

UC San Diego Music Department Background

UC San Diego's Department of Music is internationally recognized as a premiere center for education and innovation in new music, among a handful of elite institutions. Founded in 1966 by composers Robert Erickson and Will Ogdon, it was designed to provide a unique environment in which composers, performers and scholars collaborate and engage with the most vital ideas and newest technologies in order to push the boundaries of contemporary music, while also embracing the great works of the past.

UC San Diego's Department of Music is home to a number of faculty members who have won prestigious awards, such as the Pulitzer, Guggenheim, MacArthur, and Grawemeyer awards and prizes. This award winning faculty provides a unique and thrilling education for both undergraduates and graduate students. Students who graduate from the Department of Music have gone on to successful careers in fields ranging from performance, composition, research, and education. Alumni have been appointed as Professors at many institutions, including Dartmouth, Harvard, Oberlin, Princeton, Stanford, UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside and the Universities of Buffalo, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, North Texas and Victoria. Others hold academic positions abroad, in Australia, Brazil, France, China, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Mexico, Singapore, Spain and Taiwan.

The faculty provides the challenge that both focuses and energizes the unique UC San Diego musical community. Faculty and students frequently perform together in concerts, on recordings, and at national and international venues. Festivals, colloquia and distinguished visitors create a kinetic environment for collaboration and the investigation of new musical frontiers. The Department of Music provides, perhaps most importantly, a safe haven for the sometimes sharp clashing of ideas. The community's overlapping concerns—composition, improvisation, performance, scholarship and technology—reveal a terrain rich in tradition but constantly expanding, sometimes shattered, and then thoughtfully reinvented.

The newest addition to UC San Diego's outstanding music program is the Conrad Prebys Music Center, which opens in May 2009. The crown jewel of the music center is its 400-seat concert hall, which is destined to be the premiere place to perform and hear music in San Diego. In addition to the concert hall, the university's new Music Center will also include: an experimental theatre with a variable digital virtual acoustics system; a 150-seat lecture/recital hall; professional recording studios; a large courtyard that doubles as a performance space; numerous practice rooms, teaching studios and offices; a large orchestral rehearsal room; percussion studios; and cutting-edge computer audio, video and networking technology throughout the Music Center. At the new facility, a range of concerts will be presented, from classical music to innovative new works incorporating cutting-edge technologies. The Music Center will also be an education center, as budding musicians from San Diego schools will visit to attend concerts, clinics and classes.