Welcome!

At most universities, opportunities for music-making tend to diminish, unless students take a degree in music. This is not the case at the University of Warwick, where the Music Centre offers music-making to all students of all degree subjects, from Maths to Languages and from Computer Science to Theatre Studies! Warwick does not offer a music degree and so everyone involved in the Music Centre comes to it to make music for pleasure and pastime – a unique opportunity that sets Warwick apart from the rest.

The students and societies of the University of Warwick Music Centre have an enviable record of high-quality performance, with award-winning Ensembles performing in National Concert Band Festivals, Contests and other music festivals, all made up of non-music students. Most groups are un-auditioned and all are welcome to take part.

Since the foundation of student music at Warwick in 1966, full-time professional directors of music have been supported by a visiting staff of peripatetic tutors for a wide variety of instruments and voices. By coaching, advising and involving students, Warwick’s reputation as one of the most enterprising campus Music Centres in the country is ensured.
Facilities

The Music Centre is located in the Warwick Arts Centre, on central campus. It comprises of

- a suite of practice rooms, all include a piano
- Electronic drum room
- A dedicated Ensemble Room, for use of societies, teachers and individuals on a bookings system. The room can hold up to 100 people and is a flexible space for both rehearsals and smaller recitals.
- Music Library – for choral, orchestral, wind band & brass music available to all societies
- Instrument & Percussion stores
  The Music Centre and societies own instruments such as percussion equipment and some woodwind/brass/stringed instruments available to borrow for rehearsals by society members and individuals

In addition to the spaces in the Music Centre, the Arts Centre also lets us use some spaces such as the Butterworth Hall, Studio & Theatre to rehearse and perform.

There is also a music block on the Westwood campus which comprises of

- a suite of small practice rooms
- an acoustic drum room
- Band Society Practice Room

This block also has large rooms suitable for rehearsals which can be booked through the central timetabling team

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/centraltimetabling/
Teaching

Warwick offers a large variety of instrumental and vocal tuition to all those interested in improving their technique, working towards an exam, or simply learning something new.

We have a number of visiting peripatetic teachers who regularly visit the Music Centre and offer lessons on site.

Examples of the instrumental lessons on offer:

- Clarinet
- Trumpet
- Cello
- Saxophone
- Violin/Viola
- Flute
- Trombone
- Guitar (classical, acoustic, electric)
- Piano (classical and jazz)
- Alexander Technique

Other lessons can be arranged if there is sufficient demand.

Vocal tuition is available for

- Soprano/Sopranist
- Alto/Contralto/Countertenor
- Tenor
- Baritone
- Bass

At the start of each academic year we hold vocal auditions to allocate students for lessons with one of our teachers. We cater for all genres of singing, opera, musical theatre, jazz, classical and much more besides. Our professional tutors will work with your unique vocal ability.

The audition lasts just 5 minutes and you don’t need to do any preparation for it, we just ask you for a few scales to gauge your range, and ask a few questions about what type of singing you have done, or what sort of singing you would like to do. Once that’s done we let you know who your tutor will be, and you can start having lessons!
The Coull Quartet
www.coullquartet.com

The Coull Quartet are the University of Warwick’s String Quartet-in-Residence. At the University since 1977, they provide an invaluable contribution to the musical life of the University, offering support to the Symphony and String Orchestras, teaching, and having an influence on chamber music activities. Internationally renowned, they have performed and broadcast extensively throughout the UK, the USA and Western Europe, and toured China, India, the Far East, South America and Australia. The Quartet has appeared at most of the major music societies and festivals in the UK, and gives an annual series of recitals at Warwick Arts Centre.

As part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, the Coull Quartet were awarded a prestigious New Music 20x12 commission, with composer Joe Cutler entitled ‘Ping!’ which was scored for string quartet and table tennis players. The work featured a soundtrack and video installation in collaboration with the video artist Tom Dale. This was performed at Warwick Arts Centre, Birmingham Conservatoire and the Fusion Table Tennis Club in Bromley and was broadcast on Radio 3.

The Coull Quartet’s role here at the University and in particular, the Music Centre, is central. As well as their expertise they also provide financial assistance in the form of two scholarships to support talented string players who wish to develop their musical skills while studying at Warwick.
Scholarships

Music Scholarships are available to apply for each year. They have a financial value (see website for current award details) awarded annually for the duration of the Scholar’s undergraduate degree. Scholarships are available for all disciplines of instrumental, vocal and keyboard studies.

Internal scholarships take place at the end of the third week of the Autumn Term and all students, from Fresher to finalist are welcome to audition for these.

The auditions consist of playing two contrasting pieces of music which amount to no more than 8mins in total length, then there will be some sight-reading/sight-singing and a brief interview with the panel who usually include the Director and Assistant Director of Music, a member of the Coull Quartet, and a senior vocal and instrumental tutor.

Scholars are expected to contribute regularly to the musical life of the university, participating in the ensembles relevant to their instrument or voice and performing in such events as the Scholar’s fundraising event and Lunchtime Concert recitals.

Please contact the Music Centre Office for application forms.
Bursaries

Bursaries are financial assistance towards music lessons that take place in the Music Centre. They can vary in value, based on award. They are not means tested and anyone can apply for them, whatever their standard or financial situation. The idea of the Bursary is to award financial assistance to those the panel feel will most benefit from having lessons with one of the Music Centre tutors, whether that be because they already have a good level of ability that can be improved and maintained, or because they have a lot of potential but need tuition to bring this out.

The Bursary lasts for a year and can be applied for every year. The auditions take place at the same time as the internal scholarships, i.e. at the end of the third week of the Autumn Term and last approximately 10 mins. The panel will be the same as for the scholarship auditions and the format of the audition is two contrasting pieces totalling no longer than 8 mins, possibly some sight-reading and then a short interview. Applications for the Bursaries are available from the month before the start of the academic year from the Music Centre office.
Meet the societies...

The Music Centre is the home of a wide variety of music societies, all run by students, who regularly meet to rehearse and perform in and around campus.

Bell Ringing Society
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/sunion/wubrs/

The Bell Ringing Society welcomes all ringers, from beginners to advanced, to their weekly meetings. They practice both tower bell ringing and hand bells, going to a local church each Monday evening to ring. There’s usually a trip to the pub afterwards and if you’re more interested in that than ringing you’re more than welcome to tag along! Hand bell practice takes place in the Music Centre. The group go on ringing tours around the country and hold various socials, including an annual dinner.

Bell Ringing Society (WUBRS):
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Email: president@wubrs.org.uk
Rehearsals: Mondays during term time 5pm – 7pm (handbells in practice room 2) & 7pm – 10.30pm (tower bells- meet at Rootes Reception)
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/wubrs/
Brass Society
www.brasssoc.co.uk

The Brass society is an un-auditioned society comprising the Brass Band and Symphonic Brass Ensemble. The society is friendly, runs regular social events and meets each week to rehearse for concerts and contests, including the Midland areas contests and the Whit Friday marches.

The 10-piece Symphonic Brass Ensemble meet regularly to perform a variety of music and often provide entertainment for university events or even weddings.

The Brass Society also enables players to play in smaller groups such as brass quintets – these rehearse as and when they are required. Brass Society also run a beginner brass group where more experienced members of the band teach interested musicians how to play a brass instrument. The band can loan instruments to players and give them basic tuition (free of charge!) so that it’s possible to join the training band and then eventually progress into the main band.

Brass Society:
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Email: exec@brasssoc.co.uk

Rehearsals: Brass Band – Wednesdays during term time 5pm-7.30pm/ Symphonic Brass – Fridays during term time 5pm – 7.30pm

Beginner Brass – Wednesdays during term time 3pm – 4.30pm

Concerts: Termly, plus contests in terms 1 & 2

Twitter: @BrassSoc

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BrassSoc?fref=ts
Big Band
www.thebigband.co.uk

The Big Band is a must for all jazz, soul, funk, blues and rhythm enthusiasts and is an un-auditioned flexible ensemble that provides great music, a vibrant social life and some amazing tours and performance opportunities. From weddings to outdoor gigs, the Big Band are always in demand. Smaller groups are also formed for certain functions and the Big Band make their annual appearance at the Music Centre Ball each February.

Big Band
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Email: exec@thebigband.co.uk
Rehearsals: Thursdays 7.30pm – 10pm in the Ensemble Room
Concerts: Termly, plus numerous other gigs outside of term
Twitter: @WarwickBigBand
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Warwick-Big-Band/18215612315?fref=ts
Chamber Choir

go.warwick.ac.uk/musiccentre/ensembles/vocal/chamberchoir

The Chamber Choir is the only auditioned choir at the University, singing a variety of music, from Palestrina to Paul McCartney and everything in between. The choir sing mainly a cappella, but have also joined with chamber orchestras to perform works such as the Bach Magnificat and the St. John Passion. The choir perform at the summer and winter degree ceremonies, and tour on a yearly basis. Auditions for the choir take place in the first week of the autumn term and are in 3 phases. The first is a 5 minute audition. No prepared piece is required; the audition is informal and involves some scales and some sight singing.

Chamber Choir
Membership: by subscription
Rehearsals: Tuesdays 5pm – 7pm in the Ensemble Room
Concerts: Termly plus degree ceremonies in July
Twitter: @UWChamberChoir
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/UWCC-University-of-Warwick-Chamber-Choir/285921724770505?fref=ts

Chamber Music

Chamber Music at Warwick is supported by the Music Centre. If you’re interested in string quartets, small singing groups, wind quintets, clarinet or flute choirs then contact the Music Centre to find out about existing groups, or we will happily help you set up your own group.
Chinese Orchestra

Warwick Chinese Orchestra Society, founded in 2011, is a society for people who are interested in playing traditional Chinese instruments and are looking to learn or develop their existing skills whilst playing as part of the orchestra. It aims to introduce students to a different perspective of music and bring traditional Chinese music to a wider audience. The orchestra has performed in the University of Warwick World Music Concert, HKPASS Charity concert and MUN Conference. They have also sent players to perform in London Trafalgar Square and Ipswich. They hold an Annual Concert and are able to offer open lessons to interested students.

Chinese Orchestra
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Rehearsals: Weds 1pm-3pm in the Ensemble Room
Concerts: Termly
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/warwickcos
The University of Warwick Chorus Society is one of the largest music societies on campus, with over 150 members of both students and members of the local community. It is an un-auditioned choir who perform large classical works such as the Mozart Requiem, Stravinsky’s Symphony of Psalms, Verdi Aida and Jenkins’ Armed Man, a mass for peace to name but a few. They are accompanied in termly concerts by the University of Warwick Symphony Orchestra and perform in the Butterworth Hall. Anyone is welcome to come and join in, previous singing experience is not always necessary and rehearsals are friendly and welcoming.

Chorus
Join by subscription through the Arts Centre (contact Music Centre for more info)
Email: su265@sunion.warwick.ac.uk
Rehearsals: Thursdays 7pm – 9.30pm in the Arts Centre Conference Room
Concerts: Termly
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/uowchorus?fref=ts
Twitter @UoWChorus
Drumming Society
www.drumsoc.co.uk

Drum soc is for all drummers and people interested in using all forms of percussion instruments for performance. They run a Steel Pan band which is open to all as well as a percussion ensemble. The Music Centre also owns a Samba set which the society sometimes use for performance. The society have performed as part of One World Week, Warwick Student Arts Festival (WSAF) and at Warwick Fused concerts.

The Drumming society is a great place to meet other drummers and percussionists. They run some student led lessons, percussion workshops and are in charge of the acoustic drum room at Westwood.

Drumming Society
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Email: su461@sunion.warwick.ac.uk
Rehearsals: Steel Pans 7pm onwards in the Ensemble Room
Concerts: Ad hoc, lots of spontaneous gigs and performances in and around campus
Twitter @warwickdrumsoc

Gaudeamus

Gaudeamus are an all-female singing group performing all genres of choral music, directed by singing teacher Ros Roberts. The group offer solo performance opportunity to those looking to improve their confidence and who want to sing in small groups.

Gaudeamus
Membership: by invitation or by request to Ros Roberts
Rehearsals: Thursdays 5pm-7pm in the Ensemble Room

Concerts: Termly
Indian Music Ensemble

Set up in 2011, this group seeks to promote Indian music throughout the Midlands region by encouraging participation from the huge Indian student population on campus. They have performed several times at Warwick Fused which encompassed a large fusion of World Music with contemporary classical ensembles. The group have run masterclasses with world renowned Indian music artists and are led by a professional tutor.

WIME
Rehearsals: Wednesday 7-10pm in the Arts Centre
Concerts: Termly
Twitter @Warwick_WIME
If it’s dancing, singing, acting, playing & jazz hands you like then MTW is the society for you! With plenty of shows every year from well known *West Side Story* to the lesser known gems such as *Into the Woods*, Music Theatre Warwick does them all and much more besides!

You can get involved in all aspects of the show from the stage/pit band, production, technical and directing teams, as well as of course the acting and singing!

MTW also run an active youth programme, MTW Juniors who work with young aspiring talent to help them develop technique and confidence. They are easily one of the most popular, diverse societies the university has to offer and you can be guaranteed a good time if you join them! They also tour and have taken their shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as well as taking their members on tour.

Music Theatre Warwick
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Rehearsals: As and when required for shows (see schedules)
Concerts: Termly shows & Revues.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/musictheatrewarwick?fref=ts
Twitter: @mtw_uk
Opera Warwick
www.operawarwick.com

Opera Warwick allows students to perform operas across the board, from Purcell’s *Dido & Aeneas* to Brecht & Weill’s *The Threepenny Opera* taking in Gilbert & Sullivan (*HMS Pinafore, Ruddigore*) Mozart (*Marriage of Figaro, The Magic Flute, Don Giovanni*) & Rossini (*La Cenerentola*) along the way. Students can perform in the operas, play in the orchestra or get involved in the production and directing side of each performance. With successful performances around the West Midlands, Warwickshire and even London, if it’s opera you love then Opera Warwick is the society for you!

**Opera Warwick**
**Member of Warwick SU**
**Join online:** www.warwicksu.com
**Rehearsals:** Termly schedules depending on the production
**Concerts:** Shows normally two or 3 times a year
**Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/operawarwick?fref=ts
**Twitter:** @OperaWarwick

Piano Society
http://www.warwicksu.com/societies/WarwickPiano/

Warwick Piano Society welcome all pianists of all levels to their society where you can meet other pianists, attend tutorials and go as a group to concerts, often with discounts, in both the Arts Centre and places like Symphony Hall in Birmingham. They put on their own concerts around campus each term and arrange social trips too.

**Warwick Piano Society**
**Member of Warwick SU**
**Join online:** www.warwicksu.com
**Rehearsals:** n/a – tutorials, concerts and socials are announced by the committee as and when they occur.
**Concerts:** Usually Termly
**Twitter:** @WarwickPianoSoc
Revelation Rock Gospel Choir
www.warwickrev.org

The Rock Gospel Choir – Revelation – is a vibrant society that sings uplifting music accompanied by great instrumentals. You don’t need to read sheet music to take part, it’s all taught by rote by a variety of student conductors. With regular performances and tours abroad, this is a great society to be a part of.

Revelation
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 7pm in the Chaplaincy
Concerts: Termly
Twitter: @WarwickRev

String Orchestra

The String Orchestra welcomes all string players of all abilities to join them for exciting chamber string music, under the baton of Roger Coull (leader of the Coull Quartet, the University of Warwick’s resident String Quartet). It is a great way to meet other string players and the society have regular socials.

String Orchestra
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Rehearsals: Thursdays 6pm – 8.30pm in the Arts Centre
Concerts: Termly
Email: su373@sunion.warwick.ac.uk
The University of Warwick Symphony Orchestra is a full sized orchestra performing large classical and contemporary works throughout the year under the batons of Paul McGrath, Director of Music and Lucy Griffiths, Assistant Director of Music. The string section is un-auditioned, but brass and woodwind require an audition that takes place after our annual FREE CONCERT in the second week of the Autumn term.

The Symphony Orchestra is an exciting group to be part of, with some excellent performance opportunities both in the UK and abroad. In the past the orchestra have been asked to perform at two Indian weddings, and have toured to France, Italy & Holland to name but a few places.

**Symphony Orchestra**
**Member of Warwick SU**
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Rehearsals: Tuesdays 7pm – 9.30pm Butterworth Hall
Concerts: Termly

**Warwick Folk**
**Member of Warwick SU**
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Rehearsals: Weekly
Concerts: Termly Ceilidhs plus lots of other gigs
Wind Orchestra
www.windorchestra.co.uk

The University of Warwick Wind Orchestra are a completely un-auditioned concert band (wind band) that love to play arrangements of popular classical and film music, musical numbers and even the odd pop song! The group is a large friendly society made up of wind, brass and percussion players of all standards which produce a great sound and entertain the crowds. They participate annually in the National Concert Band Festivals and have always done well in these. They also tour biennially with the Brass Society to places such as Prague, Holland, Germany and France.

Wind Orchestra
Member of Warwick SU
Join online: www.warwicksu.com
Rehearsals: Mondays 6pm-8.30pm
Concerts: At least termly

Warwick World Music Group (WWMG)

Established in 2011, the group comprises of instrumentalists and singers from all genres of World Music. The group meet to create fusion sounds and develop new performance opportunities. In June 2012 they performed at Warwick Fused, a brand new music event, held at Warwick Arts Centre which brought together sounds from across the globe, accompanied by Western classical music. Since then the event has become annual, with 2014 being made the official concert for the Lord Mayor of Coventry’s charity gala. The group is dynamic, exciting and open to all. It is professionally led by the Music Centre’s associate artist, Ruairi Edwards.

Warwick World Music Group (WWMG)
Membership: Free to all interested students/staff
Rehearsals: Fridays 2.30pm – 4.30pm Ensemble Room
Concerts: Termly
Twitter: @WarwickWorldMG
Tours

Many of the societies listed above tour either yearly or biennially. Previous destinations include France, Germany, Italy, Poland, USA, Austria, Ireland, Czech Republic and India! Each society arranges these tours and appoints a student committee to arrange them. The possibilities for travelling all around the world are kept at affordable prices and the students all have a fantastic time!

Useful Information

Music Centre Opening Times (subject to occasional changes)
Term Time (Mon – Fri)
Practice Rooms 08.30 – 22.30
Music Centre Office 09.30 – 17.00 Mon – Thurs (Fri 16.00)
Weekend:
Practice Rooms Sat 08.30 – 22.00 Sun 13.30 – 22.00
Music Centre Office CLOSED
Vacation Opening times may vary – see website/notices for more info.

Staff

As well as the visiting peripatetic tutors, the Music Centre employs four staff who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Music Centre. The Director of Music, Paul McGrath and the Assistant Director of Music, Lucy Griffiths are both professional conductors and musicians. They are supported by the Music Centre Administrator Lucy Griffiths and the Assistant Administrator Lizzy Whyte.

To contact any of the staff you can email music.centre@warwick.ac.uk or by telephoning (024) 76 523799