

Penn State University School of Music
Ensemble Area
Mission and Vision Statement
April 2021

WHO WE ARE

Our ensembles provide students with collaborative music-making opportunities that represent the synthesis of skills and knowledge gained in the classroom and studio. We prepare our students for a lifetime of music-making that is flexible and adaptable to the ever-evolving field of music performance, both in and out of the concert hall. We envision a future of collaborative music making that places a high demand on musicians who are creative and fluent in a variety of styles and genres.

In all activities we are committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. We welcome and value all individuals and are committed to providing equal opportunities for all, while fostering a safe environment of respect and inclusion.

ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION

1. Provides the experiential capstone of artistic expression and learned skills: Providing opportunities to synthesize all aspects of a student's musical training: history, theory, ear-training, applied lessons etc.
2. Provides a variety of professional level musical experiences in a variety of musical styles.
3. Enables students to realize and engage deeply with compositions.
4. Prepares students for a professional musical life and instills a desire for life-long involvement with music.

GOALS

GOAL 1 Advance diversity, equity and inclusion in all activities

- Provide opportunities to perform to underserved audiences both on and off-campus (**Ongoing**).
- Expand opportunities for side-by-side rehearsals and concerts outside the School of Music – professional groups/public schools/community (**Ongoing**).
- Increase student engagement with guest musicians and speakers to expand knowledge and understanding related to repertoire and issues pertaining to the music profession (**Ongoing**).

GOAL 2 Perform music that is broad in scope and diverse in style

- Increase performances of music by composers who have traditionally been underrepresented **(Ongoing)**.
- Create a named Endowment for regular commissions to be shared among School of Music ensembles **(Within 3-5 years)**.
- Collaborate (including inter-disciplinary projects) within and outside the School of Music (Theater, Dance, academic units, multi-media etc.) **(Ongoing)**.

GOAL 3 Expand ensemble opportunities and the curriculum offered within

- Incorporate opportunities within existing ensembles that could include but not limited to examples such as Studio Orchestra (Pop, Movie Soundtrack, Commercial), Collegium (Early Music), New Music Ensemble etc. **(Ongoing)**.
- Broaden student experiences to encompass diverse ensembles that could include but not limited to examples such as World Music Ensemble, Rock/Pop Ensemble, Rhythm & Blues, non-Euro centric ensembles. **(Ongoing)**.
- Expand collaboration with the Composition and Music Technology Areas to provide ensemble experiences for all student musicians. **(Ongoing)**.

Ensemble Area Committee

Gerardo Edelstein, chair
Ted Christopher
Greg Drane
B J Hickey
Kathryn Hylton
Christopher Kiver
Marko Marcinko
Bryan Nichols
Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin