Kelvin Wu ’19
Music major
(Concentration in Piano Performance)
Graduate student, Master of Music in Piano Performance and Master of Arts in Theory, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

“My goal is to become a professional musician, preferably a pianist. My pursuit of graduate studies owed much to the well-rounded intellectual spectrum of Notre Dame’s liberal arts education and, more specifically, to the dedicated tutelage under the music faculty.

I chose Notre Dame to pursue my passion in music because the emphasis was not only on the music performance but we also had advanced-level musicological classes — music theory, music history, and music analysis. The range of requirements is comprehensive. There are many moments when I use my knowledge from theory, from history, to inform my music playing.

Music is fundamentally supported by a sense of love. Love for human experience, love for the world. You love the music and are driven by that love to analyze the music. It’s very much heart and intellect. The liberal arts curriculum at Notre Dame is very helpful for the growth of a musician, because to be a musician doesn’t mean to simply be a musician. It means to express through music but to be able to present a very good and convincing argument through music, we have to have very solid cultural and academic background. So the balanced curriculum in the Music program and in Arts & Letters is a great choice. holistically and create connections with people from different backgrounds.”

48% enrolled in graduate or professional school

Fiction writing:
Columbia University

Information sciences:
University of Michigan

Law: Roger Williams University

Medicine: Baylor College of Medicine, Cornell University, University College Dublin, University of South Florida

Music: Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien

Music — choral conducting:
Eastman School of Music

Music composition: University of Southern California

Music education:
Vandercook College of Music, University of Miami

Vocal performance: Roosevelt University, Yale University

School counseling:
Butler University

Curriculum requirements

Concentration in Music Theory and History
9 credits of music theory
20th-Century Music: Structure and Style
3 credits of musicianship labs
9 credits of music history
4 three-credit electives in music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology

Concentration in Performance
14 credits of studio lessons (1 to 2 credits each semester)
9 credits of music theory
20th-Century Music: Structure and Style
3 credits of musicianship labs
9 credits of music history
2 three-credit electives in music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology
3 additional elective credits in music
6 semesters of departmental ensemble participation
Senior recital

6% pursued other opportunities

15% entered service programs

- Alliance for Catholic Education, Atlanta, Georgia
- Americorps, New Haven, Connecticut
- ECHO, Draper, Utah
- House of Brigid, Ireland
- West Monroe Partners, Chicago, Illinois

Source: Center for Career Development
First Destination Reports, 2017-2021

of recent Notre Dame Music majors found success within six months of graduation.

31% started full-time jobs

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