

## Songwriting

The student majoring in songwriting will develop skills in melody, harmony, and arranging as well as creative approaches to musical composition, lyric writing, and an individual writing style. Students interested in becoming singer/songwriters will choose a curriculum that focuses on both songwriting and performance, culminating in a portfolio of their original songs. Students interested in writing songs for artists other than themselves will have the option of taking more arranging courses and will learn studio and MIDI demo production techniques. To demonstrate mastery of these skills and concepts, the student will complete a portfolio of several songs that typify various current practices of contemporary songwriters. The portfolio will include lead sheets, lyric sheets, and demonstration recordings of each of the songs, equivalent in production quality to those typically presented to music publishers, record producers, and record companies by professional songwriters. Through the study of acknowledged masterpieces of the songwriter's art, the student will develop the critical skills necessary to recognize and discuss quality elements in musical and lyrical structure. Interpersonal and situational skills will develop through the many collaborative situations that exist in the professional environment; cowriting songs both as composer and as lyricist; working with vocalists and instrumentalists in the production of demo recordings; and working with engineers, artists, and producers in the studio environment. The songwriting major will have sufficient skills and knowledge to work in the music industry as songwriter, lyricist, singer/songwriter, arranger, and/or demo/MIDI production worker, and will have a sufficient background in stylistic breadth, analysis, and understanding of permanent musical values to work in a variety of situations, environments, and changing stylistic, artistic, and production demands.

## Songwriting Concentrate

30 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma

Course Number	Course Title	Semesters:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ISKB-211 & 212	Basic Keyboard 1 & 2				1	1				
SW-211 & 212	Songwriting 1 & 2				2	2				
SW-221 & 222	Lyric Writing 1 & 2				2	2				
PW-161	Technology Tools for the Writer (4th semester for diploma)				2					
SW-231	Arranging for Songwriters						2			
SW-361	Song Demo Production Techniques						2			
SW-241	Survey of Popular Song Styles							2		
SW-311 or SW-371	Advanced Songwriting or Singer/Songwriter Workshop								2	
SW-335	The Business of Songwriting									2
SW-498	Directed Study in Songwriting									2
	Approved Specified Electives*							2	2	2

\*Approved Specified Electives (select from the following): \*\*AR-112, AR-201, CM-311, COND-351, CW-171, CW-204, CW-205, CW-210, CW-216, CW-218, \*\*CW-221, CW-222, CW-450, ENLB-371, ENLB-471, ENSB-371, ENVC-371, ENVC-482, ENVC-485, ET-331, ET-351, ET-411, ET-441, FS-221, FS-391, GHUM-318, GHUM-331, HR-231, ILPN-227, ILVC-261, ISVC-111, MP-110, MP-210, MTEC-222, PST-351, PST-451, PST-471, PSVC-231, \*\*SW-311, SW-321, SW-325, SW-345, SW-365, \*\*SW-371, SW-495.

\*\*May be taken as an Approved Specified Elective if not taken as a requirement.

### Core Music: 22 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma

PW-110	Writing Skills*	2*								
AR-111	Arranging 1*		2							
HR-111 to 212	Harmony 1-4	2	2	2	2					
ET-111 to 212	Ear Training 1-4	3	3	2	2					
MTEC-111	Introduction to Music Technology	2								

\*Students who receive a qualifying score on the Entering Student Proficiency Assessment will be enrolled in AR-111

Arranging 1, or higher, in their first semester. Others will be enrolled in PW-110 Writing Skills, which is credited as a general elective. See also Curriculum Information section of the Registration Manual.

### Traditional Studies: 14 Credits Required for Degree

CM-211 & 212	Traditional Harmony/Composition 1 & 2				2	2				
CP-211 & 212	Traditional Counterpoint 1 & 2				2	2				
LHAN-211 & 212	History of Music 1 & 2					2	2			
COND-211/216 & 212	Conducting 1 & 2							1	1	

### Private Instruction: 8 Credits for Degree/Diploma

Ensemble/Lab: 5 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma	2*	1		1	1					
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\*See First-semester Ensemble/Lab Enrollment section of the Registration Manual.

### Liberal Arts: 30 Credits Required for Degree

LCOR-111 & 112	College Writing 1 (Structure) & 2 (Lit)	3	3							
Art History: two courses required	To fulfill requirements in Art History, two courses from the following must be taken: LCOR-231, LCOR-232, one section of Art History Topics (LCOR-233)					3			3	
History: two courses required	To fulfill requirements in History, two courses must be taken: (a) one survey course (LCOR-211, LCOR-212, LCOR-213, LCOR-214, LCOR-215, LCOR-216, LCOR-221, or LCOR-222); AND (b) one Africana Studies/Music and Society course (LCOR-224, LCOR-225, or LCOR-226), one section of World Civilization Topics (LCOR-223), or one survey course not previously taken			3				3		
LMSC	Natural Science Selection (LMSC-230 does not fulfill this requirement)		3							
LSOC	Social Science Selection							3		
LXXX	Liberal Arts Electives								3	3

General Electives: 11 credits required for degree/31 credits required for diploma

Total Required Credits: 120 credits for degree/96 credits for diploma

For the most current information on requirements, consult the Office of the Registrar.

The songwriting major requires the purchasing of the songwriting major bundle, which includes specific hardware and software components that meet the curricular, musical, and professional goals of the major. More information can be found on Berklee's website at [berklee.edu/computers](http://berklee.edu/computers) or obtained from the Songwriting Department chair.