



# Music Ensembles

**M**USIC at Virginia Tech offers a competitive, individualized curriculum with a focus on quality instruction, community involvement and practical experience in performance, education, technology and composition. Our students enjoy performance opportunities in various ensembles, often in collaboration with faculty members or guest artists. Extensive field experiences provide hands-on training for our music education students, a distinction that thoroughly prepares our graduates for the teaching profession.

Students reap the benefits of a selectively small department with a strong sense of community, while studying at a major research university with its breadth of cultural, educational and social opportunities. The Department of Music welcomes students with a broad aesthetic and intellectual curiosity – we encourage those with interdisciplinary interests to pursue double majors.

The department brings nationally and internationally renowned guest artists and clinicians to campus in order to provide our students with the highest level of performance instruction. Members of the music faculty extend themselves beyond their teaching duties – they are active around the world as performers, scholars, and clinicians.

All music ensembles are open to qualified students from any major. Virginia Tech offers many large and small ensemble opportunities. The Campus Band is open to all qualified students without an audition. Smaller ensembles usually include performers who are members of the larger ensembles and include the Percussion and Marimba Ensemble, Early Music Ensemble, Jazz Lab Band, Horn Ensemble, Trombone choir, Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, saxophone and clarinet quartets, as well as string quartets, piano trios, woodwind and brass quintets, jazz groups, and other chamber music combinations.

## CHAMBER SINGERS

Dwight Bigler, Director • 242U Squires • Phone: 540/231-4719 • E-mail: [dbigler@music.vt.edu](mailto:dbigler@music.vt.edu)

The Chamber Singers is a select mixed choral ensemble comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from both the music department and other degree programs. This ensemble performs music ranging from the Renaissance to the present. They have performed for the Virginia Music Teachers Association and American Choral Directors Association, as well as with Opera Roanoke.

**Schedule:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:35 – 5:15 PM  
**Number of performers:** 24

## CONCERT CHOIR

Dwight Bigler, Director • 242U Squires • Phone: 540/231-4719 • E-mail: [dbigler@music.vt.edu](mailto:dbigler@music.vt.edu)

The Concert Choir is an auditioned ensemble that performs choral literature from all periods. It is open to graduate and undergraduate students from all degree programs. Recent engagements include collaborations with Opera Roanoke and the New River Valley Symphony Orchestra. Auditions are held during the first week of the fall semester.

**Schedule:** Monday & Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:55 PM  
**Number of performers:** 50-75

## HIGHTY-TIGHTIES

Major George McNeill, Director • 115 Rasche • Phone: 540/231-3296 • E-mail: [gmcneill@vt.edu](mailto:gmcneill@vt.edu)

The Highty-Tighties, the regimental band of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, represents a long and illustrious history, having been the only band ever to win three first-place awards in the Presidential Inaugural Parade competition. Membership is open to any cadet and requires no audition.

The Southern Colonels, an active 17-piece dance band, performs at formal engagements and dances throughout the year. Membership is open to all cadet upperclassmen with experience in the jazz idiom.

**Schedule:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 4:40 – 6:30 PM  
Tuesday & Thursday, 4:30 – 6 PM

## HOKIES PEP BAND

David McKee, Director • 242F Squires • Phone: 540/231-5704 • E-mail: [mckeed@vt.edu](mailto:mckeed@vt.edu)

Each season, the Hokies Pep Band joins the men's basketball team as a spirited sixth player, keeping the Hokies and their fans intent on victory in the ACC. The band is a select ensemble, with keen competition for each of the non-scholarship positions. The superior musicianship of the band has been acknowledged many times, including being named "best pep band" in the Big East Conference.

**Schedule:** One rehearsal, all home games, tournaments  
**Number of performers:** 70

## THE MARCHING VIRGINIANS

David McKee, Director • 242F Squires • Phone: 540/231-5704 • E-mail: [mckeed@vt.edu](mailto:mckeed@vt.edu)  
Web: [www.music.vt.edu/performance/ensembles/mv/](http://www.music.vt.edu/performance/ensembles/mv/)

The Marching Virginians are the centerpiece of school spirit as well as purveyors of dazzling pageantry and performance excellence. The band mixes pageantry, corps-style elements, massive sound, and lots of college rah-rah into their unique showband style. The Marching Virginians are a true microcosm of the Virginia Tech student body, with representatives from nearly every major in the university. Approximately five percent of the members are music majors, while over one-third are enrolled in the College of Engineering.

The Marching Virginians are proud of their reputation with fellow students, faculty, administration, and fans, and especially proud to be known as *The Spirit of Tech*. Try-outs are held during band camp, which takes place each summer (one week prior to classes).

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday, 5:30 – 7:00 PM  
**Number of performers:** 330





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## NEW RIVER VALLEY SYMPHONY

James Glazebrook, Director • 242R Squires • Phone: 540/231-8501 • E-mail: jamesglazebrook@vt.edu

The New River Valley Symphony Orchestra is a university-community orchestra open to students, faculty, and community residents by audition. Although there are many music majors in the orchestra, most of our members are graduate and undergraduate students from all colleges within the university. Many study engineering, architecture, computer science, and chemistry, as well as many other majors. Each year the symphony presents a subscription series and a limited number of off-campus concerts. Its repertory spans a wide range, from symphonic works to opera, Broadway, and film music. Recent major works have included symphonies by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Franck, and Mahler, and concertos by Mozart, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Barber, Shostakovich and Bartok.

**Schedule:** Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 – 10 PM  
**Number of performers:** 80

## SYMPHONIC CHOIR

Dwight Bigler, Director • 242U Squires • Phone: 540/231-4719 • E-mail: dbigler@music.vt.edu

The Symphonic Choir performs a variety of major choral works, often with orchestra. Recent performances include Bach's Mass in B minor, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass, and Durufle's Requiem. It is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from both the music department and other degree programs. The Symphonic Choir has been heard with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and the New River Valley Symphony Orchestra. Auditions are held during the first week of the fall semester.

**Schedule:** Tuesday, 7:30 – 9:30 PM  
**Number of performers:** 50

## SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

Travis Cross, Conductor • 242-P Squires • Phone: 540/231-5685 • E-mail: tjcross@vt.edu

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is the premier wind band at Virginia Tech and is open to interested instrumentalists by audition. The Wind Ensemble performs noteworthy symphonic wind band works, original and transcribed. The ensemble presents two campus concerts each semester, and occasionally travels for performances at conferences.

Guest composers, soloists and conductors frequently appear with Wind Ensemble. Recent guests include Eric Whitacre, Andrew Boysen, and John Parks. In addition, each spring a student competition winner is featured with the ensemble.

**Schedule:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:30 – 4:30 PM  
**Number of performers:** 55

## Contact Us

If you have questions or want more information about music at Virginia Tech, please contact:

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Blacksburg, VA 24061  
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Web: www.music.vt.edu

## SYMPHONY BAND

David McKee, Director • 242F Squires • Phone: 540/231-5704 • E-mail: mckeed@vt.edu

The Symphony Band is the 80-member second-semester concert band. The ensemble performs a variety of symphonic band works, including traditional and contemporary wind literature.

In recent years, the Symphony Band has presented a variety of programs including thematic concerts such as *The Heritage of the Band*; *Music of Love, Life, and Death*; and *The Lord of the Rings*.

**Schedule:** Tuesday & Thursday, 5:00 – 6:15 PM  
**Number of performers:** 80

## WOMEN'S CHORALE

Dwight Bigler, Director • 242U Squires • Phone: 540/231-4719 • E-mail: dbigler@music.vt.edu

The Women's Chorale is a select ensemble that performs the finest of treble choral literature from all time periods. It is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from both the music department and other degree programs. Recent performances include an invitational concert for the Virginia Music Teachers Association. Auditions are held during the first week of the fall semester.

**Schedule:** Tuesday & Thursday, 3:35 – 5:15 PM  
**Number of performers:** 35-50

## VIRGINIA TECH JAZZ ENSEMBLE

John Adler, Director • 242-J Squires • Phone: 540/231-6713 • E-mail: johnadler@vt.edu

The Virginia Tech Jazz Ensemble is the flagship ensemble of jazz studies and performs big band literature of the past and present, with particular emphasis on new music by leading composers such as Maria Schneider, Sherisse Rogers, and Vince Medoza as well as contributions from emerging artists and student arrangers. Honors include the Service Grant Award from Festival Williamsburg, the National Jazz Hall of Fame's Collegiate Jazz Festival Award, and numerous community citations. Recent guest artists include Theo Beckman, Gary Versace, Tony Malaby, Alex Norris, Jonathan Kreisberg, Andrew Bishop, and Dr. Lonnie Smith. Concerts are presented throughout the year on and off campus. The ensemble is open to all students by audition.

**Schedule:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:20 – 1:10 PM  
**Number of performers:** 25

If you have questions about admission to Virginia Tech, please contact:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
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Blacksburg, VA 24061  
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E-mail: vtadmiss@vt.edu  
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