Music at Pacific University

The Department of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), and has offered courses since 1883, open to students of all majors. Degree offerings in music are Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Arts in Music, Music with Performance Emphasis, Music Therapy, and a Minor in Music. In order to fulfill the liberal arts ideal, ensembles are open to all students. They include the University Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, as well as various chamber ensembles. Private lessons are taught by highly qualified instructors and are available to all students on piano, voice, and all standard band and orchestral instruments.

About Pacific University

Founded in 1849, Pacific University is known for providing a variety of options for internships, study abroad, research, community involvement, athletics and co-curricular activities. With 3,800 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs, the university is small enough for students to get involved, but large enough so that students working together can have a meaningful impact. Whether enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences or the colleges of Business, Education, Health Professions, or Optometry, Pacific students learn to apply their academic work to their professional, community, and social interests.

Check pacificu.edu/coronavirus for the latest updates on Pacific University’s COVID-19 restrictions and requirements.
FESTIVAL HISTORY
Music in May was founded in 1948 at Pacific University by Richard A. Greenfield to encourage the development of string music in the public schools of the Pacific Northwest. Band and choir were added at the suggestion of high school music directors, who saw in the festival a means of recognizing students whose service to their particular schools was especially noteworthy.

Each year the number of nominees for places at Music in May far exceeds the number who can be accepted. Housing limitations and the natural requirements of each ensemble result in more than 450 participants each year, approximately 200 in the choir, 170 in the band and 80 in the orchestra.

Participants’ achievements in three days, under distinguished guest conductors culminating in the Saturday afternoon concert, represent not only their own efforts, but those of approximately 120 high school directors who have developed their students’ talents and recommended them for Music in May.

THE GUEST CONDUCTORS

ORCHESTRA Dr. William LaRue Jones
Since 1997, Dr. Jones has been professor of music, director of orchestral studies and conductor of orchestras and opera at the University of Iowa.

CHOIR Dr. Andrea Ramsey
Before leaping into composing and conducting full time with around 100 publications, Andrea held positions at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado Boulder.

BAND Robert W. Smith
Robert W. Smith is one of the most popular and prolific composers in America. He has more than 600 publications in print.

2023 FESTIVAL DETAILS

FESTIVAL DATES MAY 25–27, 2023

FINAL CONCERT MAY 27, 2023 | 3 p.m. Stoller Center

APPLICATION DEADLINE All applications must be submitted by Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023

SELECTION PROCESS
From applications postmarked by the above deadline, participants are selected based on recommendations and ratings of their high school director. Instrumentation/voicing needs of the ensembles are also taken into account. After students are selected, music directors and students will receive acceptance letters and final registration forms.

THE ENSEMBLES
200-member choir, 170-member band and 80-member orchestra.

LOCATION
Rehearsals, meals, overnight accommodations and the final concert are held on the Pacific University campus, Forest Grove, Oregon, 25 miles west of Portland.

COSTS
$335 ($225 Workshop Fees, $110 Meals and Housing)
Full refunds, minus a $20 processing available before May.
No refunds after May 1.

OPTIONAL COSTS
$45 – private lesson (half hour)

MEALS
Includes Thursday dinner through Saturday lunch. Meals are not available for early arrivals and late stays.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Pacific University student housing, two people per room (there may be some triples and quads).

CHAPERONES
Pacific University students are employed as mentors. They stay in the dorms with the Music in May participants and attend all rehearsals and events. Mentors are supervised by university faculty and staff.

COVID-19
Proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test on the day of the festival is required. Please review our current campus policy regarding guests at pacificu.edu/COVID.

QUESTIONS?
PHONE Music in May 503-352-2198
Becca Ellenbecker 503-352-2157
Michael Burch-Pesses 503-352-2897

EMAIL mim@pacificu.edu

ONLINE pacificu.edu/mim

MAIL Music in May
Pacific University
2043 College Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116