It's purpose.
Not a pipe dream.
You will pursue your passion. You will perfect your talent. You will achieve your purpose as an accomplished, professional musician.

INTENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STUDY ACCOMPANIED BY UNMATCHED PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

At UNCSA’s School of Music, you will learn from professional musicians who are active performers. You will regularly display your skills, performing in recitals, concerts and other performances throughout the year.

MENTORED TRAINING

Working closely with a major studio teacher as master-apprentice, you’ll receive highly-personalized instruction. You’ll also gain a thorough foundation in music theory, literature and style.

A CONSERVATORY EXPERIENCE

Ours is a rigorous conservatory approach where you’ll immerse daily in the study of your art. Your training will be professional-level. Your focus will be a professional career.

EDUCATING THE WHOLE ARTIST

Our comprehensive liberal arts college curriculum and high school academic program provide a broad education, producing well-rounded artists who think critically, creatively and collaboratively.
Living and working among musicians and other artists, you will be motivated to take your talent to new levels.

A CAMPUS CULTURE UNLIKE ANY IN THE COUNTRY

A COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS
The University of North Carolina School of the Arts is composed of five conservatories – Music, Dance, Design & Production, Drama, and Filmmaking. As a result, you'll find artistic passion and inspiration all around you. You will learn by doing. And every day, your fellow artists will help bring out your very best.

ARTISTIC COLLABORATION
As a musician, working in an interdisciplinary environment of dancers, actors, filmmakers, designers, and technicians, you'll learn to effectively collaborate as a professional – a valuable skill you'll carry into your career.
You’ll have a multitude of opportunities to perform in front of audiences – not sit on the sidelines.

With more than 200 recitals, concerts and operas each year, as well as professional opportunities within the Winston-Salem community, you’ll grow as a performer in the best possible way – by performing.

MUSICIANS WANTED:

Orchestra for The Nutcracker. Ensembles for contemporary dance. Recording sessions for film scores. Pit players for fully-staged musicals. Accompaniment for opera. Composition students paired with choreographers. Whether touring, playing a gig in town, or serving in ArtistCorps (a program of AmeriCorps), you will experience what the life of a professional musician is like.

The Hollywood Reporter ranks UNCSA #5 for music schools in the United States.

NO OTHER SCHOOL OF MUSIC CAN MATCH THE WEALTH OF PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES YOU’LL FIND AT UNCSA.
OUR DEAN

Our conservatory’s Dean is Brian Cole, an accomplished conductor who has led orchestras and operas throughout the United States, Europe, South America and the Caribbean. He leads a world-class faculty, each with impressive credentials of their own.

A RENOWNED FACULTY

Our Music faculty are working artists who bring vast performance experience – from international symphony orchestras to local and regional ensembles. Their real-world perspectives enrich the classroom each day, broadening students’ understanding of the contemporary music landscape.

VISITING ARTISTS

Notable guest artists from the world of music often visit campus to teach and perform with our students. A sampling of recent guest artists includes:

AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC WIND QUINTET

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

Part of an ongoing partnership of concerts and master classes

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD

Four-time Grammy-winning contemporary classical ensemble

EMERSON STRING QUARTET

SIR JAMES GALWAY

Legendary flutist

RICHARD GOODE

Noted pianist and leading interpreter of Classical and Romantic music

WILLIAM KANENGISER

Award-winning guitarist and founding member of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet

MIDORI

Internationally-known violinist, devoted educator and innovative community engagement activist

MENOHEM PRESSLER

Founding member and former pianist of Beaux Arts Trio

PRISM SAXOPHONE QUARTET

CAROLINE SHAW

Youngest-ever Pulitzer Prize winner in Music (2013), Grammy-winning singer and violinist

FREDERICA VON STADE

World-renowned mezzo-soprano

Intense, demanding, and rewarding: You’ll work one-on-one with an accomplished, professional musician.
Watson Chamber Music Hall is the best small hall I have ever played. The Hamburg Steinway ‘D’ piano is extraordinary.

– Richard Goode, World-Renowned Pianist

UNCSA’s performance venues include the 1,380-seat Stevens Center, a magnificently restored neoclassical theatre located in downtown Winston-Salem; the 590-seat Crawford Hall, with a 35-stop C.B. Fisk organ; the 300-seat Watson Chamber Music Hall, designed by renowned acoustician Rein Frim; and the 38-seat Hood Recital Hall, an intimate space ideally suited for chamber and solo recitals.

A.J. FLETCHER OPERA INSTITUTE

An elite professional training ground for exceptional young vocalists, this tuition-free, graduate-level opera program includes extensive performance opportunities in fully-staged productions, scenes, touring and outreach.

CHRYSLIS CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE

Developed in partnership with the renowned Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, this graduate program is dedicated to the development of outstanding chamber musicians through seminars, coachings, rehearsals, performances and career development with the world-class musicians of Lincoln Center.

“Watson Chamber Music Hall is the best small hall I have ever played. The Hamburg Steinway ‘D’ piano is extraordinary.”

– Richard Goode, World-Renowned Pianist

AMPLIFYING PERFECTION
UNCSA ALUMNI INCLUDE:

EDDIE BARBASH
Founding member and saxophonist of Jon Batiste and Stay Human, the house band for The Late Show with Stephen Colbert

RENÉ BARBERA
Operatic tenor, Paris Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, Winner of 2011 Placido Domingo’s Operalia

ERIKA BOYSEN
Assistant Professor of Flute, UNC-Greensboro

RICHARD BUCKLEY
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Austin Opera

MIKAEL DARMANIE
Pianist for Warp Trio

PATRICIA KING AND ORLANDO HADDAD
Grammy-nominated Brazilian-American duo, Minas

RACHYL DUFFY
Viola, San Diego Symphony

ROBERT FRANZ
Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony, Music Director of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Orchestra

KRISTEN AND JOSH HOLTZ
Principal Flute and Associate Conductor of the Charlotte Symphony, members of the Schwabtiz Dus

LEO HURLEY
New York City-based composer, collaborator with librettist Charles Osborne on the recent transgender opera The Body Politic

STEFAN JEZIERSKI
Horn, Berlin Philharmonic

ULLA JORGENSEN
Principal Flute, Danish National Symphony

LISA KIM
Violin, New York Philharmonic

DANIEL MCKELWAY
Assistant Principal Clarinet, Cleveland Orchestra

IAN MCVY
Winner of the International Harp Contest of Mexico

REBECCA NISSEBAUM
Program Director of ArtistCorps, an artist-driven service opportunity

ROBERT OPPELT
Principal double bass, National Symphony Orchestra

JUSTIN POINDEXTER
Manager for Education and Community Programs at Jazz at Lincoln Center, founding member of the acclaimed American music ensemble, Silver City Bound

SHARON ROBINSON
Cello, Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio

JULIAN ROSE
Artist-in-Residence, Flute Center of New York

BECCA STEVENS
Jazz, Folk and Pop Singer & Songwriter

COLIN TRIBBY
Assistant Principal, RJ Reynolds Magnet School for the Visual and Performing Arts, percussionist

TICHA NA VAUGHN
Mezzo-soprano, Stuttgart Opera

RU-PEI YEH
Cello, New York Philharmonic

SUCCESS OF NOTE

School of Music graduates are succeeding in all areas of music, across the country and around the world – from the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra and Berlin Philharmonic to the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Stuttgart Opera and Paris Opera.

Exceptionally skilled and highly experienced, graduates leave UNCSA well prepared for lives and careers as professional musicians.
WINSTON-SALEM: A FOCUS ON THE ARTS

Known as the City of Arts and Innovation, Winston-Salem is a flourishing arts community — and the ideal conservatory location. Free from the high cost of living and stress of a large metropolitan center, our artists are able to focus and immerse in their art. In a city like New York, you may see a lot of work. At UNCSA, we’re creating it.

AFFORDABLE QUALITY

UNCSA offers a wealth of opportunities at an unmatched value. As one of the 17 campuses of the University of North Carolina, our tuition is a fraction of that of private arts schools.

GREAT RETURNS

Money Magazine reported that recent UNCSA graduates earn approximately 22 percent more than their counterparts at other schools with a similar focus on the arts.

VISIT UNCSA

To appreciate the UNCSA conservatory experience and our unique artist community, you need to see them firsthand. Get started by visiting our website: uncsa.edu. Then schedule your visit to campus.

APPLY & AUDITION

The School of Music provides programs in a variety of instruments. In addition to your online application, you will need to audition for the music faculty in your area of interest. All auditions are held on the campus of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Learn more about audition schedules and the application process at: uncsa.edu/apply or call: (336) 770-3290.

ABOUT UNCSA

STUDENTS
263 high school
907 undergraduate
123 graduate

FACULTY
141 full-time
76 visiting/adjunct
+ numerous guest artists

RATIO
9 to 1 student to faculty

FACILITIES
11 performance and screening venues

PERFORMANCES
300+ public performances and screenings annually