

## **The Music Major: Planning Ahead**

It is in the nature of the liberal arts education to provide students with the broadest possible exposure to a variety of subjects including the Arts, Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences. For this reason students are in fact restricted in terms of how many courses they may take in any one subject area during their first two years of college. In addition, the major is not declared until spring semester of the sophomore year.

At first glance these restrictions seem to imply that one need not even think much about what to major in until the second year. However, there are many majors, including music, which require 3 or even 4 courses that must be taken in sequence and thus it would be impossible to begin in the junior year, and difficult to accomplish even if begun in the fall of sophomore year. For this reason we strongly recommend that any student contemplating music as a single or double major should sign up for Music 103 and 104 during his/her first year. This way the music theory sequence of 103/104 and 201/202 can be accomplished within the first two years leaving flexibility for taking the other required courses. Music 103 and 104 also count as Division I courses toward fulfillment of the distribution requirement for those who decide not to pursue the music major.

For students who have a strong theory background it may also be possible to pass out of Music 103 or even 104, although this is not common. In such a case students contemplating or planning a music major are encouraged to enroll in one of the Music History courses; Music 207, 208, or 209, or one of the music electives.

The Chair of Music and the Music Faculty are available to answer questions about the major at any time.