MUSIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

What does the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) Music Performance program entail?
As the only commercial music program in the Rocky Mountain region, we offer an accredited music bachelor’s degree that prepares undergraduates to work as professional musicians. Since we do not follow the traditional conservatory model, our program allows for great flexibility in career exploration. Upon graduation, our students will be the complete musician, with strong skills in entrepreneurship, a background in audio production and music business, as well as the fundamentals to make a living as a professional musician, recording artist, and private instructor. Our program is particularly well-suited for guitarists, bassists, vocalists, pianists, and percussionists/drummers who have a strong interest in jazz and commercial music. Further, our program includes a singer/songwriter component, which makes us ideal for students interested in creating their own original content. Note that our program does not focus on training in classical music, musical theatre, or opera.

Is there an application process for admission to the program?
There is a competitive process for gaining admission to the overall CU Denver Music & Entertainment Industry Studies program. More information may be obtained by contacting CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu. After successfully completing four semesters of freshman/sophomore level applied lessons (private instruction), students must pass a Sophomore Proficiency in order to move on to the junior/senior level applied lessons and be considered a full-fledged Music Performance major.

What kind of environment can I expect?
More informal than a conservatory program, our program lends itself to a more supportive community. Students network heavily outside the classroom with their fellow students and, because of our urban location, the local community music scene. Our faculty are highly accessible, leading to strong mentorship.

Can you give me some examples of the type of employment your graduates are finding?
Beyond performing nationwide and internationally as professional musicians, our graduates find employment as recording artists and music business professionals, as well as teachers of private lessons. Further, many of our graduates find success at the graduate level, studying advanced music performance, musicology, and music education.

What sets CU Denver’s Music Performance program apart from similar programs at other institutions?
Students in our Music Performance program are given a full year of both audio production and music business coursework, making them savvy in both areas of the industry and giving them a solid foundation for entrepreneurship. We are the only school in the Rocky Mountain region with three full-time jazz guitar faculty. Students in our program may be allowed to take select, pre-approved courses from Metro State, allowing them to sample different genres and styles beyond our regular curriculum. The stylistic breadth of our program is greater than any other program in the area. Our Signature Ensembles are a major part of Denver’s vibrant local music scene; they also play nationally and internationally, in locations such as Sacramento, Russia, and Amsterdam. And because our audio production and music business students are given the opportunity to earn ensemble credit by serving as audio engineer or the publicist/agent, the Music Performance students will likely have a dedicated engineer and publicist working solely towards their ensemble’s needs.

What if I still have questions about Music Performance?
Please contact Paul Musso at paul.musso@ucdenver.edu or 303-556-8873.

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