

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (MAT) MUSIC PROGRAM: A NEW APPROACH TO MUSIC TEACHER EDUCATION

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The Master of Arts in Teaching Music program at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, is an intensive, 13-month course of study that combines music education methods courses from the Thornton School of Music with teacher credentialing classes from the Rossier School of Education. This unique and innovative program represents a true collaboration between two major schools within the University, while also functioning as a part of an ongoing partnership with local Los Angeles area school districts. Each year a select cohort of students makes the transition from outstanding musician to exceptional music educator. MAT Music program graduates enter the job market armed with a California Teaching Credential and a Master's degree, highly qualified and fully prepared to take on the challenges of today's schools.

Admission to the USC MAT Music program requires a Bachelor's degree in Music (BA or B Mus) from a NASM-accredited institution, and the successful completion of an interview or audition with the Music Education Department faculty. California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) music subject matter competency requirements are satisfied by each student successfully passing the state-adopted California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET). Distinctive features of the program include:

- Students earn both a Master's degree and teaching credential in 13 months.
- Students can choose between two tracks: Instrumental and Choral/General.
- Graduates will be in high demand and can enter the salary scale at a higher level in most school districts.
- The program is approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
- The USC Thornton School of Music is consistently ranked among the top one percent of the nation's music schools and conservatories.
- The USC Rossier School of Education was recently ranked 19th in the nation by US News and World Report.

This presentation will focus on the MAT Music program curriculum, and the school/university partnerships that have become a hallmark of the program. Discussion will also include the effect and implications of:

1. Having students in the program who already possess a Bachelor's degree in music.
2. Music methods classes that are taught on the campus of a local public school, giving direct access to the school environment and school children.
3. Early and ongoing (every semester) field experiences in local schools.
4. the condensed (13 months) and immersive nature of the curriculum.
5. the impact on beginning teacher entry-level pay scale.
6. Recruitment and teacher retention issues.

The USC Master of Arts in Teaching Music program may be seen as being in direct alignment with one of the stated commitments of The Society for Music Teacher Education: effecting change (in the field of music teacher education) through collaborative action. A thorough examination and discussion of this new approach to music teacher education will address critical issues raised by, and further the goals of, the SMTE.