

Department of Music

Southern begins Connecticut's first program in Music Therapy in Fall 2022



This fall, SCSU became the first college in the state to offer an undergraduate program in the field of Music Therapy. This Bachelor of Science degree is now offered in addition to Southern's longstanding Bachelor of Arts in Music, which is still going strong. Both programs are fully-accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Music therapy is increasingly used to promote wellness, manage stress, alleviate pain, express feelings, enhance memory, improve communication, promote physical rehabilitation, and more. Music therapists are trained musicians and healthcare professionals working in a growing field: nationwide, music therapy is practiced in 42,000 facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, and schools with clients across the human lifespan and with wide-ranging social, emotional, and physical needs and challenges.

Southern's program is directed by Dr. Heather Wagner, MT-BC (see page 3 for an introduction to Dr. Wagner). Southern's first class enrolled 9 students in the program. With more expected this coming academic year, we will believe the Music Therapy program will rapidly become a vital program at Southern.

Department of Music
120 Earl Hall
<https://www.southernct.edu/academics/music>

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Earl Hall! This newsletter marks the start of what we hope will be a semi-annual update from the department, sharing news of current goings-on, recent achievements from faculty and students, and events happening on campus. In the following pages, you'll read about Southern's new programs in Music Therapy (the first in the state) and Music Technology, meet our new faculty member, Dr. Heather Wagner, and find our line-up of events for this spring.

We hope we might hear from you, too. Please reach out to share news of where you are and what you're up to. And, of course, we hope we might see you on-campus or at an event soon!

Sincerely,
Joshua Groffman
Associate Professor & Chairperson, Music

New minor in Music, Technology, and Media



Since Fall 2021, SCSU students can enroll in the new minor in Music, Technology, & Media. Centered around the Stutzman Family Foundation Music Technology Lab in Engleman Hall, the program offers students a hands-on approach to music production with an emphasis on digital technology and contemporary media such as film, advertising, television, and social media. Since it's roll-out, the minor has proved a popular offering with students in multiple programs!

News & notes from Department of Music faculty, students, and alumni

David Chevan (Jazz/History)

Multiple performances with the ensemble Afro-Semitic Experience, including a residency at Alfred University in September 2022. Composition of an original klezmer Purim spiel, supported by an SCSU-AAUP Faculty Development grant.

Joseph Getter (Music in World Culture)

Release of RELEASE. FORGIVE. A Soundscape for Dying (with Buddhist Sutras), music for those transitioning at the end of life. Performances on flute, hand drums, harmonium, singing bowls, and field recordings from India and Nepal. Co-created with poet and actor Marcella Trowbridge.

Daniel Godchild '23 (B.A. MUS)

Accepted into master's program in Instrumental Conducting at University of Connecticut.

Joshua Groffman (Theory/Electronic Music)

Original composition Summer Wind(s) performed at College Music Society-Northeast, March 2023. New work for Poné Ensemble for piano quartet based on the works of Edward MacDowell.

Mark Kuss (Theory/Electronic Music)

Commission and premiere of Ares for mixed ensemble and voice by the 21st Century Consort, Christopher Kendall director, Hirshorn Museum of Art, Washington, DC., March 2023.

Drew McWeeney '16 (B.A. MUS)

Graduate studies (Ph.D) in Music Education at the University of Hartford. Commission for double bass and string quartet from University of California, San Diego.

Eric Trudel (Piano)

Conducted a three week performance seminar for singers and pianists at Showa University in Tokyo, Japan. Solo piano recitals of Gershwin throughout 2023.

Heather Wagner (Music Therapy)

Co-authored article "Indicators of Self-Determination in Therapeutic Songwriting Lyrics Created by Adults with High LDL Cholesterol" published in Journal of Music Therapy, March 2023.

Alexis Zingale

Four recitals of the Southern Italian Piano Project in March and April 2023 in Connecticut and Pennsylvania.



Send us your news!

music@southernct.edu or (203) 392-6625

Faculty Spotlight

This past fall, the Department of Music was delighted to welcome a new full-time faculty member, Dr. Heather Jean Wagner, MT-BC, who began a position as Assistant Professor of Music and director of Southern's new B.S. in Music Therapy program. Dr. Wagner holds degrees from Temple University (Ph.D, Music Therapy; Masters of Music Therapy) and Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (B.S. in Music Therapy, with certification in Music Education). She joins Southern having taught from 2019-2022 at SUNY New Paltz in the well-regarded Music Therapy program there. She has additionally taught at Berklee College, Molloy College, Temple University, and Anna Maria College. In addition to her teaching, she has been a practicing music therapist in a variety of clinical settings throughout Connecticut for more than 20 years. She is highly active in the American Music Therapy Association, is a sought-after lecturer, teacher, and practitioner, and has an ongoing research agenda in several areas.



Upcoming Events

Join us! All Music Department events are free and open to the campus and New Haven community.

Sign up [here](#) to receive our monthly "Music @ Southern" mailing with the latest news about events.

"The Southern Italian Piano Project"

Alexis Zingale, piano

April 5, 2023, 7:30pm - Garner Hall

The Southern Italian Piano Project rediscovers and performs underrepresented piano music of southern Italy from the Baroque era to the current day. This performance is made possible with support from the Stutzman Family Foundation.

An Afternoon of Song

April 12, 2023, 1:30pm - Garner Hall

SCSU voice students of Rebecca Barko, Matthew Cimino, and Ellyne Plotnick perform selections from classical, jazz, and theater music.

University Band

April 20, 2023, 7:30pm - Garner Hall

The SCSU University Band, under the direction of Craig Hlavac, performs classic and new pieces from the wind band repertoire.

University Choir

April 24, 2023, 7:30pm - Garner Hall

The SCSU University Choir, under the direction of Terese Gemme, performs mixed-voice arrangements from the contemporary and classical choir repertoire.

Creative Music Orchestra

April 26, 2023, 1:30pm - Garner Hall

Join us for a unique program of music curated, arranged, and performed by SCSU students under the direction of David Chevan.

Latin Jazz, Jazz Standards,

Guitar Ensemble, & Blues Ensemble

April 26, 2023, 7:30pm - Garner Hall

Hear SCSU students perform as part of the Jazz Standards and Latin Jazz Ensembles, directed by David Chevan, and the Blues Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble, directed by Jim Martin.

Vocal Scenes Workshop

May 3, 2023, 1:30pm - Garner Hall

SCSU voice students present scenes from popular musicals and operas, directed by Rebecca Barko.

Alexina Cristante Senior Voice Recital

May 5, 2023, 7:30pm - Garner Hall

FULL-TIME FACULTY



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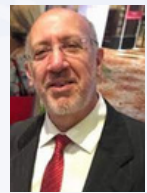
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