

Why SHSU?

- **LOCATION:** SHSU, located in Huntsville, TX, is close enough to the city of Houston that students can connect with educators, professionals, performance opportunities, and more, but far enough away to provide room to focus on academics.
- **ATMOSPHERE:** Students enjoy the beautiful SHSU campus and great college town environment of Huntsville with lots of quirky local restaurants and local flair.
- **AFFORDABILITY:** SHSU was ranked in the "top 10% of best colleges for the money" by College Factual, with relatively low cost of living in and around Huntsville.
- **QUALITY:** SHSU was named by US News & World Report as "Growing fast, staying friendly" and is one of the top 15 public universities nationwide for helping students stay on track and graduate.
- **COMMUNITY:** SHSU has more than 260 student organizations on campus, and is one of 311 colleges and universities in the nation designated as a "Community Engaged University."

The SHSU School of Music

- **Pursue your passion** with a Minor in Music, a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree or Bachelor of Music (BM) degree in:
 - Music Composition
 - Music Education
 - Music Performance
 - Music Therapy
- **Graduate programs** include Master of Music (MM) degrees in:
 - Music Performance
 - Music Composition
 - Conducting
 - Musicology
 - Collaborative Piano/Chamber Music
 - Music Therapy
- **Be the next success story:** The School of Music boasts an excellent track record for alumni job placement and graduate school admission, and SHSU is ranked top 5 in Texas for placing students in the workforce after graduation.
- **Learn from the best:** With an outstanding student-to-teacher ratio of approximately 6:1, students study closely with some of the top musicians in their fields.
- **Take the stage:** Students perform regularly in the Gaertner Performing Arts Center, a world-class fine arts hub opened in 2010 which features the Concert Hall (800 seats), Recital Hall (175 seats), Dance Theatre (150 seats), and studios, practice rooms, and other facilities within its 90,000+ square feet of space.
- **Share your craft:** Harpists engage in many performance opportunities with ensembles at the School of Music, including:
 - Symphony Orchestra
 - Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band
 - Student chamber groups



Harp Studies

School of Music

College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication



shsu.edu/see/music

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Applied Harp Study includes:

- Personalized technical and artistic development
- Gaining a deep understanding of the solo harp repertoire
- Weekly studio class
- Chamber music coaching
- Methodical study of orchestral excerpts
- Preparation for degree recitals and other performance opportunities

GET TO KNOW THE FACULTY

Q&A with Dr. Alaina Graiser (Harp Studies)

Q: How does your educational background impact your teaching?

Dr. Graiser: “As a ‘grand-student’ of Carlos Salzedo, Henriette Renie, Marcel Grandjany, and others, I can not only connect your harp-family-tree to many incredible harpists, but pass down their fingerings, artistic decisions, and general wisdom as well!”

Q: Can you describe your teaching style?

Dr. Graiser: “I place a strong emphasis on research, practical application, and individualization. I believe in the concept of constant learning and equip my students to build successful, rewarding careers, whether that entails performance, pedagogy, business, orchestral/chamber music, or all of the above!”

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring harpists?

Dr. Graiser: “I believe in an entrepreneurial and active harp lifestyle: cultivate your personality as a harpist, connect with the harp community, be creative in your harp career, participate in community outreach, and more. Work hard and never lose sight of your love for the harp!”

Q: What is it like to study harp at SHSU?

Dr. Graiser: “The friendly atmosphere here is a catalyst for motivating students to see their careers come to life!”

SHSU has a concert grand pedal harp with its own large practice room that can be used by students any time the Music Building is open.

Application and audition checklist

- Complete the University application via [ApplyTexas.org](https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply.html)
- Pay a \$45 nonrefundable application fee or submit the Application Fee Waiver Request (visit <https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply.html> for more information)
- Submit official high school transcript and SAT/ACT test scores to:
Sam Houston State University
Undergraduate Admissions Office
Box 2418
Huntsville, TX 77341-2418
- Submit FAFSA application and/or scholarship applications (if applicable)
- Complete the School of Music application (**this is a separate application from the University application mentioned above**)
- Submit three (3) letters of recommendation
- Schedule your audition date (for more information on deadlines and dates visit <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/admissions/auditions.html>)

Harp audition requirements

Students should prepare two contrasting pieces or movements from a sonata or concerto. Performance majors must play at least one of these from memory. Students should also prepare one orchestral excerpt from the standard literature.



Additional harp courses may include:

- **Harp Ensemble:** experience the excitement, camaraderie, and stimulation of making music with other harpists while developing critical chamber ensemble skills under the direction of the harp faculty.
- **Harp Pedagogy:** dive into a comprehensive study of teaching the harp, including building a curriculum, employing a variety of teaching strategies, balancing lesson foci and pacing, utilizing effective communication, and more. Classes include lectures, activities, and mock-teaching.
- **Harp Business:** lay the groundwork for building a career with the harp. Foci will include assembling appropriate documents (resume, biography, invoices, etc.), business etiquette, and advertising strategies.

For more information about Harp Studies at SHSU, contact Dr. Alaina Graiser:

alaina.harpist@gmail.com or [404-889-1699](tel:404-889-1699)