

CONSIDERING TAKING A GAP YEAR?

READ THIS FIRST!



Some of you may be contemplating a gap year during this uncertain time of COVID-19 and the increase in an online learning environment. While a gap year may be the best solution for you, the Department of Music offers some points regarding why staying enrolled in your music degree program may be worthwhile.

- **Staying in school is a healthy way to stay productive** and engaged during this unprecedented time. Practicing, coursework, and the mentorship of your music faculty can all **contribute to your well-being** and ensure that you are **right on track** when the pandemic passes.
- **Private lessons will continue to be high quality experiences.** In fact, many of our faculty have taught lessons online for several years! Just as in traditional, face-to-face lessons, we can see and hear what we need to in order to **foster genuine growth** in technique. And research even demonstrates that the online environment results in **more focused attention** from students and **greater efficiency** from teachers.
- **Think of remote learning as different rather than better or worse.** We are looking for the special opportunities that a virtual environment offers! For example, the Department of Music can now “bring” **nationally and internationally recognized musicians of the highest caliber** to engage with you through virtual platforms.
- **Be flexible!** Consider a **limited course load** of applied lessons and music theory/ aural skills. Another option could be only applied lessons and general education classes. Work with your advisor to see what options you may have.

- What you experience during this unusual time – the educational adaptations and technological innovations – **will stand you in good stead for the future**, as we continue to develop new technologies and ways of teaching, making, and sharing music.

As you consider your options, ask yourself these questions...

What will I do to continue my musical learning?

Can I do it on my own?

Would my musical skills decline during a gap year?

Will I be able/willing to make up this learning later?

Remember: This is a unique experience for all people on our planet!

We are all learning together, and we are here to help you with your decision. The Counseling Center is also setting virtual appointments and can be a great resource for any anxiety you may be feeling.

WE WELCOME YOUR VOICES AND HONOR YOUR DECISIONS.

“Grown-ish” star Yara Shahidi shares her thoughts on distance learning on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* →

