles within the cultural context of the times. We will listen to recordings by Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, John Coltrane, Chick Corea, and many, many others.

World Music (11th/12th)

This course introduces students to the music of selected non-Western musical cultures. We explore multiple approaches to transmission, improvisation, composition and the roles of music and musicians in society. By examining what music means in a variety of cultures, students explore what music means in their own lives. Special attention is given to a variety of concepts of music and time, pitch, instruments and vocal techniques, textures, and timbres.

Music Ensembles: All ensembles have scheduled performances throughout the year.

Ensemble I/Sectionals

Instrumental practice, meets 4 times a week. Ensembles will be assigned.

Ensemble II/Sectionals

Instrumental practice, meets 4 times a week. Ensembles will be assigned.

Jazz Ensemble/Combo/Sectionals

Instrumental practice, meets 4 times a week. Ensembles will be assigned.

Orchestra/Sectionals

Instrumental practice, meets 4 times a week. Ensembles will be assigned.

Music Electives: Will be offered based on interest and staff availability. All students will take part in a music elective each year for one semester.

Music Business I (9th/10th)

Part I: THE MUSIC BUSINESS AND IT'S COMPONENTS

This course will provide an overview of the history of the music industry in the United States. Our approach to evolution of the business of popular music will encompass a number of perspectives: technology, economics, industry structures, marketing, audiences, and artistic innovations and trends.

Music Business II (11th/12th)

Part II: CAREERS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This course will provide an overview of the history of the music industry in the United States. Our approach to evolution of the business of popular music will encompass a number of perspectives: technology, economics, industry structures, marketing, audiences, and artistic innovations and trends.

Electronic Music I (9th/10th)

Electronic Music is a course designed for our experienced and driven music students. Through composition and performance, we will be creating our own electronic music pieces using tools such as midi, audio units, synthesizers, and and VST plugins. Students must be computer literate, have a musical background, and have the drive to create new music to share with the entire class.

Electronic Music II (11th/12th)

Electronic Music II is a course designed to further explore the extensive library of soft synths. We will refine skills in cross-fading, track mixing, mastering levels of songs, as well as composition.

Senior Prep (quarter 2 only)

This course is designed to assist seniors with the process of college auditions, applications, resumes, and the successful completion of materials for the entrance to conservatory/college.

Junior Prep (quarter 4 only)

This course is an introductory course to Senior Prep. Students will explore interest in colleges/conservatory programs and the necessary requirements for acceptance.

Independent Study

Available with administration and faculty approval.

Future Courses:

Music Therapy
Conducting
Class Piano

Optional Outside Audition/Performance Opportunities:

MN All-State Orchestra
MN All- State Band
Regional MBDA Festivals
State MBDA Festivals
Eau Claire Jazz Festival
UMN Jazz Festival
Winona Jazz Festival
VA Hospital Performances
GTCYS
MYS