

Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts – School of Music – Honors Program

Introduction:

The ASU School of Music (SOM) ranks as one of the top music schools in the United States and offers undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees in music. Barrett Honors College (BHC) students can choose among several degrees: BA in Music, BA in Music (Music and Culture), BM in Performance with concentrations in solo performance (instrumental, keyboard, or voice), collaborative piano, jazz, music theatre, BM in Music Education, BM in Music Therapy, or BM in Theory and Composition (with concentrations in theory or composition) (for more details please visit: <https://music.asu.edu/degree-programs/undergraduate>)

Benefits of enrollment in both the SOM and the BHC include:

Priority registration for classes

SOM Honors Events Meetings and receptions to offer BHC students an opportunity to meet SOM Faculty and fellow honors students.

Honors Enrichment Contracts Honors contracts offer BHC students the opportunity to go beyond given course requirements and conduct an in-depth research project involving a closer contact with the course instructor. BHC students should approach the course instructor about an Honors Contract at the beginning of the semester to discuss possible projects, topics and specific requirements. BHC students may also receive advice on Honors Contracts from the SOM Honors Advisor. For more information on honors contracts, visit:

<https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts>

Honors Enrichment Contracts are available in most School of Music courses. Examples of projects and formats include:

Music History—group or individual written or performative projects, e.g., extended term paper on marginalized composers (e.g., composers of color, female, or South American composers)

Music Theory—extended analysis, score preparation

Ensembles—research concert repertoire, create a social media plan for the concert

Music Therapy—literature review, data collection method at an arts center festival

With special permission from the professor, BHC students who have completed at least 60 hours may be allowed to enroll in selected graduate courses, e.g., Music, Nature and Sustainability; Music and Film, –Musical Borrowing, Music in New Orleans, Sound Studies, Music and Gender

For more courses, check the course catalog or consult the SOM Honors Advisor.

Note: It is not possible to do an honors enrichment contract in courses taught by teaching assistants, only in courses taught by regularly appointed faculty members or distinguished visitors. Further, the SOM does not offer honors contracts in MUS courses.

<https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts>

Honors Thesis/ Creative Project

The honors thesis or creative project is the capstone of a BHC student majoring in music and the student must comply with the requirements of both the SOM and BHC. The successful completion of an honors thesis makes students more competitive when applying to graduate programs.

BHC students must complete a BHC sanctioned thesis preparation experience before they can register for thesis credit (492): HON 498 (a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus), the Thesis Workshop Session offered by BHC or the online workshop offered through BHC via ASU Blackboard. For more information about these requirement, please visit:

[https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project.](https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project)

BHC students must register for 492 (3 credits) and 493 (3 credits). Please choose the appropriate prefix (MHL, MTC, MUE or MUP).

BHC students should meet with the Honors Advisor and SOM mentor to discuss their honors thesis projects and establish an Honors thesis committee. Honors thesis committees include two members and should be chaired by a regularly appointed faculty member. The second reader may be faculty or non-faculty, depending on the decision of the director of the thesis or the academic unit director.

The thesis must address music, but may intersect with other disciplines including the Visual Arts, Theater, History, Architecture, Women’s Studies, and Religious Studies. The student develops his/her own thesis topic and provides which should entail original scholarship. The thesis can be

a straightforward, written project in the style of a master's thesis, but smaller in scope. The thesis might, instead, be documented in a way other than writing, such as a video recording of a composition, performance, or a community outreach program shared on social media. The honors thesis or creative project cannot be simply a short extension of a paper or performance required by a class. It should be based on in-depth research.

Note: Short program notes to accompany a senior recital is not acceptable as an Honors thesis.

A Sampling of recent Barrett Honors Theses involving Music Faculty

Carly Bates, **French Vanilla: An Exploration of Biracial Identity Through Narrative Performance**

Katie Sample, **Stravinsky for Guitar Quartet**

Tamir Mark Shargal, **A Most Creative Project: Producing a Sample-Based Record**

Cecilia Chou, **From Harmony of the Spheres to Acoustic Ecology: Intersections of Music and Science in the Works of David Dunn and Andrea Polli**

Bethany Carolyn Brown, **Spectralism's Synthesis of Past Musical Traditions: New Musical Discourse and Compositional Technique**

Sean Wesley McDaniel, **Chronos: An Arrangement for Jazz Sextet**

Lauren Sanders, **Musical Guidance towards Immortality by the Greek Muses by Inspiring Awareness of Being-in-the-World as Understood through the Philosophy of Martin Heidegger**

Shelbe Erin Olson, **Therapeutic Clarinet Playing for the Treatment of Asthma**

Alicia Raquel Villareal, **Jamaican Folk Music: In the General Music Classroom**

Contact Information:

For assistance in choosing appropriate courses and honors thesis or creative project topics as well as establishing an honors thesis committee, BHC students in the SOM programs may contact:

SOM Honors Advisor Dr. Sabine Feisst (Sabine.Feisst@asu.edu; Music Building, East 517;
phone: 480-965-3114)