

B.M. in Music Composition

College of Fine and Performing Arts

2007-2008

Academic Advising Center

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What is the study of Music Composition?

Music composition majors learn a variety of skills enabling them to express their musical ideas in an effective manner that allows for performance of their creations. Each student receives private composition instruction along

with instruction in basic music theory, music history, conducting, lessons on their major instrument/voice and ensemble performance. While composition instruction will cover all modes, genres and periods, students may elect to

concentrate their creativity on one or more specific areas. Instruction will include introduction and advanced courses in the use of computer hardware and software.

Why should I consider a Music Composition Major?

Do you long for the skills to creatively express your musical ideas? Do you want to learn more about the art of composition and the applications of current

technology to the creating of music? If you are seriously considering a career as a composer, or if you just want to "learn how to do it right",

the Bachelor of Music degree in Composition is the ideal degree for you.

Declaring a Music Composition Major:

The prerequisite for all Music degrees is the entrance audition on the primary instrument/voice. This audition must be complete prior to the quarter in which the student intends to enroll. The audition deadline for

each fall quarter is the end of the previous May. Prospective Composition majors must also submit a portfolio of previous work for faculty review.

Auditioned, approved entering freshmen will be

declared as Music Pre-majors until such time as the appropriate area faculty approve the intended degree program. At this time the student may formally declare the intended major.

Mid Program Checkpoint:

Students intending to complete a Bachelor's of Music degree in Music Composition within four years should complete the following courses by the start of their junior year. Students are expected to follow all prerequisite requirements for courses and seek early departmental advisement.

Coursework:

Take freshman Music core courses.

Take one or more GURs each quarter.

Take sophomore Music Major core courses.

Other Activities:

Declare Music Pre-major.

Meet with the undergraduate advisor each quarter.

Seek advising and begin studies in minor or second major.

Contact Information:

<http://www.wvu.edu/music/>

Program Coordinator:

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Sample Career Fields:

- Professional Composer from Orchestras, Choirs or Wind Bands
- Music Critic
- Composer of Popular Music
- Engineer/Mixer
- Composer of Incidental Music for Movies or Television
- Editor
- Technical Writer
- Arts Administration/Manager

Professional Major: Music Composition Major Requirements: 120-22 Credits

Core Requirements: 61-65 credits

Concert Attendance: MUS 099 Concert Attendance (**Must** register each quarter in residence.)

Theory/Aural Skills: 24-27 credits

- *MUS 101 Fundamentals of Music Theory (3)
- MUS 121, 123, 125 Aural and Keyboard Skills I (1 each) (3)
- MUS 122, 124, 126 Theoretical and Analytical Skills I (3 each) (9)
- MUS 221, 223, 225 Aural and Keyboard Skills II (1 each) (3)
- MUS 222, 224, 226 Theoretical and Analytical Skills II (3 each) (9)

***Placement exam will be administered**

Advanced Theory: 6 credits

Two courses selected from:

- MUS 322 Form and Analysis: Music to 1900 (3)
- MUS 324 a/b Modal Counterpoint/Tonal Counterpoint (3)
- MUS 326 Orchestration/Arranging (3)
- MUS 328b Midi Notation and Sequences for Composition (3)
- MUS 422 Analytical Techniques: 20th Century Music (3)

Music History: 12-13 credits

- MUS 341 History of Music to 1600 (3)
- MUS 342 History of Music 1600-1830 (3)
- MUS 343 History of Music 1830 to Present (3)

One course from:

- MUS 441 Notation (3)
- MUS 442 Seminar in Music History (4)
- *MUS 443 History of Musical Genres (3)
- MUS 444 Shakespeare and Music (3)

***Voice majors must take MUS 443b or MUS 443c**

Major Performance Ensemble:

Each quarter in residence (24 credits minimum)

Other Music options:

- B.A. in Music (60 credits)
- B.A. Ed. in Music—Elementary (44 credits+ 107 credits for Elementary Education Professional Program)
- B.M. in Music Performance (120-122 credits)
- B.M. in History & Literature (122 credits)
- B.M. in Music Education—P-12 (112-116 credits plus 64 credits for Secondary Education Professional Program.)
- Minor in Music (30 credits)

Piano majors: Combination of major performing ensemble and MUS 276/476

Composition Concentration: 57 credits

Entrance by compositional accomplishment and interview—student must qualify for upper-division composition course by junior year.

Applied Instruction on instrument or voice (MUS 311-316 or MUS 411-416) (12 credits minimum)

Chamber Music: minimum 3 quarters selected from:

- MUS 275 Chamber Jazz Ensembles (2)
- MUS 278 Opera Workshop (1-2)
- MUS 280 Collegium Musicum (1-2)
- MUS 281 Applied Chamber Music (1-2)
- MUS 283 Chamber Vocal Ensembles (2)
- MUS 284 Vocal Jazz Ensemble (2)
- MUS 475 Chamber Jazz Ensembles (2) MUS 478 Advanced opera Production (1-2) MUS 480 Advanced Collegium Musicum (1-2)
- MUS 481 Advanced Applied Chamber Music (2)
- MUS 483 Advanced Chamber Vocal Ensembles (2)
- MUS 484 Advanced Vocal Jazz Ensemble (2)
- MUS 485 New Music Ensemble (1-2)

Conducting: (8 credits)

- MUS 351 Basic Conducting (2)
- MUS 352 Instrumental Conducting (3)
- MUS 353 Choral Conducting (3)

Composition: (21 credits minimum)

- MUS 231 Elementary Composition (1-2)
- MUS 331 Composition (1-3, repeatable)
- MUS 431 Composition (1-4, repeatable)

MUS 499 Senior Recital (3)

Electives selected under advisement (5)

These required or elective courses will also satisfy the GUR or other Graduation Requirement:

HUM: Music 105

ACGM: Music 205

WP: Music 343