



SCHOOL OF MUSIC + THEATER

In the cradle of Western civilization, music and theatrics animated public life. Thousands of years later, our human instinct to make meaning through melody and narrative is still changing lives and shaping the world. At the PSU School of Music + Theater, that tradition lives on in powerful new ways.

The school's faculty members are internationally recognized conductors, composers, directors, playwrights, designers and scholars who provide professional training and liberal arts-based education to a highly diverse student body.

The school's primary goal is to generate and sustain creative inspiration and excellence in the creation, practice and appreciation of the performing arts, and to present performances by students, faculty and guest artists to enhance the cultural life of Portland.

Inspired by Portland State's ethos of service to city, the school embraces the dual goals of open access and outstanding achievement to produce graduates who make a significant impact in the arts and in their communities.

Today, the spirit and humanity of the performing arts is more critical than ever. Your support helps us raise up students' compelling, reflective and provocative voices—and bring them to the world.

DIRECTOR: Bonnie Miksch

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Music in Composition, Jazz Studies, Music Education, Performance, and Vocal Performance

Bachelor of Arts or Science in Music Performance, Music Theory, Musicology/Ethnomusicology, Sonic Arts & Music Production, and Theater Arts

Masters in Music Performance, Collaborative Piano, Conducting, and Jazz Studies

Master of Arts or Science in Music

KEY INITIATIVES

Chamber Choir: This renowned ensemble has won international accolades, and debuted a CD that reached the top spot on Billboard's traditional classical chart.

Opera: This renowned local institution gives undergraduates the opportunity to perform new and historic works.

Instrumental Ensembles: Instrumentalists have the opportunity to participate in orchestra, chamber groups, jazz combos, concert and jazz bands.

Sonic Arts & Music Production Area: This exciting combination of music technology and creative inspiration was launched to train students for careers in the recording and production industry.

KEY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



STUDENT PROFILE: JAMES VALENZUELA '21

At one of his performance finals at Portland State, James Valenzuela wasn't nervous about his abilities; he was just nervous about his shoes — short black suede boots adorned with gold rings and a small heel.

When the review panel complimented both his performance and his footwear, he breathed a sigh of relief. "What I appreciate most about PSU is the acceptance of creative thinking and new ideas," he says. "I am definitely not a traditionalist."

Valenzuela was born to Guatemalan immigrant parents and grew up in an evangelical Christian household in Eugene, Oregon. After realizing he was gay, music became his escape and his lifeline. He dreamt of playing music professionally, though wasn't sure how he would get there.

After a strong audition, Valenzuela was offered a scholarship to Portland State. On his first day of college, he felt like he was home.

"PSU has given me a chance to make a positive impact on the world. Through my music and my story, I want to make classical music my own."

CAPITAL SUPPORT

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS



The School of Music + Theater operates out of classrooms in historic Lincoln Hall that require significant technology investments and regular studio maintenance to support a high-quality arts education. A dedicated fund to cover these specialized needs will allow students to learn their craft on tools they will encounter in the profession. It will also enable consistent programming to accommodate a growing student body.

STUDENT SUCCESS

SCHOLARSHIPS

There is no better way to open doors for the next generation of artists and leaders than supporting music and theater students. Scholarships provide financial support and motivation to help talented and hard-working students of diverse backgrounds and experiences achieve success.

FACULTY SUPPORT

PORTLAND PROFESSORSHIPS

School of Music + Theater faculty are not only teachers and academics. They are also working professionals who bring their deep industry knowledge to campus every day. Portland Professorships provide immediate (not endowed) resources to support the most important pursuits of star faculty while also serving as a critical tool for recruitment and retention.

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CONTACT

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