DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

The UAA Department of Music is dedicated to providing leadership in the musical arts for the State of Alaska. An accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), the UAA Department of Music includes faculty that are distinguished by their exceptional performance skills, pedagogical expertise, compositions, recordings, and publications.

UAA is the largest campus in the University of Alaska system and educates approximately 60% of Alaska’s students in higher education. Highlights of the campus include Alaska’s finest music recital hall, located in the beautiful Fine Arts Building, a modern library, and elegant residence halls. Situated in Anchorage, an artistically vibrant cosmopolitan city of 300,000, UAA students have access to the international, national and local music scene. In addition to UAA, Anchorage is home to the Anchorage Concert Chorus, Anchorage Festival of Music, Anchorage Symphony, Anchorage Civic Symphony, Anchorage Opera and many more fine performing arts organizations.

The UAA recital hall is also home to the Autumn and Winter Sitka Guest-Artist chamber music concerts, as part of an on-going collaboration between the UAA music department, Grammy-award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey and the Sitka Summer Music Festival. This collaboration offers UAA students the opportunity to hear and take part in master classes with world-class musicians. Recent guest artists include the Juilliard, Ying and Cypress String Quartets, violinist Rachel Barton Pine, and cellists Wendy Sutter and Nicolas Altstaedt.
AREAS OF STUDY

With an impressive breadth and depth of talent at the undergraduate level, and an internationally recognized music faculty, the UAA Department of Music is a dynamic contributor to the cultural climate in scenic Southcentral Alaska.

The Department of Music offers two program options:

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Bachelor of Music

emphasis in Music Education or Performance, with a jazz concentration option

We also offer continuing education opportunities.
UAA graduates have gone on to exciting and rewarding careers as teachers, performers and scholars. The popular and successful MAT program, which provides professional licensing for future educators, is now administered through UAS, but UAA graduates are able to remain in Anchorage to complete their licensure.

UAA serves as an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).
String students at UAA have a truly exceptional number of opportunities for training in orchestral playing, including the UAA Sinfonia, conducted by Dr. Grant Cochran, the UAA Baroque Orchestra, directed by Dr. John Lutterman, the Anchorage Civic Orchestra, conducted by UAA faculty Dr. Oleg Proskurnya, and the Anchorage Bowl Chamber Orchestra, conducted by UAA alumnus Kyle Lindsey. Many of our advanced students have won positions with the Anchorage Symphony, which provides an invaluable opportunity to gain experience at a professional level.

The UAA University Sinfonia, directed by Dr. Grant Cochran, is the main orchestral string ensemble. Students rehearse and perform alongside faculty members and local professional musicians. In collaboration with the University Singers and members of the U.S. 9th Army Band, Sinfonia performs symphonic and choral repertoire in many of its concerts.

The UAA Baroque Orchestra and UAA Early Music Ensemble, directed by Dr. John Lutterman (Baroque cello and viola da gamba), provides students with valuable experience performing on period instruments, using historically-informed performance practices.

The UAA Chamber Music Class, directed by Dr. John Lutterman, is an essential component of the curriculum for our piano, string and wind students. Each semester, the class presents a recital, which provides students with an opportunity to present their work, frequently in collaboration with UAA alumni and other community members. Members of the class range from beginning-year students to experienced members of the Anchorage classical music community, and the caliber of many of the performances on the recital is very high indeed. Video recordings of student chamber music recitals can be found at: tinyurl.com/UAAchambermusic
DR. JOHN LUTTERMAN is a cellist, musicologist and music theorist who has given solo performances in Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Basel, Belfast, New York, Washington D.C., Sacramento and San Francisco, including chamber music performances at Alice Tully Hall in New York and recitals of the complete cello works of Bach, Brahms and Chopin in Salzburg. A specialist in period-instrument performance, Dr. Lutterman has appeared as a chamber music partner with many prominent soloists, including Monica Huggett, John Solum, Arthur Haas, Wolfgang Brunner and Igor Kipnis, and has performed with many leading period-instrument orchestras and chamber ensembles, including Salzburger Hofmusik, the Wiener Akademie, Philharmonia Baroque, the American Bach Soloists, Magnificat, El Mundo, the Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and Arcangeli Baroque. Recent engagements include concert tours with the Grammy-nominated early-music ensemble, El Mundo, with whom he has appeared at international early music festivals in California, Hawaii, Austria, Germany and Italy.

Dr. Lutterman studied cello with Timothy Eddy, Steven Doane, Bernard Greenhouse, Jane Cowan, and Robert Sylvester, and holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University. Chamber music studies include coaching with Klaus Adam, Felix Galimir, Gilbert Kalish, and Julius Levine. After completing his D.M.A., Dr. Lutterman spent four years performing, doing research and pursuing post-doctoral studies in Europe. He studied Baroque cello and viola da gamba with Christoph Coin at the Schola Cantorum in Basel, Jaap ter Linden at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague, and Nicolaus Harnoncourt at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

In March 2006, Dr. Lutterman completed the Ph. D. in historical musicology at the University of California at Davis, with a dissertation on Bach’s cello suites as artifacts of historical improvisatory practices. His articles have appeared in Speculum Musciae, Early Music America, Strings, and San Francisco Classical Voice. Dr. Lutterman’s teaching and research interests include performance practice, particularly historical improvisatory practices, the history of theory, the ethno-historiographic study of the relation between written and orally/aurally transmitted musical practices, the aesthetics of absolute music, and the historical development of the modern concept of a musical “art-work.” Dr. Lutterman is one of a small, but growing number of scholar-performers who have attempted to re-create historical improvisatory practices. The journal Ad Parnassum lauded his performance of “an astounding semi-improvised fantasy suite for unaccompanied cello” at the 14th International Conference on Baroque Music in Belfast, Ireland.

Prior to joining the Music faculty at UAA, Dr. Lutterman served on the faculty of Whitman College, Lawrence University, the University of the Pacific, Stony Brook University, the University of California at Davis, and the San Francisco Conservatory.
DR. GRANT COCHRAN is Professor of Music and chair of the music department at UAA, where he is conductor of Sinfonia, UAA’s orchestral-training ensemble. Players in the orchestra are drawn not only from the department’s music majors, but from other areas of the university and community, including members of the U.S. 9th Army Band. The collaboration with the 9th Army Band was established in Fall 2019 as part of their “Partners in Education” initiative, which has proven to be a successful and valuable partnership. Dr. Cochran also teaches voice, conducting, choral arranging, voice methods, music appreciation, and directs the University Singers.

Dr. Cochran received his undergraduate education at Trinity College (CT), graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and History. His doctoral degree in conducting was completed at the Yale University School of Music, where he studied with Marguerite Brooks and Fenno Heath and conducted the Yale Freshman Chorus. Along with his position at UAA, Cochran is currently the Artistic Director and Conductor of the 160-voice Anchorage Concert Chorus. His choral and orchestral arrangements, which have been performed throughout the United States and abroad, are published with the E. C. Schirmer Music Company (Boston) and MorningStar Music Publishers (St. Louis).

DR. OLEG PROSKURNYA earned his Master’s Degree in violin and viola performance from the Leningrad (St. Petersburg) Conservatory, and holds the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in orchestral conducting from the University of South Carolina, where studied with Ilia Musin. Before moving to the USA, Dr. Proskurnya was a member of the Leningrad Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, and served as Associate concertmaster of the Leningrad Chamber Orchestra. In 2018, he was appointed conductor of the Anchorage Civic Orchestra, where he has initiated programs to provide UAA students with additional opportunities to perform symphonic literature. He is concertmaster of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra, and a tenured member of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Proskurnya joined the faculty of the UAA department of music in 2016, where he teaches violin and viola. Dr. Proskurnya also serves as one of the directors of the International Academy of Advanced Conducting, and is a visiting lecturer at West Virginia State University. Before joining the UAA Music Department, he served on the faculty of Georgia College and State University, Valdosta State University, Beloit College, and Texas A&M. He has taught master classes in the United States, Italy, Spain, the Russian Federation, and Taiwan, and has performed throughout Canada, Greece, Finland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, the Russian Federation, and the United States as a guest conductor, violist, and violinist.

Dr. Proskurnya’s scholarly publications include “The Inner-Impulses and Gestures of Orchestral Conducting: The Psycho-Physical Function of Musical Leadership,” which analyzes psycho-physical aspects of orchestral conducting methods. He also provided the English translation for Ilia Musin’s “The Technique of [Orchestral] Conducting.”
DR. BRUCE WOOD, who teaches the string-methods course at UAA, is the Director of Fine Arts for the Anchorage School District, where he works with over two hundred colleagues to make sure forty-seven thousand students have access to the arts. Dr. Wood also teaches graduate seminars for the MAT program administered by UAS, which offers UAA students the opportunity to receive professional accreditation without leaving Anchorage. Before arriving in Alaska, Dr. Wood was Associate Professor of Music Education at Texas Tech University. Dr. Wood received his Masters and Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Bachelor’s degree from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

As a singer, Dr. Wood has been featured with the Alaska Chamber Singers as bass soloist for the Brahms Requiem, Faure Requiem, Eternity Passing Over – An Arctic Requiem, Shubert Mass, and Haydn’s Nelson Mass. As a string educator, Dr. Wood has taught for eleven years in public schools, founded two youth symphony orchestras, and had fifty-five current string educators as students. While serving as Director of Fine Arts, Dr. Wood has been part of the hiring process of over fifty music educators in the Anchorage School District. Dr. Wood’s writing and research has been published by the American String Teachers’ Journal, Strings Magazine, and GIA publications. Dr. Wood is also the author of the book, “The Yin and Yang of Teaching Music.”

Professor Lindsay began her musical training at age five as a Suzuki violinist, before going on to study at Indiana University with Mimi Zweig. She then earned a degree in violin performance from the University of North Texas. In addition, she studied Baroque violin at Queens College, and at the Vancouver Early Music Summer Festival, opportunities made possible by a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

DAWN LINDSAY is one of Alaska’s leading violinists and enjoys a diverse career that includes orchestral, chamber, Broadway, crossover and early music performances. Professor Lindsay is concertmaster of the Anchorage Opera Orchestra, and is a tenured member of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra. She performs Baroque violin regularly as a member of the Anchorage Festival of Music, and with the Alaska Chamber Singers, as part of their Bach Cantata series.

Professor Lindsay has performed with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, the Anchorage Opera, the Anchorage Concert Chorus, the Alaska Chamber Singers, the Alaska Children’s Choir, the Snapping Turtle Swing Band, Jazzology, and the Alaska Gypsies. Equally at home in classical music and jazz, Joel has performed with Zuill Bailey in his Autumn Classics series, as well as with Rick Zelinsky in his Jazz Masters series. Though primarily a double bassist, Joel also performs on cello and guitar. Together with his wife, oboist Naomi Stamoolis, he has arranged and recorded two albums of oboe and classical guitar music.

JOEL STAMOOLIS earned his B.M. from Wheaton College Conservatory, and holds an M.A. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Limerick, Ireland. In addition to his degree work, he spent a year and a half in Paris studying under the eminent double bass pedagogue François Rabbath. His master’s thesis examines double bass performance practice in Argentine tango, and is based on field research in Buenos Aires, where he worked with bassists Ignacio Varchausky and Marcelo Ugarteche, exploring the relationship between written, oral, and aural/visual transmission in the tango tradition.

Professor Stamoolis has performed with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, the Anchorage Opera, the Anchorage Concert Chorus, the Alaska Chamber Singers, the Alaska Children’s Choir, the Snapping Turtle Swing Band, Jazzology, and the Alaska Gypsies. Equally at home in classical music and jazz, Joel has performed with Zuill Bailey in his Autumn Classics series, as well as with Rick Zelinsky in his Jazz Masters series. Though primarily a double bassist, Joel also performs on cello and guitar. Together with his wife, oboist Naomi Stamoolis, he has arranged and recorded two albums of oboe and classical guitar music.