Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Music is to inspire and educate performers, composers, scholars, and teachers in an atmosphere that fosters excellence and serves the global and regional community through performance, research, and creative work of the highest standards.

Core Values

The School of Music subscribes to the core values as outlined in the College of Arts and Architecture strategic plan (http://www.artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/internal_resources) of imagination and creativity, of open inquiry and critical dialogue, of diversity and respect, of tradition and change. One important core value relates to the importance of collaboration. In an age where communication is often done through electronic means, the School is particularly proud of the way in which its programs provide opportunities for human interaction and collaboration involving the most profound expressions of human feelings.

Each semester, over 1,500 students are engaged in music making and learning under the tutelage of highly qualified faculty professionals. While we embrace new technologies that serve our students and reach new audiences, our programs are strong, primarily because of the interaction between talented students and an outstanding full-time resident faculty. Collaboration between outstanding scholar/artist teachers and students in the exploration of great music is fundamental to the core strengths of the School of Music.

Several overarching trends and forces are shaping our environment and have influenced the School’s strategic initiatives:

• **Technology** is providing new ways for communication as well as new ways for consumption and distribution of music.
• **Changing demographic** and greater diversity of school populations provide special challenges for our music education graduates.
• **Early childhood education & life-long learning** are increasingly important in our communities, and we must look beyond K-12 education in the preparation of future teachers.
• **Our world includes diverse music** with a blurring of lines between types of music and a general movement toward more vernacular music. This calls for well-rounded musicians who are steeped in classical traditions, but also conversant with the music of our time.
• **Interdisciplinary**, double-majors, and other kinds of supporting programs are important for musicians today. This is more than a “back-up” employment plan, it is an essential ingredient for success in a complex world.
Goals and Strategies To Achieve The School’s Vision

Goal 1: Strengthen our significance and reputation in the arts

Strategy 1: Expand both individual and interdisciplinary research and creative accomplishment.

a. Seek means for the university as a whole to recognize, value, and benefit from the contribution of the creative and performing arts.

b. Engage key alumni and friends in developing the case for funding for endowed professorships.

Strategy 2: Support excellence and innovation in teaching and learning.

a. Increase the emphasis on graduate education, growing and/or improving existing graduate programs and adding new ones where there are strategic advantages for doing so.

b. Increase competitive graduate assistantships and fellowships through reallocation of existing resources, endowments and other means.

c. Encourage partnerships with other units and colleges to expand offerings in joint courses and programs.

d. Provide quality general education courses to meet current and future demand related to the university’s mission.

e. Engage students in the process of program review and assessment.

f. Continually review and revise our undergraduate programs to meet student needs and to ensure our competitiveness.

Strategy 3: Continuously improve the quality of our programs.

a. Reallocate or seek additional funding for traditional and emerging technologies to enhance teaching, creative work and research, and outreach.

b. Actively address and monitor workplace and classroom climate to ensure a continuing supportive environment

c. Monitor and update benchmarking with peer and aspirant programs
d. Enhance development and stewardship activities, involving alumni, friends of the college, and the units as well as the professional staff to increase funding for program endowments and scholarships

e. Engage alumni and practitioner resources in identifying new opportunities for community outreach and collaborations

f. Raise the profile of the college and more effectively promote the accomplishments of our programs and people

g. Reallocate or seek additional funding to address any infrastructure deficiencies.

**Goal II: Prepare students to thrive in a global environment**

**Strategy 1:** Continue to advance teaching and learning by developing new courses and programs of study that address the changing demands of a world increasingly driven by a global economy and internationalization.

**Strategy 2:** Create a climate that encourages learning from diverse perspectives, using data available through University resources and college/school diversity committees to develop specific goals and measures.

**Strategy 3:** Make international experiences a hallmark of every academic unit.

**Strategy 4:** Increase the number of faculty exchanges, residencies, and visitations from professional and guest artists to bring new perspectives to our classrooms and workshops.

**Goal III: Continue to enrich lives by celebrating and disseminating the arts through public engagement**

**Strategy 1:** Enhance our offerings of public arts programs and exhibitions.

**Strategy 2:** Develop outreach opportunities, adding programs where there are demands or strategic advantages for doing so.

**Strategy 3:** Use our diversity-focused programs, performances, and exhibitions to enhance the cultural awareness of Penn State and surrounding communities.

**Goal IV: Develop a 10-year college master plan for facilities and technology**

**Strategy 1:** Seek to include college facilities needs in the University’s Capital Plan, for renovation or new construction where aging Arts District buildings can no longer adequately support the academic, creative, and outreach missions of the college and university.
Strategy 2: Create a master plan for IT and other technology throughout the College