



**Leadership and Opportunity Profile**  
**University of Iowa**  
*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
*School of Music*



**SCHOOL OF**  
**MUSIC**

COMPOSING  
FUTURES 



The State University of Iowa began operating in the fall of 1855, and instruction in music began just five years later through a series of affiliated quasi-independent units. In 1921, the School of Music was fully incorporated into what was then known as the College of Liberal Arts. As the first public university in the United States to admit men and women on an equal basis, the University of Iowa was also the first institution to accept creative work as theses for advanced degrees in theater, writing, music, and the visual arts.





## *JOB DESCRIPTION - AN OVERVIEW*

The University of Iowa is seeking applications and nominations for the next Director of the School of Music. The committee especially seeks applicants from individuals who are underrepresented within the institution and academy.

As the head of a thriving community of professional musicians, scholars, and students, the Director provides vision and leadership in the School of Music's teaching, research, and public outreach and engagement. The Director demonstrates the capacity to recruit and retain faculty, and is committed to the principles and practices of shared governance. The Director encourages advanced research and creative production, is successful in fundraising activities, and is an advocate for the School as an integral part of a public research university that seeks to fulfill its global mission.

The committee is chaired by the Associate Dean for Research and Infrastructure in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and comprises academic and studio faculty as well as a graduate student.



## ***PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS***

The successful candidate will have a distinguished record of accomplishment in music performance, scholarship, and/or composition with a national profile that qualifies for appointment at the rank of Professor with tenure. The successful candidate will have significant administrative experience and a record of leadership in a school or department of music that encompasses the diversity of a contemporary music program. Experience with oversight of budgets and personnel matters—including the promotion and tenure process and faculty searches—is also expected.

The future role of the School will be dependent upon the Director's ability to build and maintain cohesion through an inclusive, communicative process that identifies and advances shared goals. A crucial aspect of the School's mission includes the commitment to diverse voices and the equitable treatment of its stakeholders, and it is expected that the Director will facilitate a collaborative spirit that provides the foundation for a life-changing experience for faculty, students, and the public.

The Director will provide leadership in managing undergraduate and graduate curricula. The School of Music is a rigorous and selective comprehensive music school that offers baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees across a broad range of disciplines including composition, conducting, jazz studies, music education, music theory, music therapy, musicology, and performance and pedagogy.

The next Director will provide and execute a vision for the School of Music that is part of the larger context of the arts within the university community. The Director reports to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and is responsible for academic leadership, budgeting, and administrative policy. It is expected that the Director will have experience with National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) accreditation and institutional reviews. The University of Iowa continues to support shared governance in its accountability to the state's citizens, and depends on leaders open to challenge and the continued expectation for change.

# PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

The search committee invites confidential inquiries, nominations, or applications. Nominations and questions about the search may be directed to the chair of the search committee, Marc Armstrong, Associate Dean for Research and Infrastructure in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences ([marc-armstrong@uiowa.edu](mailto:marc-armstrong@uiowa.edu)).

To apply, please visit [jobs.uiowa.edu/content/faculty](https://jobs.uiowa.edu/content/faculty) and refer to requisition #73529. Each completed application for the Director position will include 1) a cover letter that describes the candidate's leadership philosophy as well as the qualifications relating to teaching, research, service, administration, and commitment to promoting diversity; 2) a current c.v.; and 3) contact information for three references.

*The School of Music and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are strongly committed to diversity; the strategic plans of the University of Iowa and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences reflect this commitment. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, religion, associational preference, status as a qualified individual with a disability, or status as a protected veteran. The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.*



# BACKGROUND OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The School of Music is a unit within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that is rich in tradition, with a national reputation for excellence, a productive and dedicated faculty, and a comprehensive array of degree offerings and areas of specialization. Our mission is to teach, present through performance, and explore through scholarly inquiry diverse musical traditions of all eras, while also promoting the creation of entirely new works of art.

The University of Iowa is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU)—joining in 1909. The School of Music is a Charter Member of NASM, and is the Iowa representative to the National Association of Music Executives at State Universities (NAMESU).

Our faculty is highly productive in creative work and scholarship. In 2017 alone, faculty were involved in more than 150 performances and presentations at local, national, and international venues in 27 states and 18 countries. Additionally, faculty produced seven new published audio recordings; 10 new compositions or editions; 15 articles or published scholarly contributions; three books; and several book chapters. Faculty seamlessly fold their creative efforts into the teaching and mentoring of students—often involving them in the production of their work.

## Facilities, Instruments, and Equipment

The School of Music is housed in the award-winning Voxman Music Building—a \$152M, 190,000 square-foot state-of-the-art music facility that opened in Fall 2016. Following a flood in 2008 that permanently destroyed the original Voxman Building, the facility was built with federal assistance (FEMA) and private donations. It is the new artistic focal point of downtown Iowa City. For more information about the Voxman Music Building, visit [music.uiowa.edu/about/voxman-music-building-facilities](http://music.uiowa.edu/about/voxman-music-building-facilities).

The University of Iowa boasts an extensive inventory of musical instruments and equipment to support the performance, teaching, and research of School of Music faculty, staff, and students. Beyond the typical instruments and equipment required by a top-tier music school, a few aspects of our inventory are particularly notable:

- The Organ Area has three practice organs (two of which are high-quality, mechanical-action instruments), a large two-manual, mechanical-action studio organ, and an exceptional mechanical-action Baroque organ built by Taylor and Boody that is housed in a beautiful 70-seat Organ Recital Hall specifically designed in the Baroque style for the organ. Housed in the

700-seat Voxman Music Building Concert Hall, the primary teaching and performance instrument is a world-class, mechanical-action, three-manual Klais organ designed and built for the School of Music in the German Romantic style.

- The percussion facility is housed in a 2,500 square-foot suite with easy access to the two main performing halls and rehearsal rooms.
- Located in the heart of the Voxman Music Building, the recording studios are a distinctive component of the building with three control rooms, two staff offices, equipment storage space, and a large patch bay. There is also a dedicated recording studio within the percussion suite and a five-room music production suite in the Electronic Music Studio. Music Therapy utilizes a dedicated space for observing and recording clinical sessions from behind a reciprocal mirror.
- The Rita Benton Music Library is housed within Voxman, and holds over 210,000 volumes including scores, books, recordings, journals, and microfilms. It maintains robust online database and streaming subscriptions that support teaching, performance, and research within the School of Music. The Rita Benton Music Library is also home to the Arthur and Miriam Canter Rare Book Room, which houses over 2,800 rare books and scores from the mid-16th century to present day. As the repository for the School's recordings archive, the Rita Benton Music Library inventories, archives, preserves, and makes accessible faculty recital and ensemble recordings and 15 programs, both current and historical. The Rita Benton Music Library employs one full-time librarian and two full-time staff members—all trained musicians knowledgeable in repertoire and practice.
- As the School of Music explores 21st-century methodologies, tools, and practices, the broader University of Iowa Libraries will play an important role in supporting their endeavors. Resources such as the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio, Open Access Fund, and data-management services are just a few of the additional services the UI Libraries provide that the School can leverage when navigating new frontiers in music performance, research, and leadership.

# AREAS OF EXCELLENCE AND DISTINCTION OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The School of Music supports a wide range of excellent programs and distinctive curricular initiatives including:

- The Center for New Music was created with a \$100,000 matching grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1966. The Center, like the internationally renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop, embodies the University of Iowa's commitment to the vital role of the creative arts at the frontiers of human experience.
- Percussion education has its roots in Midwestern universities. Iowa, Illinois and Michigan were among the first to institute formal programs for the study of percussion. Established in 1958 when the University of Iowa appointed Professor Thomas L. Davis (1931-2011), Iowa Percussion is among the oldest percussion programs in the country.
- Music Therapy at Iowa is an American Music Therapy Association (AMTA)-approved program with a long history of producing outstanding music therapists. It is a destination for students from around the world. Music Therapy faculty have received the AMTA's highest honors, including the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Research and Publications Award. One faculty member is a member of the Iowa Cochlear Implant Team in the Department of Otolaryngology at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and is Principal Investigator for the NIH-funded Music Perception Project investigating musical perception and enjoyment by deafened adults who use a bionic inner ear (cochlear implant).
- The Organ Area at Iowa is recognized by the American Guild of Organists as one of only 32 programs nationwide to offer a doctoral degree in Organ Performance. At a time when some universities are shuttering their organ departments, the organ program at Iowa is thriving as a result of generous endowments, the majestic Klais Organ, a new organ recital hall, and outstanding faculty.

- Other innovative programs include the UI String Quartet Residency Program (UISQRP), Martha Ellen Tye Opera Theatre, Iowa Saxophone Workshop, and Piano Sundays. Emerging curricula include the MA in Jazz (2008) and the recently approved BM in Jazz, which began accepting students in Fall 2018.

## **A Community of Creativity and Collaboration**

These programs, and the strong studios, major ensembles, and academic programs all benefit from the University of Iowa's historic legacy in the arts. We are part of a vibrant arts community that includes the Departments of Theatre Arts, Dance, and Cinematic Arts; School of Art and Art History; and many other campus entities focused on creative production and scholarship in the arts.

Iowa's institutional identity has the arts at its center, and collaborative opportunities abound within and across disciplines and media. Iowa's institutional identity has the arts at its center, and collaborative opportunities abound within and across disciplines and media. The SOM collaborates closely with the University of Iowa's state-of-the-art performing arts center, Hancher Auditorium, to bring an educational component to its roster of professional musicians and ensembles.

The Division of Performing Arts, an administrative layer that serves to coordinate the Music, Dance, and Theatre Arts programs within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is often a nexus of collaborative work between the three units.

The UI Academic Mission states: "In pursuing its missions of teaching, research, and service, the University seeks to advance scholarly and creative endeavor through leading-edge research and artistic production; to use this research and creativity to enhance undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, health care, and other services provided to the people of Iowa, the nation, and the world; and to educate students for success and personal fulfillment in a diverse world."



## CONCLUSIONS AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As part of the process leading to the School of Music's recent collegiate self-study, the faculty met to discuss the future of the School, and to renew and re-energize our commitment to our three-fold mission of teaching, scholarship/creative work, and public engagement. We recognize that we pursue our art in a rapidly changing, diverse, and globally connected context, and seek to be a community that responds accordingly. We aspire to be alert to new areas of study and nimble in our ability to respond to them. Five key aspirations emerged from our discussions; these will help us prioritize our efforts as we move forward:

- I. We will reach new levels of artistic and scholarly excellence. Through a continued investment in the scholarly and creative work of our faculty and students, the School of Music will continue to be a leader in the discipline. We will maintain the strong historic linkages between scholarship and practice (the "Iowa Idea"), and — as the importance of digital platforms continues to expand — explore new ways to produce and disseminate our work. Philanthropic giving will play an important role in our capacity to reach our goals. The School will advocate to fill vacated lines so as to maintain the crucial distribution of expertise, which is necessary for the viability of our collaborative, creative community, and our status as a comprehensive, top-tier School of Music.
- II. We will be more diverse and inclusive. Moving forward, we will work to further diversify not only the people who make up the School of Music, but also those whom we invite as guest scholars, performers, and clinicians; those whom we reach through our public engagement activities; and what we teach and perform. In coordination with the Graduate College, we have been successful in recruiting

under-represented minority candidates for Iowa Performance Fellowships and Graduate Diversity Fellowship/Scholarships. Student recruitment and success are a crucial part of this effort; we recognize that recruiting a more diverse student body will be hampered by the lack of diversity in the faculty, which itself will be exacerbated by the absence of tenure-track positions into which more women and people of color may be hired.

- III. We will integrate technology into our curriculum in meaningful ways. We will continue to evaluate and potentially expand course offerings, look for ways to intersect with the Public Digital Arts Cluster and support the curriculum of the newly formed PDA Certificate Program, and increase our use of technology in opera and other interdisciplinary productions.
- IV. We will have more project-based, student-driven learning opportunities. We will build on excellent models already in place, notably the UISQRP, which provide students with mentored opportunities, support, and latitude to create their own artistic identities and audiences. We will work closely with Arts Share to provide opportunities for students to perform and present across the state.
- V. We will be better connected to the profession, and to our community. We will seek to strengthen our relationship with Hancher Auditorium, the Englert Theatre, Orchestra Iowa, the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, and other regional arts entities and take advantage of the world-class artists who come to Iowa City. We will continue to offer a wide range of free performances and educational opportunities to the community and explore ways to reach underserved populations in Iowa City through our Community Music Program.

# IOWA CITY: A CULTURE OF CREATIVITY

You can feel the creative energy in every corner of this atypical Midwestern town. Iowa City—the first UNESCO City of Literature in the US and one of 20 in the world—is home to some of the most influential creative works of the 20th Century. From the Van Allen Radiation Belts to the butterfly stroke, many unique discoveries have been made right here in the “Athens of the Midwest.” From science to songwriting and medicine to screenplays, creativity thrives here every day.

Creative people such as writers Kurt Vonnegut, Flannery O’Connor, and Berkley Breathed (of Bloom County fame); jazz musician Al Jarreau; influential music educator Himie Voxman; visual artists Elizabeth Catlett and Ana Mendieta; and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang have all found inspiration in Iowa City. You might find your inspiration here, too.

The University of Iowa holds many important works of art created by luminaries such as Grant Wood, Pablo Picasso, and Jackson Pollock, including his influential Mural (1943), which will soon be returning to Iowa City from its tour around the world.

Because of the University of Iowa’s long history in the arts, the School of Music attracts a steady stream of the world’s best musicians and scholars to perform for, and interact with, our students and the community.



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