FACTS ABOUT THE VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

- Founded in 1968, the Department of Music (VCU Music) is part of Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of the Arts, ranked the #1 public university arts & design program in the country (US News & World Report).

- VCU Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The Department’s programs in Music Education are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Virginia Department of Education, and the National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education.

- VCU Music represents more than 300 music students and presents more than 200 concerts, recitals, and events each year.

- Undergraduate degree programs include a Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Arts in Music, as well as a minor in music. At the graduate level, the department offers a three-summer Master of Music in Music Education.

- Areas of study offered by the department include: Guitar, Jazz Studies, Music Education, Piano, Strings, Woodwinds/Brass/Percussion, and Voice.

- Student ensembles include the VCU Symphony, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, University Band, Opera Orchestra, Commonwealth Singers, as well as two jazz orchestras and numerous choral, classical, jazz and chamber ensembles.

- VCU Music students have recently traveled to England, China, Turkey, Austria, Ireland, Ghana, and South Africa. Students have performed at the Notre Dame Jazz Festival, the American Choral Directors Association, and the International Trumpet Guild.

- VCU Music alumni have performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, and at the Kennedy Center. Alumni hold positions composing film scores in Hollywood and performing with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Our alumni are recipients of the GRAMMY Award, and they are heading music programs in public schools and in colleges and universities around the country.

- VCU Music faculty members perform and present throughout the world and hold leadership positions in the National Opera Association, the Midwest Clinic, the Jazz Education Network, the American Choral Director’s Association, and the Virginia Music Educators Association.

Mission Statement: The VCU Department of Music is committed to the advancement of western art music and jazz as academic disciplines, as fields of professional endeavor, and as a viable presence in the community. The Department carries out this mission by: preparing music majors at the bachelor’s and master’s levels to be capable practitioners of western art music and jazz, providing instruction that enables non-major students to make music an enduring part of their lives, advancing the art of music globally through the work of its faculty composers, performers, and researchers, and serving the university, the urban community, and the music profession through presentation of music performances, support of music education, and collaboration with other performing arts organizations.