ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

“‘I chose UW because of the opportunities to learn about and perform music from different parts of the world through the Ethnomusicology visiting artist program.’”

David Aarons
Ethnomusicology major & steelpan player
Hometown: Kingston, Jamaica

Interdisciplinary work, field study, and explorations of music and culture have been hallmarks of the UW Ethnomusicology program since its beginnings in 1963.

Ethnomusicology encompasses studies of music and culture and integrates aspects of musicology and anthropology as well as music performance, history, and theory. Interdisciplinary work, field study, and explorations of music and culture have been key components of the UW Ethnomusicology program since its beginnings in 1963. Students in the program study music and musicians in various contexts and through various disciplinary lenses.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Faculty in the program include internationally known authors and scholars with deep roots and connections to their specific areas of focus. Faculty research and interests are broad-ranging, but include expertise in African, Asian, Caribbean and Latin American musical cultures, among others.

VISITING ARTISTS

UW Ethnomusicology’s visiting artist program has been a hallmark of the program for more than 50 years, bringing highly accomplished musicians to the university to work with students in applied music courses and public performances. Students study with artists from Afghanistan, China, India, Ireland, Korea, Puerto Rico,
Senegal, Tanzania, and elsewhere.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

In addition to performance opportunities with visiting artists, UW Ethnomusicology students participate in a range of ensemble courses, including the UW Steelband, Zimbabwean Marimba Ensemble, Javanese Gamelan, and Gospel Choir. Graduate students regularly present at academic conferences nationally and internationally and work closely with faculty mentors on field studies worldwide.

**AREAS OF DISTINCTION**

The [UW Ethnomusicology Archives](#) hold unique audio and video collections of the world’s musical cultures. The department also houses an instrument collection featuring high-quality instruments from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas.

The program claims a wide interdisciplinary reach across university programs ranging from anthropology, history, and health sciences to dance, sociology and international studies, and intersects with School of Music programs in music history, theory, education, and performance.

The newly added BA in Ethnomusicology degree is intended for students who are intrigued by the diversity of the world's musical expressions and are interested in interdisciplinary perspectives that illuminate music's cultural contexts and meanings. [Learn more about the BA in Ethnomusicology](#).

**SUPPORT**

In addition to student support distributed by the University of Washington's financial aid office, the School of Music distributes more than a half million dollars annually in merit- and need-based student support. Graduate teaching assistantships are competitive and are granted in all areas of study.

**HOW TO APPLY**

For more information, contact [SoMadmit@uw.edu](mailto:SoMadmit@uw.edu)

**FACULTY IN THIS AREA**

![Christina Sunardi](#)

**Christina Sunardi**  
Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology; Adelaide D. Currie Cole Endowed Professor; Chair, UW Dance

![Patricia Shehan Campbell](#)

**Patricia Shehan Campbell**  
Chair, Music Education; Professor, Music Education, Ethnomusicology

![Shannon Dudley](#)

**Shannon Dudley**  
Chair, Ethnomusicology; Professor
Sampler from the annual concert presented by the Ethnomusicology Student Association at the University of Washington, April 29, 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS
- Fall 2020 New Major and Faculty Lesson Auditions (for current UW students) - Sep 25
- Fall 2021 Entrance & Scholarship Auditions - Jan 9
- Fall 2021 Entrance & Scholarship Auditions - Jan 23
- Fall 2021 Entrance & Scholarship Auditions - Feb 6

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Field recordings by former UW Music professor Lorraine Sakata inducted into Library of Congress Recording Registry (Mar 30, 2020)
- Christina Sunardi Named Chair of UW Dance (Feb 11, 2020)
- Winter 2020 Student and Alumni Notes (Jan 31, 2020)
- Still Alive and Well: Music Alive! Turns 20 (Jan 29, 2020)
- Winter 2020 Faculty Notes (Jan 24, 2020)

RELATED RESEARCH

The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

Source URL: https://music.washington.edu/areas/ethnomusicology