For more than 100 years, the Department of Music at Morehouse College has excelled in preparing generations of young men in vocal and instrumental music, as well as in composition and conducting. Beyond receiving an excellent music education with unparalleled national and international performance experiences, our students receive outstanding preparation in the liberal arts within the Morehouse tradition of brotherhood, leadership, service and global citizenship. No other undergraduate music program compares.

Through the Department of Music, students explore their creativity and hone their artistic visions through a variety of ensembles and performance experiences. Our world-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club has performed at venues as far away as Poland, Russia and South Africa, and has appeared in major film productions, national events and premiere stages.

The Jazz Ensemble, Marching Maroon Tigers Band, Concert Band, along with the Atlanta University Center Orchestra, are all vibrant ensembles that afford students the opportunity to share their talent with audiences around the world, and at the same time serve as ambassadors for Morehouse College. Audiences are awed not only by the outstanding musicianship of our students, but by their immaculate presentation and consummate professionalism.

Students in the Department of Music come from across the nation, Africa and the Caribbean. Many of them have trained at top-tier performance high schools and their outstanding musical and academic achievements earn them grants and institutional scholarships.

Our faculty members are active artists and scholars with credentials from some of the nation’s finest schools and conservatories. They share a commitment to equipping each student with a personal sense of empowerment so that he may become more confident to face the competitive challenges of the professional world—both in and outside of music.

As it has for more than a century, the Department of Music will continue its mission of providing opportunities for our students to publicly express their artistic talents and of preparing them to become creative innovators in our complex, but exhilarating world culture.

Uzée Brown Jr.
The most important thing for me was the incredible range of musical opportunities at Morehouse and in Atlanta. Opportunities to perform as piano and organ soloist and accompanist to the Glee Club and to various student singers and the chance to hear outstanding artists on campus and in the AU Center, as well as the Atlanta Symphony, not to mention the chance to attend, the then annual performances of the Metropolitan Opera at The Fox Theatre downtown — for this music student, it was an incredible feast.

Benjamin Ward ’68, Associate Dean of Faculty Programs
Duke University, North Carolina

OUR MISSION

The Department of Music at Morehouse College is committed to providing the most productive educational experiences for its students who wish to study music as one of the liberal arts. Fostering the development of artistic talent, humanitarian ideals and sensitivities, academic acumen and respect for the highest professional standards is the principal aim of the department.

ABOVE THE DEPARTMENT

Founded in 1911, the Department of Music at Morehouse College has been in existence for more than 100 years, dating back to the founding of the internationally acclaimed Morehouse College Glee Club. The department promotes music as essential to the appreciation of the human experience, and encourages the intellectual development, individual creativity and artistic perspective of all its students. The department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and holds memberships in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America and Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society.

A rigorous curriculum delivered by outstanding faculty has resulted in a very high percentage of music majors and minors continuing on to graduate study in all fields and diverse career paths. Infused in all areas of the curriculum are the study and performance of the music of African Americans, focusing on the ways in which music from different cultures interacts and influences one another.

“The music department at Morehouse College pushed me to be a better musician. It gave me a strong foundation in growing to where I am today.”

James King ’06
Trumpet player with Bruno Mars
MUSIC MAJORS

The Department of Music offers the music major with an emphasis in the following areas: woodwinds, brass, voice, piano, organ, choral conducting and composition and literature.

The department also offers an enriching music minor that affords its students the opportunity to experience much of the same rich ensemble, applied and musicianship courses as the department’s majors, but on a smaller scale, with less demanding course requirements (from 19 to 21 hours). The minor in music has proven to be a very attractive companion curriculum for students who pursue majors in diverse disciplines throughout the College.

Audition Application Information

WHO SHOULD APPLY

• Students who plan to major or minor in music at Morehouse College
• Non-music majors/minors who plan to participate in the Glee Club, Orchestra or Band programs should consult the directors of those particular groups.

HOW TO APPLY & AUDITION

• Complete the application process for admission to Morehouse College. Applicants are eligible for music talent grants and scholarships awards after application for admission has been completed.
• Ask a music teacher or someone familiar with your musicianship to send a letter of recommendation to the Morehouse College Department of Music.
• Complete and return audition/application form to the Department of Music. Schedule a day to audition. We will call you for your set time. Taped auditions will be considered only under uniquely difficult and extenuating circumstances.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

• **Voice.** Prepare three pieces. Selections may be chosen from any of the following contrasting periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary. At least one piece in English. Foreign languages are welcomed.
• **Instrumental.** Prepare a classical solo, possibly characteristic studies or etudes from All-State or All-Regional auditions. Be prepared to sight read.
• **Jazz Ensemble.** Prepare a jazz melody or transcribed jazz solo. Improvise with “Recorded minus one” tape/CD. Sight read some jazz literature or jazz etude from an improvisation method book.
• **Piano.** Prepare a piece from two contrasting periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century.
• **String.** Prepare one movement from a standard concerto or sonata from the Baroque, Classical, or Romantic period. Also prepare one etude. Orchestra sight reading will also be required.
• **Organ.** Prepare one hymn and one piece from two of the following contrasting periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary.

For more information, call the Morehouse Department of Music at (404) 215-2601.
Internationally Recognized
PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

Performance opportunities through the Morehouse Department of Music are open to music majors and non-music majors alike. Each year, several hundred students participate in the array of music ensembles available to them, take part in landmark performances and tour nationally and internationally as ambassadors of Morehouse.

The Morehouse College Glee Club

Founded in 1911, the same year as the Morehouse Department of Music, the internationally acclaimed Morehouse College Glee Club is the official choral organization of Morehouse, representing the College in a variety of special concerts, assemblies and events throughout the year. The Glee Club has performed with artists such as soprano Jessye Norman, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin and Gloria Estefan, and is featured on the soundtrack of the film “School Daze.”
Student Profile: Andrew Cox ’13

The Art of Conducting

Andrew Cox ’13 loves the complex art of bringing a composer’s music to life. And he credits David Morrow ’80, the internationally recognized conductor and director of the Morehouse College Glee Club, with teaching him the delicate art of bringing voices together in one song.

“Dr. Morrow always says that the perfect choir is the choir in your head. Your job as conductor is to bring that choir in your head to life. It’s a very structured art,” Cox said.

“There’s so much more to music than just black notes on a page. It has everything to do with the musicianship of the conductor. You have to honor the composer’s vision, while also staying true to what you as the conductor want to achieve. There’s nothing like it.”

Cox began conducting as a teenager when he was the youth choir director in the church his father pastored. He chose Morehouse for the opportunity it would give him to sing and study conducting with the Glee Club.

To prepare for a student recital, Cox formed his own choral ensemble, the Finé Singers, comprised of students from the Atlanta University Center campuses. The group, which sings a range of music from Renaissance to pop, enjoyed it so much that they decided to keep working together.

After graduation, Cox plans to further develop the Finé Singers in order to gain the experience he will need to enter a graduate program in choral conducting. Ultimately, he wants to conduct a high school or college choral ensemble.

Morehouse Marching Maroon Tigers

The Morehouse Marching Maroon Tigers is an instrumental organization comprised of both music majors and non-music majors from Morehouse and Spelman colleges. The band represents Morehouse at various athletic events and games throughout the football season, in addition to private performances and band competitions.

“The one thing that distinguishes our music program is the teachers. These gentlemen are some of the finest musicians I know. They could be teaching anywhere in the world. I feel privileged to work with them.”
The Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble

The Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble is often called upon to perform for school-related functions, as well as outside engagements. These performances allow students to have an experience similar to that of the professional performer. The Jazz Ensemble has performed alongside such artists as Kent Jordan (flutist), Wes Anderson (former lead saxophonist with the Lincoln Center Jazz Band) and Delfeayo Marsalis (at the world-famous Snug Harbor in New Orleans).

The annual Jazz in the Spring festival has been one of the most significant events highlighting instrumental music at the College. The festival has featured prominent nationally and internationally acclaimed jazz artists, many of whom have presented master classes and workshops for our students and the community. Among them are Ray Charles (singer, pianist, composer), Slide Hampton (trombone), Clark Terry (trumpet), Terrance Blanchard (trumpet), Kurt Whalum (saxophone), Jon Faddis (trumpet), Antonio Hart (alto saxophone), Jimmy Heath (tenor saxophone), Sean Jones (trumpet) and Freddie Cole (singer, pianist).

Have song, will travel

To Evan Farley ’14, a song isn’t just a song.

“Every time I listen to a song, I hear the distinct parts and how they interact,” he said.

Farley, who aspires to write musical scores for film and television, had his choice of colleges, but in the end chose to pursue his music degree at Morehouse with an emphasis in composition.

“I figured Morehouse would give me the most experience as a musician and the most opportunities for travel,” he said.

Farley, a tenor saxophonist, participates in three ensembles: the Morehouse College Concert Band, the Morehouse Marching Maroon Tigers and the Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble.

Recently, the Jazz Ensemble opened for the Delfeayo Marsalis Band at the world-famous Snug Harbor in New Orleans—making his dream of taking music on the road a reality.

“We got to meet all of the musicians and afterwards, we explored the city. It was great,” he said. “I don’t think I’d be able to get that kind of experience anywhere else.”
The Morehouse College Concert Band

The Morehouse College Concert Band is comprised of both music majors and non-music majors from Morehouse and Spelman colleges. The Concert Band performs a wide variety of music ranging from traditional concert band repertoire to contemporary works by African American composers. The ensemble meets during the spring semester and regularly performs an annual spring concert.

The Atlanta University Center Symphony Orchestra

The Atlanta University Center Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1997 by Uzee Brown Jr., chairman of the Morehouse College Department of Music, out of the desire of many AUC students to have an orchestral playing experience. Since its founding, the AUC Orchestra has presented many performances of note that have included collaborations with nationally and internationally known guest artists, as well as young artist winners of the Sphinx International String Competition.
“There is a discipline to what we do, certainly a legacy, and a standard of musical excellence that we have inherited.”

Harmony in the Brotherhood

Sherman Modeste ’13 entered Morehouse as a psychology major, but after two years, realized his true passion. “I knew I wanted to travel the world and sing,” he said.

Even though it meant delaying graduation, Modeste switched his major to music with an emphasis in voice performance. He plans to attend graduate school and to someday teach music on the college level.

“I love popular music, but through training in the classical genre, I am equipped to sing anything. I look at it as having additional tools in my toolkit,” said Modeste.

As a tenor in the glee club, in 2011, Modeste had the opportunity to perform as part of the group’s 100-year anniversary celebration, which culminated with a concert at the Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall in New York City.

But his dedication to the Glee Club goes beyond lifting his voice in harmony with other members; he is the group’s president and tour manager. Serving in such an integral role, he said, is one of the greatest benefits of his Morehouse experience.

“The Morehouse brotherhood almost sounds cliché, you hear about it so much, but it’s totally real. I’ve built strong, healthy relationships with men on campus that I will be connected to forever.”

From my exposure to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to performing my first solo on an operatic stage, the Morehouse Music Department provided the arena for part of my early development. Having the opportunity to study and hone my skills under an outstanding faculty, the department helped me gain an understanding of how excellence in performance and academics could contribute to my ultimate success. I am humbly grateful.

Harding Epps Jr., former singer and pianist in the Elite United States Army Chorus, Washington, D.C.
Taking with them unparalleled music training and performance experiences, our graduates are prepared for a world of opportunities. The careers and graduate programs that Morehouse music graduates pursue are as unique and varied as musical notes in a song. Regardless of their chosen paths, in ways big and small, Morehouse alumni impact communities with their talents and vision.

More than 65 percent of our alumni go on to graduate and professional study at many of the most elite schools of music and conservatories in the country, including the School of Music at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Juilliard, Eastman School of Music, Mannes, New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, Northwestern University and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory.

Alumni pursue careers and achieve distinction as educators, researchers, composers, church musicians, arrangers, conductors, entertainment lawyers, concert artists and studio and touring performers with major popular artists.
Former Morehouse student Dionne Randolph plays Mufasa in Disney’s musical “The Lion King.”
In 2001, jazz and blues legend Ray Charles was performing in Atlanta when his business manager Joe Adams (for whom the Morehouse Emma and Joe Adams Public Service Institute is named) suggested they drop by Morehouse for an impromptu set with the Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble. The talent and enthusiasm they witnessed among the students inspired the men to give $1 million in seed funding for what would become the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center. With subsequent gifts in excess of $4 million, Charles and Adams effectively sealed their commitment to help educate and inspire the next generation of music pioneers.

In 2010, the $20-million Ray Charles Performing Arts Center and Music Academic Building officially opened, six years after Charles’ death in 2004.

The building features the 600-seat Emma and Joe Adams Concert Hall, the primary performance space for the Morehouse College Glee Club, the Jazz Ensemble and other smaller performance groups, as well as student and faculty recitals, musical theatre productions and opera. The Music Academic Building is designed to address the instructional, rehearsal and performance space needs for several generations of Morehouse students. The building features 12 faculty studios, two electronic classrooms, nine practice rooms, dedicated storage areas for students’ instruments, a library for sheet music and three academic labs—one of which is the David Geffen Keyboard Digital Music Laboratory. There are two rehearsal rooms (one each specifically designed for the Morehouse Marching Maroon Tigers Band and the Morehouse College Glee Club), which also accommodate small performances.

With its location on the corner of Joseph P. Lowery Boulevard and West End Avenue, the Center not only expands the campus southward, but also is a cultural hub for the historic West End community. Within six months of its opening, the Center had hosted poet Nikki Giovanni, musician Peter Buffet, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman and baseball legend Frank Robinson on its Emma and Joe Adams Concert Hall stage.
THE RAY CHARLES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Uzée Brown Jr., D.M.A.  
Department Chairman, Voice

Brown joined the faculty in 1973 and currently serves as chairman of the Department of Music. He holds a bachelor of arts from Morehouse College, a master of music in composition from Bowling Green State University, and a master of music and doctor of musical arts in voice performance from the University of Michigan. He has received numerous composition and arranging commissions, ranging from National Public Radio and the Atlanta Symphony to colleges, universities, church and civic organizations. His compositions have been heard throughout the world, including Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. His engagements include master classes, workshops and recitals of African American music from work songs and spirituals to art songs. For 12 years, Brown directed the Church Choir at historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jefferson Ethridge, D.M.A.  
Associate Professor, Piano

Ethridge holds a bachelor of music from Belhaven College, a master of music and the doctor of musical arts in piano performance from the University of Michigan. He teaches applied piano, as well as core curriculum courses for the non-music major, including Masterpieces of Music and History of Jazz. Ethridge performs regularly as a recitalist in collaboration with both faculty and student performers.

Mel Foster, D.M.A.  
Associate Professor, Voice

Foster, tenor, holds a bachelor of music degree from the Eastman School of Music and a master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees in vocal performance from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He teaches applied voice, singer’s diction, voice class and masterpieces of music. Having performed internationally, Foster has focused on creating new roles for African American tenors through his involvement as a founding member of the Atlanta-based Americolor Opera Alliance. Foster’s research interests are focused on operatic vocal technique, the positive effects of art music on the quality of life, and racial discrimination in opera.

Blake Gaines, M.M.E.  
Director of Bands

Gaines holds a bachelor of music education from Jackson State University and a master of music education from the University of Central Oklahoma. As director of bands, he conducts the Morehouse College Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and the Marching Maroon Tigers, and has directed student performances in venues such as the Pre-Game Show at Super Bowl XXI, “The Today Show,” Jack The Rapper Convention and the Olympic flag installation, as well as jazz concert performances with Kent Jordan (flutist), Wes Anderson (former lead saxophonist with the Lincoln Center Jazz Band) and Delfeayo Marsalis.

Gaines also teaches history of jazz, introduction to jazz improvisation, orchestration and arranging, and applied brasses. As an arranger/composer, he arranged the music for the Pre-Game Show at Super Bowl XXI, wrote horn parts and performed on the first Byron Cage gospel project, arranged two selections that were played in the movie “Drumline”, and wrote the music for the Outkast hit “Morris Brown.” Gaines continues to perform locally and nationally as a jazz bassist. He has shared the stage with artists such as Bob Baldwin, Buddy Williams, Chuck Lobe, Will Downing, Tom Brown and Steve Oliver.
David Morrow, D.M.A.
Professor and Director of the Morehouse College Glee Club

Morrow was valedictorian of his Morehouse College class of 1980. He holds a master of music degree from the University of Michigan and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. Since 1987, he has served as director of the renowned Morehouse College Glee Club. He conducts the Wendell Whalum Community Chorus, is artistic director and conductor of the Atlanta Singers, and co-directs the Morehouse-Spelman Chorus.

Morrow has led performances in such widely varying venues as Atlanta’s Symphony Hall with Jessye Norman, the opening ceremonies of Superbowl XXVIII with Natalie Cole and the opening and closing ceremonies of the Atlantic Centennial Olympic Games. In 2002, he was guest conductor for Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano’s first Festival of Spirituals in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and was the conductor of the 2009 HBCU Concert Choir at the Kennedy Center.

Morrow is president of the National Association of Negro Musicians and serves on the board of directors of the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses, Inc.

Carlos Simon, M.M.
Instructor, Theory

Simon holds a bachelor of arts in music (with concentrations in piano and composition) from Morehouse College and a master of music degree from Georgia State University. His works have been performed by the Morehouse College Glee Club, the National Conference for Catholic Musicians and the Spelman/Morehouse String Quartet. In 2010, his music appeared nightly on “The Herman Cain Show.” Simon has compositions published by GIA Publications and currently serves as organist/pianist for the Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Simon maintains an active career as a keyboardist, performing locally and abroad with artists such as N’Dambi, Yahzarah, Russell Taylor, Gabbie McGhee and Angie Stone.

Robert Tanner, D.M.A.
Associate Professor, Composition and Theory

Tanner holds a bachelor of music in music industry from Capital University and master of music and doctor of musical arts in composition from The Ohio State University. Tanner is the recipient of the ASCAP Young Composers Award for “Ornaments” and the Ruth Friscoe Prize for “Romance” for alto saxophone and piano. His commissions include works by the OSU Symphony Orchestra and the Luna Nova New Music Ensemble. Tanner has served as a panelist at conferences hosted by the College Music Society and the Center for Black Music Research and as an adjudicator for competitions sponsored by the South Carolina Arts Commission and the Heritage Music Festival.

“The music program at Morehouse not only prepared me to face the rigors of the performance world, but also exposed me to the highest standard of instruction which has allowed for me to be a successful teacher of music.”

Duane Martin Foster ’92, Broadway performer, 2011 Yale Distinguished Music Educator and 2013 Art Educator of the Year (Missouri Arts & Education Council)

ADJUNCT FACULTY

James Abbington, D.M.A.
Church Music

Spencer Brewer, M.M.
Lower Strings

John Head, M.M.
Trumpet

Jacqueline Howard, M.A.
Music Appreciation

Joyce Johnson, D.M.A.
Piano and Organ

Akeem Marable, M.M.
Saxophone

Timothy Miller, M.M.
Voice, Voice Seminar, Oral Traditions

Michael Moore, B.M.
Lower Brass

Alhadji Thrash, M.B.A.
Introduction to Music Industry

Shuang Wu, M.M.
Upper Strings
DeSCriPTION
Founded in 1867 as the Augusta Institute in Augusta, Georgia, Morehouse College is the nation’s largest liberal arts college for men. Morehouse graduates approximately 500 students each year, historically conferring bachelor’s degrees on more African American men than any other college or university in the United States. The 66-acre campus is located just three miles southwest of downtown Atlanta.

MISSION
The mission of Morehouse College is to provide a comprehensive academic, social and spiritual experience that prepares its students for leadership and success in the larger society.

ENROLLMENT
With an enrollment of approximately 2,400, the student body represents more than 40 states and 14 foreign countries.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Morehouse operates under the semester system offering the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. The College offers 26 majors in three academic divisions: Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Mathematics, and Business Administration and Economics, and a dual-degree program in engineering with the Georgia Institute of Technology.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Special programs include Phi Beta Kappa, Honors, Study Abroad, The Andrew Young Center for International Affairs and Global Education, and Research Careers. The College also houses the Morehouse Research Institute, The Leadership Center at Morehouse College, The Morehouse Male Initiative and the CLA Journal.

FACULTY
166 full-time; 67 part-time; 100% of tenured and tenure-track faculty holds terminal degrees

ATHLETICS
Morehouse is a member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Division II. Varsity letter sports include football, basketball, tennis, golf, cross country and track and field.

AFFILIATIONS
Morehouse is a member of the Georgia Research Alliance, the Associated Colleges of the South, and the Atlanta University Center, a consortium of five historically black institutions, including Clark Atlanta University, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College.

ACCREDITATION
Morehouse is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award baccalaureate degrees. Morehouse is one of five Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and one of four undergraduate institutions in Georgia, with a Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society chapter. The College also is one of only four liberal arts colleges in the nation with accreditation from both the International Association for Management Education and a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. The Department of Music is accredited by National Association of Schools of Music.

RANKINGS
One of the Top 100 Social Media Colleges in the country — studentadvisor.com
No. 3 HBCU in the nation for 2012 — U.S. News and World Report
One of 45 Best Buy Schools for 2011 — The Fiske Guide to Colleges
One of the nation’s most grueling colleges in 2010 — The Huffington Post
One of America’s Best Colleges for 2010 for third consecutive year — Forbes