

Songwriting

The student majoring in songwriting will develop skills in melody, harmony, and arranging, as well as creative approaches to musical composition and lyric writing. The intent is to provide tools and techniques of excellent songwriting and to foster creativity and an individual writing style. The courses offered in the major often have options that allow students to concentrate on their own goal, whether it is to be a singer/songwriter or a songwriter who writes for others. Students interested in becoming singer/songwriters will choose a curriculum that focuses on both songwriting and performance. Students interested in writing songs for artists other than themselves will have the option of taking more arranging and production courses. To demonstrate mastery of these skills and concepts, the student will complete a portfolio of several songs that typify various current practices of contemporary songwriters. The portfolio will include lead sheets, lyric sheets, and demonstration recordings of each of the songs, equivalent in production quality to those typically presented to music publishers, record producers, and record companies by professional songwriters. Through the study of acknowledged masterpieces of the songwriter's art, the student will develop the critical skills necessary to recognize and discuss quality elements in musical and lyrical structure. Interpersonal and situational skills will develop through the many collaborative situations that exist in the professional environment: cowriting songs both as composer and as lyricist, working with vocalists and instrumentalists in the production of demo recordings, and working with engineers, artists, and producers in the studio environment. The Business of Songwriting course is part of the major and will help guide the student to better understand copyright law, contracts, and the realities and dynamics of the music business. The songwriting major will have sufficient skills and knowledge to work in the music industry as songwriter, lyricist, singer/songwriter, arranger, and/or producer, and will have a sufficient background in stylistic breadth, analysis, and understanding of permanent musical values to work in a variety of situations, environments, and changing stylistic, artistic, and production demands.

Songwriting Concentrate

30 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma

Course Number	Course Title	Semesters:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ISKB-211 & 212	Basic Keyboard 1 & 2				1	1				
SW-211 & 212	Songwriting 1 & 2				2	2				
SW-221 & 222	Lyric Writing 1 & 2				2	2				
PW-161 or MTEC-112 or PW-151	Technology Tools for the Writer or Applied Technology for Musicians or Introduction to Destop/Digital Audio 1				2					
SW-231	Arranging for Songwriters						2			
SW-361 or SW-362*	Song Demo Production Techniques or Advanced Song Production Seminar*						2			
SW-241	Survey of Popular Song Styles							2		
SW-311, SW-321, or SW-371	Advanced Songwriting, Advanced Lyric Writing, or Singer/Songwriter Workshop								2	
SW-335	The Business of Songwriting									2
SW-498	Directed Study in Songwriting									2
	Approved Specified Electives**							2	2	2

*With permission of the chair or course instructor.

Approved Specified Electives (select from the following): AR-112, AR-201, AR-203, CM-311, COND-351, CW-141, CW-171, CW-204, CW-205, CW-210, CW-216, CW-221, CW-222, CW-225, CW-450, ENCL-200, ENJZ-403, ENMX-315, ENPP-300, ENPP-401, ENPP-402, ENRT-405, ET-331, ET-351, ET-411, ET-441, FS-221, FS-391, LENG-318, LENG-331, HR-231, ILPN-227, ILVC-261, ISVC-111, ISVC-112, MP-110, MP-210, MTEC-112*, MTEC-222, Plix-xxxx**, PST-351, PST-451, PST-471, PSVC-231, PW-151***, PW-161***, SW-236, SW-311***, SW-321, SW-325, SW-336, SW-345, SW-362***, SW-365, SW-371***, SW-495.

***May be taken as an Approved Specified Elective if not taken as a requirement.

Up to 4 additional credits of private instruction (Plix-xxx) on guitar, voice, or piano as a secondary instrument may be taken as Approved Specified Electives. A total of 2 credits of additional ensembles (ENxx) and/or labs (ILxx) may be required with the additional private instruction. See department chair for requirements, policies, and other information.

Core Music: 40 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma

PERF 1-4	Performance Core* <i>Private Instruction, Ensembles, and Labs</i>	3	3	3	3					
PW-111	Music Application and Theory	3								
AR-111	Arranging 1		2							
HR-112 to 212	Harmony 2-4		2	2	2					
ET-111 to 212	Ear Training 1-4	2	2							
ET-211 to 212 or ET 231 to 232	Ear Training 3-4 or Solfege 1-2			2	2					
CM-211 & 212	Tonal Harmony and Composition 1 & 2					2	2			
CP-210	The Art of Counterpoint						3			
COND-211/216	Conducting 1					1				
COND-212/217	Conducting 2						1			

*Students are required to enroll in an ensemble during their first 4 full-time semesters. Additionally, in semesters 2-4 they must select either a 50-minute lesson (2 credits) or a 30-minute lesson (1 credit) with a corequisite 1-hour lab (1 credit - ILXX course)

Liberal Arts: 40 Credits Required for Degree/6 Credits Required for Diploma

Required of All Degree/Diploma

MTEC-111	Introduction to Music Technology	2								
LHUM-100	Artistry, Creativity, and Inquiry Seminar	2								
LHUM-400	Professional Development Seminar						2			

Required of Degree

LENG-111 & 201	Writing and Communication & Literature	3	3							
LMSC-xxx	Any course in mathematics/physical sciences		3							
LHIS-xxx	Any course in history			3						
LAHS-xxx	Any course in art history				3					
LSOC-xxx	Any course in social sciences					3				
LHAN-211 & 212	History of Western Music 1 & 2			2	2					
LSOC-xxx	Any course in music and society							3		
Lxxx-xxx	Any three courses in liberal arts not already taken							3	3	3

General Electives: 10 credits required for degree/20 credits required for diploma

Total Required Credits: 120 credits for degree/96 credits for diploma

For the most current information on requirements, consult the Office of the Registrar.

The songwriting major requires the purchase of the songwriting major bundle, which includes specific hardware and software components that meet the curricular, musical, and professional goals of the major. More information can be found at berklee.edu/computers or obtained from the Songwriting Department chair.