

The Bard Major

Performing Arts attracts a certain type of student. Certainly, there's a wide array of personalities and interests, but they all have one thing in common. They're all a bunch of hams. This is even more the case when that performing arts major is combined with adventuring. Bards take music and words and general hamminess and turn it into magic. Literal magic.

Although bards are largely associated with music, it's possible for a bard to focus their power through oratory or dance or juggling. A passionate monologue or enthusiastic tap dance, a corny stand-up routine or an engaging mime act can deliver as much power as a ballad or guitar riff, if the performance is done with intent. Hells, that one kid with the ventriloquist's dummy last year was one hell of a bard. Too bad he went evil and tried to take over the cafeteria.

Bard students must choose a college to guide their educational direction. "College" in this case referring to a set of studies, not a place of study. I know it's confusing, but you're a bard. You're smart, you can figure it out.



Bard Faculty

DEAN OF BARDS

STORM SILVERHAND (Human; she/her)

Bard of Shadowdale, former Chosen of Mystra, former member of the Harpers in ages past. One of the legendary Seven Sisters, member of the Circle of Eight Hundred. Dean Silverhand may well be the most decorated active faculty member of Sigil Prep. A tall and attractive woman whose features appear ageless (and whose actual age is measured in centuries at this point), she is well-spoken and supernaturally charismatic.

Known as merry and good-humored, she can become serious when it's called for. Despite her reputation for being fair and approachable, she tends to keep grudges, and although it is hard to make her not like you, it's even harder to win back her good graces once you lose them.

Like many of the Circle of 800, lost in time for centuries as they battled the lich-god Vecna and his army, she adapted readily to the changes in the worlds she knew when she returned. When not teaching, she plays lead guitar and sings in her band, Silverhand, which tours extensively during the summer months.

Storm is over six feet tall, with long silver hair that reaches her knees. She dresses casually while teaching, wearing at least modest splashes of silver color, whether it's jewelry, sparkly boots, or a shiny blouse.

(Storm Silverhand is a canon color from the Forgotten Realms. Her usage here describes only her appearance in this setting and is not canonical to the official FR setting.)

CORE FACULTY

AZURE VORAL (blue dragonborn; she/her)

Professor Voral's lectures are hard to get through, as she constantly pauses to reassess a statement in her mind, or hums a bit to figure out

the exact method of extracting magic from music. She knows her stuff, but she's not great at presenting it.

It's pretty well known that she's trying to write an opera about the fall of Tiamat, but it's been a work-in-progress for nearly a decade, a frustration after her two decades as a *prima donna* of the Stormhome Opera Company on Eberon.

Voral wears large and ostentatious jewelry and tends to wear floor-length gowns, often purple. Her bright blue scales are rumored to be artificially color-enhanced, though few are rude enough to directly ask her (and she'd deny it if they did.)

CORMAC THE BARD (grung; he/him)

Looking like nothing less than a yellow-and-blue tree frog with a banjo, Cormac is a reflective and encouraging, a frog who always inspires his students to reach for their dreams. Despite his reputation for being insightful and positive, however, he does have a boiling point, and if someone annoys him or pushes him far enough, he'll go into an extended rant, flailing his arms about and expressing his vocabulary with some colorful insults. Most students take him seriously and leave him alone during these tantrums, but the sight of it generally inspires giggles when reflected on later.

In days past, Cormac hosted a variety show on the GFAV (Greater Faerun Astralvision) network, and every year a student discovers clips on the astralnet and shares them around.

MI-JIN JEOUNG (human; she/her)

The youngest member of the bard faculty, Mi-Jin is just a few years older than her students. She spent her formative years playing lead guitar in a band which toured Kara-Tur in a van, solving mysteries with the help of their mascot,

a surprisingly articulate miniature wooly mammoth named “Tusks.”

Mi-Jin is clever and sardonic, generally good-natured and laid back. She uses a lot of mixed slang from different eras, and punctuates a lot of directed comments with finger guns.

She generally wears a succession of band t-shirts along with a black skirt and leggings or black jeans, with combat boots. Her hair is shaved on one-side and long enough on the other to cover her right eye, with a dyed purple streak through. Although her instrument of choice is the guitar, she carries a pair of drumsticks with her and often idly drums on her desk or nearby fixtures and furniture.

ROBIN “PUCK” GOODE (human; xe/xir)

Professor Goode will tell you right off the bat to call xir “Puck.” Xe is one of the primary theater directors, and teaches a number of classes in oratory, vocalization and speech, although xir true passion is stagecraft. Puck has vision, and that vision includes extravagant sets, intricate lighting design and arguably overproduced sound design. Xe will eagerly gather a team to run tech on any theatrical production on campus, whether it’s done by the Bard department or not, but if you’re looking for a low-key, intimate production in the black box space? Forget it.

Students still talk about the production of *Death of a Salesman* that ended with a hydraulic lift raising half the stage so Linda Loman loomed over the house, framed by a dozen red-gelled spotlights, and said “Attention must be paid” with reverb that echoed across the campus. Professor Fosse of the Warlock department refuses to work with Puck again.

Puck is 5’6”, with short-cropped, feathered hair dyed a different color each week. Xe wears backstage blacks when xir’s anywhere near a performance space. When elsewhere, xe generally wears a shockingly bright and busy-patterned vest over it.

SPECIALIZED FACULTY

JOOKBOX (warforged; he/they)

College of Lore program coordinator

Jookbox has been at Sigil Prep since its inception, being one of the very first students and joining faculty as soon as he earned his PhD. He is jovial and fun-loving, the very model of a classic bard. He carries a traditional lute, but can play nearly any instrument. Moreover, he has yet to be stumped when students ask him to play even the most obscure or little-known song. Although you can’t distract him when he’s teaching, during off hours, if you toss him a silver piece, he’ll happily play anything you ask. He often spends two or three hours at Odo’s Pizza, reveling in the applause and frivolity.

Jookbox is somewhat anachronistic in his style of dress, wearing clothes reminiscent of a medieval jester rather than a modern musician. His voice is naturally a rich tenor, but he seems to have a vocal range that runs the entire piano keyboard.

RAVINA DOESGRACE (wood elf; she/her)

College of Valor program coordinator

A vibrant and energetic woman, Professor Doesgrace is a prima ballerina, a masterful choreographer, and one of the deadliest blademasters alive. She channels both her magic and her swordsmanship through the dance, blending beauty with lethality. She fights with longsword and dagger and sometimes a fierce high kick.

Besides her combat and magic classes, she also choreographs the school’s annual ballet and captains the dance team (the Planesdancers). An artistic perfectionist, she is an intense dance instructor, and often her dancers feel more beat up after an audition than her sword students after a combat practicum.

Ravina is slim and petite, with hair the orange of autumn leaves. She wears dance wear more or less all the time, usually with a towel draped over her shoulders during her physically intensive classes.