SINGER/SONGWRITER PROGRAM

What does the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) Singer/Songwriter program entail?
The program targets Singer/Songwriters who perform their original compositions. Students develop performance and songwriting skills to enter a highly competitive market as both singers and instrumental accompanists.

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 on this initial application procedure may be obtained by contacting CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu. After successfully completing two semesters of freshman/sophomore level applied lessons (private instruction) in voice, and another two semesters of freshman/sophomore level applied lessons in piano or guitar, students must pass a Sophomore Proficiency review in order to proceed to four semesters of junior/senior-level Singer/Songwriter applied lessons when they are also fully declared and accepted into the Singer/Songwriter emphasis. Students should plan on a minimum of eight semesters/four years (Fall/Spring) to complete the program, pending audition results.

What kind of environment can I expect?
More informal than a conservatory, our program fosters a supportive and collaborative community. Because of the vibrant downtown location, with the ready availability of other professional musicians in Denver’s thriving urban music scene students network extensively outside the classroom with their fellows, their faculty, and various venues in the area. With their accessibility to students as well as their professional connection to the local, national and international music scene, our faculty are extraordinary resources and mentors for students.

Can you give me some examples of the types of employment your graduates are finding?
Students develop the skills to live their dream of working as professional touring and recording musicians, performing nationally and internationally. In addition, our Singer/Songwriter graduates are uniquely qualified to succeed in music publishing, to work as song pluggers, perform in combos and as studio musicians, write jingles, work in media, teach private lessons, and to be community music leaders (e.g. worship services). Further, many of our Music graduates find success at the graduate level, studying advanced music performance, musicology, and music education.

This program is appreciative of and sensitive to all styles and genres; however, it is not designed for students whose primary interest is electronic music composition. Those students are encouraged to consider our Music Business or Recording Arts programs.

What sets CU Denver’s Singer/Songwriter program apart from similar programs at other institutions?
Many composition programs exist, but ours allows students to perform their own compositions, rather than train to write for others. This is the only program of its kind in the region, and one of the few Music Departments in the nation to focus on styles of popular music. Students are given a full year of audio production and music business coursework, making them savvy in both areas of the industry and providing a solid foundation for entrepreneurship. All students are taught by faculty with comprehensive and on-going professional experience in the Singer/Songwriter industry. Our advanced signature ensembles are a major part of Denver’s vibrant local music scene, as well as performing nationally and internationally. And because our audio production and music business students are given the opportunity to earn ensemble credit by serving as audio engineers or publicists/agents, Singer/Songwriter students will likely have a dedicated engineer and publicist working solely towards their ensembles’ needs.

What if I still have questions about the Singer/Songwriter program?
Please contact Doug Krause at douglas.krause@ucdenver.edu, or Owen Kortz at owen.kortz@ucdenver.edu.

October 2012