



Dean of the School of Music

DePaul University invites applications, expressions of interest, and nominations for its Dean of the School of Music position. Reporting to the Provost, the new Dean will join the School of Music during a period of significant momentum as exhibited through the stellar work of dedicated and exceptional faculty and administrative staff, the contributions of passionate and engaged students and alumni, the 2018 opening of the state-of-the-art Holtschneider Performance Center, and inspired partnerships with leading cultural entities in Chicagoland and beyond.

School of Music

Founded in 1912, DePaul University's [School of Music](#) prepares students to thrive in a variety of professional careers including musical performance, music education, performing arts management, and sound recording technology, among others. Located in one of the most vibrant musical cities in the world, the School of Music provides opportunities for students to study with distinguished faculty who are prominent conductors, composers, performers, recording engineers, educators, and arts managers. DePaul's School of Music faculty includes members of Chicago's most prominent orchestras, chamber music societies, and jazz ensembles. The School of Music – including the administrative building and the Holtschneider Performance Center – is located on DePaul's beautiful Lincoln Park campus in Chicago, in one of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, and within a seven-mile radius of more than 200 professional music and theater companies.

Mission

The DePaul School of Music is an inclusive and compassionate community of musicians dedicated to artistry, excellence, diversity, and leadership in music. Guided by the University values of social justice, the DePaul School of Music prepare students for dynamic 21st century careers.

Academics

Enrolling approximately 400 students per year, the School of Music offers programs across eight undergraduate degrees, four graduate master's degrees, teacher licensure, and a post-master's certificate. The undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs prepare young musicians for success, with recent graduates performing with international orchestras and ensembles, teaching across universities and school districts, managing performing arts organizations, and working in sound engineering for film, television, and recording industries.

The educational purpose of the School of Music reflects the University's commitment to providing a quality education through personal attention to students from a wide range of backgrounds. The student/faculty ratio is 9:1, allowing for the attention and supervision essential for musical growth. Across

an array of [Studios and Areas of Study](#), the School of Music offers attractive, immersive, and student-centered academic programs.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Music Performance (Bachelor of Music, Master of Music)
- Composition (Bachelor of Music, Master of Music)
- Jazz Studies (Bachelor of Music, Master of Music)
- Music Education (Bachelor of Music, Master of Music)
- Performing Arts Management (Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science)
- Sound Recording Technology (Bachelor of Science)
- Music (Bachelor of Arts)
- Performance (Post-master's Certificate)
- Teacher Licensure (Illinois State K-12 Music Teacher Licensure)

FACULTY

A full-time faculty of 24, and an adjunct and part-time faculty of 113, provide high-level, professional musical expertise across the curricula. The faculty are some of the world's finest and most respected performers, conductors, composers, and recording artists from Chicago, the nation, and the world. Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, and prominent Chicago freelance, jazz, and chamber musicians are amongst the faculty within the School of Music. The faculty work across two School of Music departments: Music Performance and Musical Studies. The Music Performance department focuses on applied teaching, including classical, jazz, conducting, pedagogy instructors, and chamber music. The Musical Studies department focuses on areas of composition, music education, performing arts management, sound recording technology, and musicianship.

ENSEMBLES

The School of Music provides students with opportunities for both large and small ensembles. The large ensembles include the DePaul Symphony Orchestra, DePaul Concert Orchestra, DePaul Concert Choir, DePaul Chamber Choir, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Workshop, and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. The small ensembles include the African Music Ensemble, Baroque Ensemble, Chamber Music, Percussion, and Jazz Chamber Ensemble (i.e., Jazz Combos).

COMMUNITY MUSIC DIVISION

The Community Music Division (CMD) of the DePaul University School of Music was established in 1988 and offers a broad range of non-credit music instruction to people of all ages, skill levels, and backgrounds. With the mission to provide the highest quality music instruction to students of all ages and abilities, diverse backgrounds, and differing educational goals, the CMD offers the opportunity for serious musical study and growth in a nurturing environment and aims to foster an atmosphere that encourages a lifelong enjoyment of music. Serving more than 700 students in the Chicago area, with an outstanding professional faculty of more than 70 artist-educators, the CMD offers individual lessons, musicianship and instrumental classes, performance ensembles, workshops, and student recitals.

The CMD is a member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education, the Chicago Consortium of Community Music Schools, the Suzuki Association of the Americas, and the New Horizons International Music Association.

Holtzheimer Performance Center

The [Holtzheimer Performance Center](#), located on DePaul's Lincoln Park campus, is a stunning facility of 185,000 square feet designed for performance, rehearsals, and education space, housing a concert hall, opera hall, multiple recital halls, and a jazz hall. The Holtzheimer Performance Center, opened in 2018, was named for DePaul's previous president, Rev. Dennis H. Holtzheimer, who served as University president from 2004 to 2017.

The Holtzheimer Performance Center includes:

- 505-seat Mary Patricia Gannon Concert Hall
- 160-seat Sasha and Eugene Jarvis Opera Hall
- 140-seat Murray and Michele Allen Recital Hall
- 80-seat Brennan Family Recital Hall
- 75-seat Mary A. Dempsey and Philip H. Corboy Jazz Hall
- Lynn Pierce Rehearsal Hall
- John L. Ewers Choral Room
- Murray and Michele Allen Sound Recording Technology Suite
- State-of-the-art rehearsal space
- HPC Café

The Holtzheimer Performance Center serves as a center of excellence where students learn and perform in professional-level spaces using cutting-edge technology for academic exploration, demonstration, recording, mixing, and mastering. The center is also a community destination where all are welcome to enjoy the live performances, large-scale hosted events, community-gathering spaces, and programs during the year.

Accreditation

The DePaul School of Music and the DePaul University Community Music Division are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), accreditations they have maintained consistently since 1931. In 2022, the School of Music successfully completed its comprehensive review, including the self-study for NASM, with the next accreditation review scheduled for 2030-2031.

School of Music Advisory Board

A committed and dedicated external group of approximately two dozen individuals serve on the Advisory Board for the School of Music. Advisory Board members work with the Dean and the senior leadership throughout the year, providing guidance, alumni engagement, and ambassadorship. The Advisory Board meets formally three times per year with the primary goal of supporting the School through financial contributions and external engagement, including an annual spring gala fundraiser which provides donor revenue to the School of Music for scholarships and other critical needs.

The Role of the Dean

The next Dean will be an inspiring, collaborative, and dynamic leader, who is effective at propelling the distinguished School of Music forward through strategic visioning, with a deep commitment to DePaul's enduring social justice mission. In partnership with faculty, students, staff, and the University community, the Dean will lead during a period of significant momentum and will define and implement strategic

priorities for continued and elevated success across the School of Music. Reporting to the Provost, the Dean serves as the academic leader for the School of Music, and in partnership with senior leadership and faculty, is responsible for ensuring the governance of the School is carried out consistently with University policies.

The Dean will work with professional musicians of the highest caliber, successful music educators, prominent recording and mixing engineers, and music business professionals. The Dean will oversee 24 tenured/tenure-track faculty, two full-time term faculty, 113 adjuncts and part-time instructors, seven direct reports, and a total staff of 20. The Dean is responsible for all aspects of the DePaul School of Music and the DePaul Community Music Division and oversees an annual expense budget of approximately \$11.9 million.

The Dean is directly supported by an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Senior Director for Business Administration, Executive Assistant, Director of Marketing and Communications, Director of Admissions, and maintains a dotted line to the Director of Development for the Arts.

The University seeks an outstanding and aspirational leader who will embrace the following opportunities as Dean of the School of Music.

- **Effectively lead the School with a visionary, collaborative, and entrepreneurial spirit:** The Dean will lead with a strong sense of collegiality and transparency along with a supportive mindset to develop and implement strategic priorities for the School. Working with faculty, staff, administration, and advisory board members to refine the long-term vision for the School of Music as a premier educational institution for the musical arts, the next Dean must have aesthetic curiosity and breadth, as well as a record of recognizing excellence in diverse forms of music, musical production, and music education. The Dean's strategic priorities should build upon DePaul's existing excellence in its School of Music academics and community contributions and should bring innovative and inspiring goals to ensure success, with a keen focus on the emerging trends and future of music education.
- **Champion the School of Music to current and new stakeholders to raise funds and build support:** The Dean will be dedicated to securing financial support through effective fundraising and relationship development. Efforts to support existing academic and scholarship initiatives, as well as new initiatives, programs, and partnerships will be key. Of significant importance will be developing financial opportunities for increased funding support towards student scholarships. The Dean will be a dedicated advocate for attracting top student talent to the School of Music through these efforts.
- **Promote, extend, and deepen the academic brand and reach of the School of Music:** The School of Music benefits from its long legacy of robust and successful music education, in addition to its ideal location within the exceptional music landscape of Chicagoland. The Dean will have the opportunity to leverage the School's remarkable faculty, dedicated staff, the Holtschneider Performance Center facilities, and talented students and alumni, to expand and further develop the reputation of the School. Opportunities abound for the next Dean to innovate the curriculum, build new relationships, enhance community engagements, attract faculty, and forge exceptional musical talent – with the promise of enhancing DePaul's recognition nationally and

internationally.

- **Champion diversity, equity, and inclusion as a leader, advocate, and collaborator:** The next Dean will be a tireless supporter of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice guided by the University's and School's missions. The Dean will support and contribute to the existing initiatives and continue to develop and collaborate across the School and University to enable success for all members of the DePaul community, ensuring a culture in which all are welcome and can thrive. The new Dean will also embrace and explore diversity across musical exploration of new programs, academic and performance offerings, as well as faculty opportunities and collaborations.

DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will have progressive leadership experience and a demonstrated track record of leading complex organizations. The successful candidate must have significant leadership experience in developing and executing a strategic vision and be a persuasive and sophisticated communicator who can amplify philanthropy and develop external partnerships. Familiarity with higher education and academic institutions is preferred.

The most compelling candidates will be innovators who can inspire and lead others in an era when economic, cultural, and technological shifts are challenging the relevance of the arts and humanistic expression. The new Dean must be willing to take risks, be an adroit negotiator, possess resiliency, and have an inclusive worldview.

The next Dean will possess and demonstrate:

- An innovative and visionary leadership style with a collaborative and collegial mindset;
- A commitment to embrace and embody the mission-focused and student-centered approach to academic exploration that is foundational to the School and University;
- Knowledge of and passion for the future of music education, including academic offerings and professional opportunities across the field;
- Commitment to faculty professional development and support across diverse musical fields;
- An understanding of the needs of students at all educational levels, backgrounds, and across the variety of musical academic explorations;
- Ability to showcase, advocate for, and expand the reputation, brand, and reach of the School and University;
- Budgetary and financial management skills sufficient to oversee a complex organization;
- Commitment to shared governance with a transparent and team-oriented leadership approach;
- Commitment to embracing and fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion within the School, University, and community;
- An ability and interest in building and maintaining successful relationships with members of the music industry, local community, and across the University;
- An understanding of the needs of tenure-track, adjunct, and instructional faculty;
- Capacity to generate interest from prospective students and support their success at DePaul;
- Adaptability and flexibility in approaching innovations within musical education; and
- The tools to effectively manage conflict with a solution-oriented approach.

In addition, the next Dean will have the following academic responsibilities in a spirit of shared governance:

- Ensure quality of the academic programs and academic success of the students;
- Provide support for faculty and staff development;
- Support the needs of the programs, students, and faculty;
- Actively participate in raising funds for the School and the effective use of these resources;
- Develop short term and long-term plans for the School;
- Formulate School policies and regulations;
- Organize committees and meetings to ensure effective management of the School;
- Communicate effectively with community members within the School and with University administrators;
- Serve as an active participant at the University level;
- Represent and advocate for the School to internal and external constituents; and
- Provide academic and administrative leadership.

DePaul University

Founded in 1898, DePaul University is one of the nation's largest Catholic institution of higher education and the largest private university in Chicago. Anchored in the global city of Chicago, the University is committed to outstanding teaching, academic excellence, real world experience, community engagement, and systemic change. As a Carnegie R2 doctoral university, DePaul serves nearly 22,000 full- and part-time students. Its 863 full-time and 1,679 adjunct faculty members pursue the preservation, enrichment, and transmission of knowledge and culture across a broad scope of academic disciplines. DePaul's 10 colleges and schools are spread across two major campuses: Lincoln Park Campus and the Loop Campus.

Guided by an ethic of Vincentian personalism and professionalism, DePaul compassionately upholds the dignity of all members of its diverse, multi-faith, and inclusive community. Through education and research, the University addresses the great questions of our day, promoting peaceful, just, and equitable solutions to social and environmental challenges. Since its founding in 1898, DePaul University has remained dedicated to making education accessible to all, with special attention to including underserved and underrepresented communities.

CORE VALUES

DePaul University's core values flow from the University's identity and shape its work as a university community.

- Excellence in Teaching
- Access to Higher Education
- Human Dignity and Vincentian Personalism
- Care for Society's Most Vulnerable
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Social and Environmental Justice
- Public Service
- Community and Collaboration

LEADERSHIP

[Robert L. Manuel](#) began his term as DePaul University's 13th president on August 1, 2022, bringing more than 30 years of academic excellence in higher education to DePaul. He most recently served as president at the University of Indianapolis (UIndy), a faith-based institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. At UIndy, where he had served as president since 2012, he ushered in an era of strong academic, financial, and physical growth. He guided the construction of three new residence halls attracting more than 900 new students to live on campus, developed the 150,000 square foot University Health Pavilion, and redeveloped a local industrial building into the new home of the R.B. Annis School of Engineering.

[Salma Ghanem](#) was appointed provost in 2021, after serving as interim provost since 2019 and acting provost in 2018. Dr. Ghanem joined DePaul in 2014 as the Dean of the College of Communication and previously served as Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts at Central Michigan University. She earned her Ph.D. and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and bachelor's in communication from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

STRATEGIC PLAN

DePaul launched its strategic plan, [Grounded in Mission—The Plan for DePaul 2024](#), at the beginning of 2018-19. The plan imagines not only how DePaul will transform itself in six years' time, but also how the University will meet changing student and societal needs in the future. The plan grew out of a University-wide effort, engaging faculty, staff, and students through a task force, planning teams, and town hall meetings. *Grounded in Mission* lays out the vision that "DePaul will be unequalled among urban universities in the United States in ensuring the success of a diverse community of learners. Through programs that integrate theory with practice and ideas with action, DePaul's expert and dedicated faculty and staff will develop students' readiness to engage with and thrive in a changing world. The University will broaden its historical mission of access to address the lifelong learning needs of our students by providing innovative and affordable programs and varied curricular structures and modes of delivery. Equipped with a transformative education grounded in our Catholic and Vincentian values, DePaul graduates will be recognized as effective and responsible change agents."

Grounded in Mission aims to achieve six strategic priorities:

- Deepen the commitment to DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian, and urban mission.
- Ensure a welcoming, engaging, diverse, and inclusive campus environment.
- Excel in preparing all students for global citizenship and success.
- Expand access to a portfolio of high-quality, affordable academic programs that meet student, workforce, and societal needs.
- Elevate academic excellence and embrace a culture of creativity and discovery.
- Employ bold approaches to ensure DePaul's continued fiscal strength for future generations.

The University has made considerable progress in these areas and is about to embark on a process to create the next strategic plan with President Manuel.

The Dean of the School of Music is a full-time position that will be performed on site in Illinois. The salary range will be commensurate with experience, with a generous benefits package.

Process of Candidacy

Nominations and applications for the Dean of the School of Music are welcomed as soon as possible. Applications should include a complete résumé or vita and a letter of interest. All application materials will be considered in full confidence. Please send all nominations, inquiries, and applications electronically to: DePaulMusicDean@storbecksearch.com.



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It is the policy of DePaul University that no person shall be the object of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, family relationship status, physical or mental disability, military status, genetic information or other status protected by local, state, or federal law in its employment or its educational settings.