DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & THEATRE BASIC HANDBOOK
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the CSU Chico Department of Music and Theatre. This handbook will provide you with an overview of the department, its various subject areas, and common procedures and policies that will impact your time at CSU Chico. Updated yearly, the handbook reflects any changes in our faculty, degree programs, and performance opportunities.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND ON OUR WEBSITE?

http://www.csuchico.edu/muta/

The front page of the website contains important information regarding auditions and proficiency and placement exams that typically take place prior to the beginning of each semester.

Throughout the frequently updated website, you can find announcements and details on upcoming events, guidance and resources related to your degree, procedures and dates related to the scholarship process, and other useful information.

FACEBOOK

https://www.facebook.com/CSUChicoMusicandTheatre

CSU, Chico Department of Music & Theatre is on Facebook. Like us today!!

UNIVERSITY BOX OFFICE

http://www.csuchico.edu/boxoffice/index.shtml

The University Box Office offers up-to-date information on scheduled events and tickets to events on campus—including music, theater, dance, athletics and special events. We encourage all students to go see the Music and Theatre Department productions and event at the low cost of generally $6.00 a ticket and the Chico Performances for the reduced price of $10.00 a ticket.
Each degree program has mandatory advising during the semester. This means that if you do not get advised, a hold will be placed on your record, and you will not be allowed to register.

These sessions take place one to two weeks before registration opens for the following semester, announced via email. The purpose of these advising sessions is to provide important information regarding graduation requirements and course rotations as well as to review Degree Progress Reports and to answer any student questions.

Recording Arts and Music Industry majors typically take part in a group advising meeting each semester. To accommodate students’ schedules, multiple group meetings will be held. Alternatively, the student may schedule an individual meeting with the advisor. In the session, internship information and the Recording Arts application will be discussed.

The main advisors are as follows:

- General Music Majors – Hope Munro
- Music Education – Michelle McConkey
- Recording Arts and Music Industry Majors – Alek Palmersmith
- Theatre and Music Theatre Majors – Bill Johnson and Matthew Teague Miller

For students pursuing any of the various options, they should receive additional counseling from the following faculty:

- Composition – David Dvorin
- Instrumental Performance/Jazz Studies – Rocky Winslow
- Vocal Performance – David Scholz
Key Card/Practice Room & Student Kiosk

Practice Rooms & Key Box Information

The Department of Music and Theatre has several practice rooms available for students who are registered for select Music classes that require practice hours outside of regular class hours. Several rooms include well-maintained upright pianos, while others are open for various instrumental use, each being large enough for two people to practice comfortably. Percussion rooms are available to students enrolled in a Percussion Studio and baby grand piano rooms are available to students focusing on Piano Performance. To receive access, students must complete an access request form (located in the Department Office PAC 106) and submit to Gerald Snodgrass in PAC 130. Access ends on the last day of finals each semester. You must apply for access each semester. For those needing access to the recording studio, see Dann Sargent in PAC 201.

For more information about practice rooms, please go to

The Key Box is monitored and we are notified if a key is not returned. A replacement fee of $100 will be charged if a key is lost or stolen.

Student Kiosk / Student Service Desk

Located in the main office (PAC 106), this computer is set up for quick access to many of the various department and university forms and information that students need during their academic career as a Music and Theatre major or minor. This will be available during regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The following items are available:

- Change of Major forms
- Drop/Add forms
- Student Study List
MUSIC & SCRIPT LIBRARY

MUSIC AND THEATRE LIBRARY (MUSIC RESOURCE CENTER)

The Department of Music and Theatre has available printed and recorded music, play scripts, videos, reference material, and Department-owned instruments. This collection is located in PAC 130, and maintained by Gerald Snodgrass who is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

LOCKERS

Lockers located in PAC are available to Theatre majors and any student needing to store an instrument. Reservations are managed in the Music and Script Library located in PAC 130, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
SCHOLARSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Music and Theatre offers over $50,000 in scholarships to students in its majors, including General Music, Music Industry and Technology, Recording Arts, Theatre Arts, and Musical Theatre. Some scholarships are awarded to non-majors with successful auditions/interviews. The scholarship application period runs from January 2 through February 15, and applicants must be full-time students (12 units minimum), and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA (a higher GPA is required for some scholarships). Scholarship recipients must be significantly involved in departmental concerts and productions during both semesters of the academic year for which they receive their award.

Music and Theatre Department scholarship information can be found at http://www.csuchico.edu/muta/scholarships/dept_scholarships.shtml University scholarship information can be found at http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/index.shtml

INTERNSHIPS

Music Industry majors are required to participate in a 3-unit internship, which requires working a minimum of 135 hours. However, both Music Industry and Recording Arts majors are encouraged to participate in as many internships as possible during their undergraduate career.

Internships must be approved in advance by the internship supervisor (Dann Sargent). In the semester prior to the beginning of the internship, the host company provides a profile letter to the internship supervisor. After investigating the company to determine if the internship is viable, the supervisor will then register the person for the internship course. No retroactive credit is available. At the end of the internship, the host must write a letter verifying the completion of the 135-hour minimum. Without this verification letter, no grade can be issued and no credit will be received. For Music Industry majors, the work must be business-related. For instance, they cannot do Recording Arts work for Music Industry credit.
GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

MOMENTUM CHOREOGRAPHY DANCE COLLECTIVE

Faculty Advisor: Sheree Henning shenning@csuchico.edu

Momentum Choreography Collective is an Associated Student Organization. They offer opportunities for students of all majors to dance original choreography by student choreographers. Momentum's public performances of these dances occur in the BMU Auditorium the last weekend of each semester.

Dance Collective Auditions are held the 2nd or 3rd Friday of each semester in the dance studio -- ARTS 108 -- from 2-5PM. All levels and styles welcome. Rehearsals are weekly, so it's important to bring your class/work schedule to auditions. Information about auditions or dance concert dates are posted in the PAC or on Facebook (Momentum-Dance Chico State).

INKBLOT ARTS

Faculty Advisor: Ruth Palmerlee rpalmerlee@csuchico.edu

Ink Blot Arts is an Associated Students Organization focused on theater here at CSU, Chico. Our mission is to create an environment in which students can actively explore, experience, create, and promote the diverse art of theater with their peers and community. IBA hosts many different events and activities such as full-fledged productions, actor and technician workshops, monologue/audition workshops, open mic nights, and more. These programs offer students additional opportunities to practice their craft outside of the classroom.

If you would like to learn more about our club, please visit:
IBA Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/inkblotarts/
CSU, Chico Theater Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/153259741436277/
AES AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Faculty Advisor: Alek Palmersmith apalmersmith@csuchico.edu

The Audio Engineering Society, now in its seventh decade, is the only professional society devoted exclusively to audio technology. Its membership of leading engineers, scientists, and other authorities has increased dramatically throughout the world, greatly boosting the society's stature and that of its members in a truly symbiotic relationship. The AES serves its members, the industry and the public by stimulating and facilitating advances in the constantly changing field of audio. It encourages and disseminates new developments through annual technical meetings and exhibitions of professional equipment, and through the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society, the professional archival publication in the audio industry.

If you would like to learn more about AES, please visit the following:
CSU, Chico AES Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/AESChicoState?fref=ts
Orgsync website: https://orgsync.com/72968/chapter
AES website: aes.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michelle McConkey mmcconkey@csuchico.edu

National Association for Music Education (NAfME), among the world’s largest arts education organizations, is the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. NAfME advocates at the local, state, and national levels; provides resources for teachers, parents, and administrators; hosts professional development events; and offers a variety of opportunities for students and teachers. The Association orchestrates success for millions of students nationwide and has supported music educators at all teaching levels for more than a century.

Since 1907, NAfME has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. NAfME’s activities and resources have been largely responsible for the establishment of music education as a profession, for the promotion and guidance of music study as an integral part of the school curriculum, and for the development of the National Standards for Arts Education.
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PRODUCTIONS (SOTA)

Faculty Advisor: Anita Rivas agrivas@csuchico.edu

School of the Arts Productions (SOTA) is a student-run music and entertainment production program, with divisions for event production, live music recording and audiovisual production, artist development/A&R, social media, branding and marketing and contract and business administration. SOTA is well known for its production of speaker presentations, music industry networking events, music competitions and showcases, music compilations and music videos, an annual outdoor music festival; and its participation in national Artists’ Rights advocacy efforts. SOTA’s goals are to: (1) support the City of Chico to become a hub for talent by providing students with the opportunities to identify, develop and support local and regional musicians; (2) provide performance, recording and educational opportunities for artists; (3) provide students with opportunities to produce, create and promote content and special events; and (4) create networking opportunities and build bridges with the music industry through organizations such as Grammy U and NAMM for its students. SOTA works closely with KCSC, the Associated Students, the University and the local media and business community with regard to an array of activities. SOTA also collaborates with the Recording Arts Program with respect to the Songwriter’s Guild and “Chico Unplugged,” a popular singer/songwriter competition, which involves the audio and audiovisual recording of the winners on campus, and culminates in a record release party at the end of each semester. Students who participate in SOTA are enrolled in MUSC 350, a Music Industry class.

SOTA Productions can be found on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/ChicoSOTAP

SONG WRITERS GUILD

Faculty Advisor: Anita Rivas agrivas@csuchico.edu

Fulfilling their mission to support local music and its creation, SOTA Song Writers Guild has met weekly since 2001. Songwriters are offered open-mic performances, competitions, and showcase concerts throughout the year culminating in the annual Spring Song Writers Showcase at the Sierra Nevada Brewery Co.
STUDENT COMPOSERS FORUM

Faculty Advisor: David Dvorin ddvorin@csuchico.edu

The Student Composers Forum is an Associated Students Organization whose purpose and goal is to create a forum in which student composers can exchange ideas and receive feedback from their peers. The organization also seeks to provide performance opportunities for students, faculty, and guest composers by professional and music department ensembles.

Members of the Student Composers Forum also play an integral part in producing the CSU, Chico New Music Symposium, an annual event highlighting the art of contemporary music composition. For over 10 years the New Music Symposium has provided many opportunities for student composers to showcase their work and interact with cutting-edge artists from the U.S. and beyond.

NATIONAL BAND ASSOCIATION

Faculty Advisor: Royce Tevis rtevis@csuchico.edu

The National Band Association is the largest music organization in the world dedicated to the constant promotion and improvement of bands and band music across the entire spectrum of the band field. That includes public and private school bands, college bands, military bands, and community bands, as well as the music composed for and performed by those ensembles. Membership is open to college students who are preparing to enter the profession.

College students would be joining an organization that focuses solely on improving bands, band music, and band instruction, you would also have excellent resource materials for your college classes through the Instrumentalist Magazine, mentorship from NBA band directors as well as other benefits available to you through your membership. At an affordable annual membership fee of only $15.00 per year, membership in the National Band Association may well be the best bargain of your college years.

The National Band Association not only proclaims support for and the pursuit of excellence in bands and band music, it is in the forefront of research on best practices of teaching, performing, and conducting.
MUSICAL THEATRE AND MUSIC ENSEMBLES

MUSICAL THEATRE (TOUR TROUPE) THEA 309

Director – Dara Scholz
dlenscholz@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-6766

Musical Theatre Ensemble (also known as Tour Troupe or the Off-Broadways) is an auditioned group of students that prepares a staged musical revue for performance in various venues throughout the school year. Repertoire performed encompasses music spanning the musical theatre canon from classical to contemporary. Musical Theatre Ensemble is open to any CSU, Chico student, regardless of major. Auditions are held during the first week of fall semester. Please sign up for an audition time and prepare a song that best suits your voice.

ACAPPELLA CHOIR MUSC 411 A

Director – Dr. David Scholz
dmscholz@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-6127

Acappella Choir, an auditioned ensemble of approximately 60 students, explores a diverse repertoire of quality vocal music from the 17th to the 21st centuries. This choir is open to any CSU, Chico student, regardless of major. Students interested in singing with this ensemble should register for the class and attend the first class session of the semester. Auditions for this ensemble are held during the first week of each semester.

CHAMBER SINGERS MUSC 413 A

Director – Dr. David Scholz
dmscholz@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-6127

Chamber Singers is a small ensemble of typically 20 students who are also members of Acappella Choir. This group focuses on innovative performances of challenging choral literature that is varied in style, international in scope, and rich in depth and excellence. This choir is open by audition to any CSU Chico student, regardless of major. Membership is contingent upon completion of an audition, membership in Acappella Choir, and instructor approval. Students interested in singing with the Chamber Singers should hold the rehearsal times open in their schedule.
CONCERT BAND MUSC 411 B

Director – Royce Tevis
rtevis@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-5582

This ensemble offers its members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and music horizons. Exploring contemporary as well as traditional works for band, the concert Band offer an environment dedicated to performing. There are no auditions for this band, only chair placements. Chair placements occur during the first week of each semester, and this ensemble is open to all student regardless of major.

PEP BAND MUSC 411 -1B

Director – Royce Tevis
rtevis@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-5582

A new resurgence of an old beast, the Chico State Pep Band, MSU 4111B, known as the Wild Cat Pride, rocks through the Basketball Season and other specialty events. The Pep Band is a highly energized group of musicians that lends its musical abilities and school spirit to create a "home court advantage" for the Chico State men's and women's basketball teams. A great group if you want to have fun, play that funky music, and shake everything you got. Open to all Chico State Students who play a wind or percussion instrument, no audition required. Simply come to the first class meeting.

JAZZ X-PRESS MUSC 411 G

Director - Prof. Rocky Winslow
mrwinslow@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-6986

The Jazz X-Press represents the flagship ensemble within the jazz program. Repertoire ranges from standard big band to the cutting edge and compositions from students in the ensemble. The X-Press regular hosts world class guest artists for clinics and performance. X-Press guests have included Bobby Shew, Mark Patterson, Vincent Falcone, John Gunther, Carl Fontana, Joe Henderson, Greg Gisbert, and Paul Romaine. Jazz improvisation, original "charts" written specifically for Jazz Express and world-renowned guest artists punctuate performances.
JAZZ II MUSC 411 J

Director - Prof. Rocky Winslow
mrwinslow@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-6986

Jazz II is the jazz ensemble that anyone can join. Members are drawn from across the university and are given the opportunity to perform standard and contemporary charts. A relaxed audition is required to join this ensemble, and auditions are held at the beginning of each semester.

LOW BRASS CHOIR MUSC 412 A

Director - Prof. Lloyd Roby
lroby@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-4032

The Low Brass Choir is designed for students who play French horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone) or tuba. The ensemble plays a variety of music that ranges from Classical to Jazz and Commercial. Performances occur on and off campus.

STEEL PAN MUSC 412 K

Director – Hope Munro
hmunro@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-6128

The steel pan ensemble focuses on learning to play musical arrangements for steel pans, aka “steel drums,” and is open to all students. No prior experience playing steel pan is required, although it is expected that students be able to read sheet music and have basic musicianship skills.

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE 411 D

Director – Royce Tevis
rtevis@csuchico.edu
Phone: 530-898-5582

The Wind Ensemble is the elite performance group of the Chico State band program. Members of the Wind Ensemble are highly select and multitalented musicians who are challenged to create music at the highest of artistic levels. Devoted to the preparation and performance of the finest wind repertoire, the Wind Ensemble explores the variety and richness of traditional and contemporary music for the wind band. Members of the Wind Ensemble also have the opportunity to work with some of the world's finest guest composers, conductors, and soloists. In addition to its uniform series of campus and off-campus concerts, the Wind Ensemble tours and performs at professional music conventions. Auditions for this group are during the first week of each semester and are open.
to all students regardless of major. Check the band board for more information prior to each semester.

**UNIVERSITY CHORUS 411 E**

**Director – Dr. David Scholz**  
dmscholz@csuchico.edu  
Phone: 530-898-6127

University Chorus is comprised of CSU, Chico faculty, staff, and students as well as members of the Chico community. This choir performs a wide variety of choral music suitable for large choral ensembles, and is open without audition to any CSU, Chico student, faculty, staff, or community member. Any students interested in singing with this ensemble should register for the class and attend the first class session of the semester.

**GUITAR ENSEMBLE 412E**

**Director – Tobin Roye**  
troye@csuchico.edu  
Phone: 530-898-4901

The Chico State Guitar Ensemble is a small performance group, ranging from 10-16 members. Participation is open to all enrolled CSUC students, though members are expected to have some established music reading ability on guitar, and some familiarity with classical guitar technique. The group explores repertoire from classic to contemporary, performing arrangements and original works that are interesting, fun, and musically expressive. Auditions are held the week prior to the first week of instruction.
**THEATRE PRODUCTIONS & CREWS**

The department is committed to providing the best educational experience possible for students involved in the production program. To this end, we give first consideration for to Theatre Arts/Musical Theatre majors and minors for roles and design and crew assignments to theatre majors followed by other students who audition or present a portfolio. On occasion, we will cast guest artists, faculty members and/or community members to provide additional educational experiences to our students. The department believes that the practice of color-blind, gender-blind, and/or age-blind casting is appropriate in certain circumstances, and such casting will occur when suitable to the production. Students who audition or show a portfolio may express a preference as to which roles or design/crew assignments they wish to be considered.

To avoid obvious scheduling conflicts, students must bring complete semester calendars of their commitments to auditions or interviews. Once cast in a role or given a design/crew assignment, a student has the option of accepting or rejecting the role or assignment. This is accomplished by notifying the director and/or supervisor before rehearsals or assignments begin.

Initializing a cast list and/or attending a rehearsal or production meeting also indicates that a student has accepted a role or assignment. Any student who accepts a role or assignment and later wishes to be released from a production must present serious and compelling reasons to the director and/or supervisor and the Chair of the department to avoid sanctions. Students leaving a show without the permission of both the director/supervisor and Chair will be barred from participating in any departmental production during the semester in which the violation occurs and the following semester.

To be eligible for participation in department productions in any capacity, students must maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher during any semester in which they participate. If a student is placed on academic probation by the university (which happens whenever the CSU, Chico G.P.A. or the cumulative G.P.A. drops below 2.0) or if the student fails to achieve at least a 2.0 G.P.A. in the preceding semester, the student will be required to drop any role or design/crew assignment that he or she may be presently engaged in and will be ineligible for any subsequent casting or assignment until he or she regains clear academic standing.

Students on academic probation or whose previous semester’s G.P.A. has fallen below a 2.0 may continue to participate on a production run crew only if participation is a specific, curricular requirement of a course the student is enrolled in. Students who are on Work Study must maintain a
G.P.A. of at least 2.0. Students whose semester G.P.A. falls below a 2.0 must resolve prior to the first day of classes of the following semester any issues concerning incompletes and change-of-grades that might raise their semester G.P.A. above a 2.0.

THEATRE AUDITIONS

Auditions are open to all CSU, Chico students as well as Chico community members. However, Theatre and Musical Theatre majors are always given first consideration according to the needs of the student, and of each individual production.

All Musical Theatre majors are required to audition at the beginning of each semester. Twice yearly general auditions serve two functions for the department: 1) to cast most of the mainstage productions of the season and 2) to provide a yearly opportunity (during the January call) for the faculty to assess and comment on the growth and development of performance and audition skills of Theatre Arts and Musical Theatre.

All Theatre Arts majors are required either to a) audition at the beginning of each semester, or b) present a portfolio of technical, design, or stage management experience every spring semester.

Any student with an interest in technical production, design, or stage management as well as performance may choose to participate in both portfolio reviews and auditions.

Any major may choose not to participate in a department production during any given semester, by notifying the faculty ahead of auditions or interviews, however, she or he must still participate in the audition or interview process.

Sign-up sheets for specific audition appointments are posted in the Greenroom in the PAC approximately five days prior to auditions, which normally begin the Sunday prior to the first day of the semester's classes. The schedule for auditions is posted online on the front page of the MUTA website. http://www.csuchico.edu/muta/index.shtml
PRODUCTION CREWS

Brian Redfern
530-898-4296
Mallory Prucha
530-898-5493

For students interested in working backstage, running a light or soundboard, or working in the scene shop, costume shop or lighting crew, please contact one the above faculty. All of the theatre productions at CSU, Chico are staffed by dedicated students. No experience is required for most positions and students are encouraged to expand their knowledge by trying new things. We highly value our students’ involvement in productions and could not be successful without it.

Announcements are posted in the Green Room (downstairs in the PAC, next to the Wismer Theatre) at the beginning of each semester. If you are a major, you will receive an email from the department. Some work is associated with certain classes, and therefore a student can get school credit.
# MUSIC AND THEATRE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

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<th>Extension</th>
<th>Email (@csuchico.edu)</th>
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# Part-Time Faculty

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COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Music and Theatre now requires all entering students to own an Apple laptop computer, peripherals, and software that meets certain minimum standards established by the department. This computer purchase program will enhance the educational goals of all and help in preparing students for success as they enter their professional career.

REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM

Specific package requirements vary based on a student’s major. Please review the website for more information.

2. Recording Arts majors and students emphasizing in Composition within the General Music option [http://www.csuchico.edu/muta/music/undergraduate/computer_requirement_music.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/muta/music/undergraduate/computer_requirement_music.shtml)

When necessary, contact your major advisor for more details.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO PURCHASE?

All Department of Music and Theatre Majors. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the department office at 530-898-5152.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Financing the purchase of a laptop package or any additional hardware and software requirements of the major is the responsibility of the individual. Note, however, that many students receiving financial aid are eligible to fund the purchase of this computer with the proceeds of their aid package.

If you are required to purchase a computer and you are unable to afford the purchase out-of-pocket or with your current financial aid award, please contact the Financial Aid Office. If possible, they will increase your Cost of Attendance to include the additional computer expenses and process a new loan for you. You MUST use these loan proceeds to purchase the required computer system.
IMPORTANT APPLICABLE NOTES:

- You must have filed a FAFSA to be eligible for loans funds. We will not be able to provide funds without a completed FAFSA.
- The Financial Aid Office is able to do a one-time budget increase for the purpose of purchasing a computer.
- There are no special loans designated for the above computer purchase. These loans are the standard Direct Subsidized or Direct Unsubsidized loans. Freshman are eligible for up to $3500/year, sophomores are eligible for up to $4500/year, and junior and seniors are eligible for up to $5500/year.
- You must maintain all other relevant financial aid eligibility requirements to be eligible for the above funding.
- If you have additional questions specific to eligibility determination or other financial aid related concerns, you may contact the Financial Aid Office (530-898-6451).