PERFORM. TEACH. THINK.
THE LONGY SCHOOL OF MUSIC OF BARD COLLEGE IS A DYNAMIC CONSERVATORY THAT BLENDS TRADITIONAL EUROPEAN MUSICAL TRAINING WITH PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION. LONGY STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THEIR EDUCATION AND CONNECT WITH THE WORLD AROUND THEM. OUR COMMITMENT TO SMALL CLASSES, PERSONAL ATTENTION, AND INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTES TO A TRULY UNIQUE AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT.

HISTORY

The Longy School of Music of Bard College, founded in 1915 as the Longy School of Music, was patterned after small European conservatories. Georges Longy received his training at the Paris Conservatoire and became a renowned performer, conductor, chamber musician, and principal oboist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He believed that other music schools in the United States were lacking in their approach to “authentic musicianship,” so he developed a school that addressed individual needs through close collaboration with faculty mentors, strong theory and musicianship training, chamber music, and frequent performance values that remain central to our educational offering.
Personal Attention

Longy is committed to the individual and to each student’s musical voice. Students work closely with faculty mentors who provide training and support not only during a student’s time at Longy, but as they head into the professional world.

Longy faculty members are leaders in the musical world who have extensive experience as soloists, chamber musicians, orchestral musicians, and composers.

“I’m amazed by the level of individual attention I’ve received at Longy. The focus is not on competition, but personal growth, and I really feel that from the faculty.”

Brian Gonzalez, MM ’13
Longy students collaborate with peers, teachers, and coaches with a closeness and intensity rarely seen at other institutions. Graduate students and advanced undergraduates work together in an environment that bridges the gap between disciplines, fostering versatile and complete musicians.

“Longy has given us a platform to launch our professional career as an ensemble. It is an enriching musical environment that develops and deepens our artistic connection with the music we perform and the audiences that experience it.”

Redline Brass Quintet, AD ’12
Students perform frequently in a number of settings at Longy: solo and chamber recitals, ensemble concerts, master classes, performance and repertoire classes, and student performance hours. Annual competitions and student concert series provide additional opportunities to present solo and chamber works or perform as a soloist with the Longy Conservatory Orchestra.

As we expect our students to build their professional résumés while still in school, Longy students are encouraged to take advantage of the variety of performance opportunities available in the Boston area. In recent years students have performed with the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Opera Collaborative, Cambridge Concentus, Exsultemus, and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, among many other ensembles.
THE CITY IS YOUR CAMPUS

Near historic Harvard Square in the heart of Cambridge and less than three miles from downtown Boston, Longy’s location provides a dynamic setting for a creative education. Cambridge is a vibrant city known for education and innovation, while Boston—home to the Boston Symphony Orchestra and other renowned arts organizations—is one of the world’s finest cities for music and culture. Students can experience an astonishing variety of musical genres and styles and immerse themselves in an inspiring atmosphere of history, art, and intellectual life. The city is not merely a backdrop—it is your campus and an integral part of the Longy experience.
FOR THE MODERN MUSICIAN

Longy believes that it is essential for musicians to be well-rounded and forward-thinking. Students are encouraged to explore courses across departments and take advantage of progressive curricular offerings in Experiential Education, Mind/Body, and Improvisation.

“Everything I learn at Longy has immediate practical relevance. As a composer, I’ve written for dozens of ensembles and visiting artists and have had the opportunity to work with some true musical greats inside and out of the classroom.”

Erica Glenn, MM ’12

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

The Experiential Education Program is a vital component of Longy’s curriculum, designed to prepare students to make a difference in an increasingly diverse and complex world. Students explore and strengthen the skills required to engage and communicate with varied audiences and are challenged to think more deeply and broadly about music and its role in society. The program culminates in student-designed and -led musical projects in community venues.

MIND/BODY

Realizing one’s full potential depends not only on musical skills, but also on the ability to integrate the physical and the emotional. Longy’s Mind/Body faculty include practitioners in Alexander Technique, Feldenkrais, and yoga who specialize in helping musicians avoid and alleviate injury so they can express their artistry to the fullest.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Much of Longy’s musical ethos derives from its emphasis on chamber music and the experience of collaborating with musicians in a small ensemble. Students work closely with faculty coaches every semester and explore ensemble playing through coursework, informal readings, and community outreach.

IMPROVISATION

Longy students use improvisation to cultivate a deep level of creativity and responsiveness. Courses and ensembles explore many types of repertoire and improvisatory approaches including jazz, avant garde, early music, and eurhythmics.
PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

Undergraduate Diploma
Master of Music
Graduate Performance Diploma
Artist Diploma