Music at UD: For more than 60 years the University of Delaware Department of Music has been dedicated to the musical growth of its students and the cultural enrichment of the community, offering a range of music majors and minors and presenting a variety of public performances.

A full member of the National Association of Schools of Music, the department offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music and Music Management; Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education, Theory/Composition and Performance; and Master of Music degrees in Performance, Composition, Conducting and Music Education. For non-majors, the department offers minors in applied music, musical studies, jazz studies, music management and church music. Non-majors also compete on an equal basis with majors for ensemble seating.

In addition to programs for music majors and minors, the department offers classes and activities for the general student population. Approximately 1,000 students enroll each year in music appreciation courses, and more than 500 students earn academic credit by participating in the department's music ensembles and performance programs.

Graduate Studies in Music: The University of Delaware is a vibrant music community with a challenging and supportive environment that emphasizes musical growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and scholastic rigor. Through study with our distinguished faculty, graduate students in the Department of Music acquire the necessary skills for success in their chosen career path. Our graduate students excel in the highly competitive field of music and have been successful in attaining important positions within the profession. The University of Delaware offers the Master of Music degree with concentrations in Performance, Teaching, and Composition. Located between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington DC, students are immersed in the country’s pre-eminent performing arts region. They have access to internationally recognized guest artists and pedagogues, support and guidance for exploring their own projects, touring opportunities with our renowned ensembles, and a variety of programs for performance and study both domestically and abroad.

About the Degree: The Department of Music proudly offers a program of study leading to the Master of Music degree in Instrumental Conducting: Orchestra Emphasis. Students in this degree track have the opportunity to develop their conducting technique and artistry with extensive podium time, through interaction with internationally-acclaimed guest artists, and with a strong foundation based in scholarship. Participants act as both cover conductors and guest conductors for the University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Opera theatre programs, with additional performance opportunities available both on and off campus.

Areas of Specialization: Students in the conducting program will develop a strong baton technique, refine their ability to communicate clearly and efficiently in rehearsal, enhance score study, ear training, and keyboard skills to support the following fundamental ensemble playing concepts: All instruments, in some aspect, relate to the voice; and therefore, proper breathing, balance, and a singing line are key. Performance is a physical activity and requires musically informed motion from both the players and conductor. Orchestral music is chamber music expanded and all the principles that make a string quartet, brass quintet, or woodwind quintet successful apply to the larger ensemble. Proper ensemble awareness is essential for progress in the rehearsal, thus, the musicians must have command over the following three concepts: know their part, blend with their section, and understand how their line fits with the rest of the orchestra.

Financing Opportunities: While nearly all of our graduate students receive some level of funding, acceptance into the master’s degree program does not guarantee a graduate assistantship. Funding ranges from 50%-100% tuition scholarships with or without stipends. Decisions are made by the Graduate Committee after all applications are received, and awards are based on the needs of the Department in any given year. You may read about Department funding HERE.

Applying to the program:
- Complete the online application by clicking on the following LINK.
- Send a video (or a link through DropBox, YouTube channel, etc.) with live audio of the applicant conducting in both rehearsal and concert performance. It does not need to be a full concert (ten minutes of unedited rehearsal video and one complete piece in performance would be fine). The email address is andrsnja@udel.edu
- Write a one-page document that summarizes the applicant’s experiences as a conductor thus far, as well as the reasons for seeking a Master's degree and ultimate professional goals.
- Two clearly formatted lists:
  - The orchestral pieces the applicant has conducted in concert.
  - The pieces the applicant has studied or covered in rehearsals, but not conducted in concert.
- After reviewing all of the applicants, invitations will be extended to a small number of finalists who come to campus for an interview and to conduct the UD Symphony Orchestra, generally towards the end of February.