Six things you should know about the Oxy Music Department

- Our program is remarkably eclectic for such a small institution, with ensembles ranging from Afro-Cuban drumming and Jazz Ensemble to a symphony orchestra and concert band shared with Caltech, a world-class choral program, and an interdisciplinary approach to the teaching and learning of music from five of the seven continents. Composition students are given the opportunity to have their works performed by first-rate musicians as well as learn techniques in electronic music and music technology. We reach out to every Oxy student with our diverse curriculum.

- Faculty research interests include food and music, Chopin, global hip hop, music and migration, electronic music, visualization of musical information, and music in film and other media. Students have collaborated with faculty on their research through Oxy’s distinctive Undergraduate Research Program.

- Our music classrooms extend into Los Angeles’ vibrant music scene as course assignments take students to the LA Opera and LA Chamber Orchestra, as well into the nightclubs, street festivals, museums, and concert halls that are part of the Los Angeles soundscape.

- Music students pursue internships in some of Los Angeles’ premier cultural institutions, including the LA Chamber Orchestra and the LA Master Chorale, as well as recording companies, artist representation and publicity firms, and museums.

- Occidental students are incredibly musical and diverse in their musical tastes. Students have many opportunities to perform on campus, during Friday afternoon musical recitals, in the “battle of the bands,” and in a cappella and ensemble performances. Our concert spaces include Bird Studio, a lovely small recital hall, the splendid large auditorium that is Thorne Hall, and Herrick Chapel.

- Occidental’s performance faculty are some of Los Angeles’ best professional musicians, drawn from the orchestras of the LA Opera, LA Chamber Orchestra, and LA Philharmonic, as well as Hollywood’s studios, the LA Master Chorale, and the LA Opera Chorus.