
GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF DEGREE PROGRAMS IN COMPOSITION

Bachelor of Music program

This program is for students wanting to develop a basic craft in the manipulation of musical materials through a thorough understanding of contemporary harmonic, melodic, rhythmic, contrapuntal, and timbral elements. Over four years, undergraduate composition majors study with members of the composition faculty on a rotating basis. Composition majors take required lessons in faculty studios and participate in student ensembles.

Applicants who are seeking careers in arranging or in jazz composition should instead consider applying for a major in Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media, with an emphasis on writing skills. (Please refer to the Official Viewbook, the Jazz Supplemental Form and our website for more information about the Jazz Program).

Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts programs

The MM and DMA degree programs offer applicants a composition degree with a strong performance component. A successful audition on an applied instrument or voice is one of the entry requirements for these programs. Graduation requirements for the MM in composition include a recital of at least one hour duration, featuring the candidate as solo performer in at least one work not composed by him or her, and containing at least one work written by the student during his or her years of Eastman study.

Graduation requirements for the DMA in composition include two recitals comprising works by the composer and works performed by the composer on his or her major instrument.

Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy programs

The MA and PhD degree programs are considered research degrees, and emphasize critique and/or analysis rather than performance. Graduation requirements for the MA in composition include a written thesis with two components: an extended composition for an ensemble of at least four performers and an essay-analysis of a work written during the past 30 years.

Graduation requirements for the PhD in composition include a dissertation in the form of an extended work for orchestra, chorus or large chamber ensemble, and a research paper dealing with some historical, theoretical or analytical aspect of music. PhD candidates must also fulfill a foreign language requirement of proficiency in two foreign languages, or one foreign language and a documented research project and its application in the area of computer language or electronic music.

Applicants to MA and PhD programs do not perform an instrumental audition for entry into the program. Applied music study may be continued on a secondary basis for students enrolled in these programs, if so desired. Auditions for secondary lessons take place at the start of the fall semester.

Other Requirements

- BM, MM, and DMA applicants who are invited to interview in Rochester will be required to audition on an instrument or voice. Student compositions and pieces in jazz or popular styles are unacceptable for this audition. This audition features classical repertoire. **A successful audition on an applied instrument or voice is required for admission to these degree programs.**
- MA and PHD applicants must submit a research/analysis paper with the application. This paper should demonstrate advanced analytic, scholarly, and writing abilities. It may be a term paper, seminar report, or an MA thesis, if applicable.
- MA and PHD applicants must submit current GRE General Test scores.

More information about the composition department at Eastman may be found at

< <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/departments/composition.php> >

Composition Score Submission

- **Scores must arrive by December 1 – This is an arrival date, not a postmarked date.**
 - All composition applicants must submit a minimum of 3 scores (maximum of 4) for review by the composition faculty.
 - Oversized scores should be reduced to 11" x 17" or smaller.
 - Scores will not be returned, so do not submit original scores.
 - Recordings of composed works are encouraged, but not required. Recordings to be reviewed by composition faculty should be specifically marked as such, especially if other prescreening recordings are also submitted for instrumental prescreening review.
 - Following review by the composition faculty, a limited number of applicants will be invited to Rochester for a final interview with the composition faculty. (Do not make travel arrangements to Rochester until your interview/audition date is confirmed).
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IMPORTANT: To assist the timely processing of your application, send all your materials together to arrive by December 1 to: PRESCREENING BOX, ADMISSIONS OFFICE, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, 26 GIBBS STREET, ROCHESTER, NY 14604.

Write the Degree, Major and Instrument (as applicable) in the Top Left Corner of your mailing envelope.

Review will occur in December – Materials which arrive after departmental review will not be reviewed, and prescreening decisions are final.

You should keep this page for your records.