The UCLA Pit Orchestra Summer Institute is an immersive 10-day program designed to equip high school musicians with the skills and knowledge essential for thriving in the dynamic world of playing in a pit orchestra. Participants will embark on a musical journey, learning the intricacies of preparing a musical production, refining sight-reading abilities, exploring the music business and various platforms in technology, and honing a wide array of musical and collaborative skills. From rehearsal techniques and orchestration to networking in the industry, this program offers a comprehensive exploration of the pit orchestra landscape.

Experience: All applicants must be proficient on their respective instruments. A solid understanding of instrument technique and performance is required. Excellent music reading skills are essential to playing in a pit orchestra. Applicants should be able to sight-read music accurately and adapt to various musical genres and styles. Previous participation in a pit orchestra, either within a school or community theater setting, is a prerequisite.

Goals and Objectives:

- Acquire a solid understanding of the process involved in preparing and performing in a pit orchestra.
- Strengthen sight-reading skills with music from various Broadway shows.
- Explore a range of musical concepts: rehearsal techniques, orchestration, instrumentation, score analysis, multi-instrumentalism and interpretation.
- Elevate music theory comprehension.
- Collaborate closely with a conductor/musical director, singers, actors, and production crew.
- Gain music industry insights, covering self-marketing and technology's role in pit orchestras.
- Benefit from the wisdom shared by guest artists that may include accomplished pit musicians, conductors, directors, and orchestrators.
Produce a successful final project and performance of a fully staged Broadway musical.

Course Offerings:

**Full Pit Rehearsals**
Intensive rehearsals with the full pit orchestra ensemble. Focusing on ensemble playing, dynamics, synchronization and more.

**Sectionals**
Instrument-specific small group sessions. Addressing technical challenges and specific parts within the score.

**Script and Score Analysis**
Analyzing the musical score in context of the script and storyline. Understanding character themes, mood changes, and musical cues.

**Industry Insights - Life as a Pit Musician**
Guest speaker sharing their experiences as professional pit musicians. Discussing career paths, challenges, and strategies for success.

**Introduction to Digital Audio Workstations**
Basic overview of digital audio software for recording and editing.

**Sitz-Probe Rehearsal**
A rehearsal where cast members and pit orchestra come together. Focusing on synchronization, communication, and overall performance.

**Masterclass - Audition Mastery for Pit Musicians and Nailing the Gig**
Expert-led session on audition techniques and preparation.

**Sight-Reading Boot Camp**
Intensive practice in sight-reading music on the spot. Developing skills to adapt quickly to new material.

Assessment:

- Pre-Arrival Preparation: 50%
- Attendance and Participation: 45%
- Return of music score: 5%

*Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit [www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu)*
Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CARE advocate@caps.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768. You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu,(310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491.

Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.