

**HANDBOOK FOR M.A. IN THEORY PEDAGOGY**  
**(revised June 2005)**

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## **INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION**

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN PEDAGOGY OF MUSIC THEORY (CONCENTRATING IN THEORY PEDAGOGY, SKILLS, AND COGNITION)**

This degree is intended either for theory majors who wish to focus on a teaching career (with emphasis in pedagogy, aural skills, composition, and cognition) or other graduate students who may wish to graduate with a double major in Performance and Literature (MM or DMA) and Theory. This handbook should provide the prospective or incoming student with information relevant to this degree.

### **PREREQUISITES**

Students should have taken a minimum of 24 credit hours in undergraduate theory and composition, with at least 10 credit hours in upper division courses, preferably in areas of form and analysis, counterpoint, composition, and/or orchestration. It is recommended that students take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) during their undergraduate senior year. In addition to submitting the formal application, applicants must submit a personal statement and two music history or music theory papers. All applicants to the MA are required to interview in Rochester for admission to the program.

### **ENTERING PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS**

All students accepted in the graduate theory program are required to take placement or proficiency examinations in theory and music history upon entering Eastman. These exams are scheduled during orientation week, before classes commence in the fall semester (the exams are also given before the spring semester and summer session). The academic adviser (see below) will inform the student of the results at the initial advising session. Failure on all or part of the exams will necessitate enrollment in the appropriate remedial course(s): TH 115 (Review Dictation), TH 116 (Review Analysis and Written Skills), and/or MHS 119 (Historical Survey). One (or more) graduate survey courses in music history may also be recommended: (MHS 421-426). While the 400-level history courses may count as electives in the MA program, no degree credit is granted for TH 115, TH 116, or MHS 119.

### **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

Before classes begin, entering students will meet with the MA academic adviser for theory majors to discuss the results of their placement exams and to register for appropriate courses. Course registration will continue throughout the duration of the masters program with the same adviser. One week each semester (usually in November and April) is set aside to pre-register for the following semester. Although students will sign up for appointments during this period, they should feel free to consult with their academic adviser at any time on any matter pertaining to their program.

## **COURSE LOAD**

All MA students are required to enroll full-time for at least one year and are advised to complete the degree in residence. Generally speaking, full-time enrollment for a graduate student is 12 credits per semester. However, a student holding a Graduate Award which requires him/her to work for the School achieves full-time status when enrolled for 9 or more credits per semester. Before enrolling on a part-time basis, students should be aware of the consequences of such enrollment, with respect to such things as eligibility for health insurance through the University and the possibility of student loan repayments.

## **RESIDENCE AND ENROLLMENT**

At least two consecutive terms of course work must be completed in full-time residence, with an accrued credit total of 18-24 hours. The student must be enrolled on a continuing basis while fulfilling the requirements for the degree. Should the student be unable to continue course work in residence, it will be necessary to register for a Leave of Absence (TH 985). If the program is allowed to lapse for two or more years, the student must apply to the Theory Department and Graduate Research Committee for reinstatement. The time limit for the degree from the date of entry into the MA program is five years with a prior Bachelor's degree. All requests for extensions of time must be addressed to the Graduate Research Committee.

For information on grading procedures, incomplete grades, and course audits, see the appropriate topics under Graduate Policy and Curricula in the Supplement to the Eastman Bulletin.

## **THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MA DEGREE**

The general administration of graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music is through the office of its Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, located in Room 109 of the Main Building of the School. Available in this office is the School's official Graduate Calendar, listing deadlines for various events critical to the graduate student's degree program. The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies also chairs the Graduate Research Committee, the group of faculty that reviews and approves programs of study, thesis proposals, and extensions of time submitted by graduate students. The following information pertains directly to the MA in the Pedagogy of Music Theory.

## **DEGREE INFORMATION**

### **DEGREE COURSES**

The courses listed below constitute the program for the MA in the Pedagogy of Music Theory. The designations I and II refer to fall and spring semesters respectively, while SS denotes summer school. Detailed descriptions of the individual courses follow the One-Year Program of Study.

TH 421 I, II, SS (Theory Pedagogy) 3 or 4  
TH 423 II (Multimedia Programming) 3

TH 451 I or TH 452 II (Modal/Tonal Counterpoint) 3  
TH 471-472 I-II (Apprenticeship in Pedagogy) 1, 2  
TH 475 I or TH 476 II (Intermediate/Advanced Keyboard Skills) 3  
TH 480 I, SS (Advanced Harmony and Composition) 4  
TH 511 I (Analysis of Tonal Music) 4

Applied Music or Electives 7-9 (at least three credits of which must be taken outside of music theory and at least three credits of which must be taken in music theory).

Total hours 30

## **COMPLETION TIME OF THE DEGREE**

The M.A. in music theory culminates in a teaching recital (as part of TH 472) and the M.A. Comprehensive Examination. The degree is designed to take two years, but it may, under special circumstances, be completed in fewer semesters. MMs with a double major in PRL and Theory should be able to complete both degrees in three years. DMAs with a major in PRL and Theory should expect to add another year to their studies. A possible one-year program of study is outlined below.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

TH 421: Theory Pedagogy  
TH 423: Multimedia Programming for Pedagogy and Research  
TH 451: Modal Counterpoint (or) TH 452: Eighteenth-Century Counterpoint  
TH 471/472: Apprenticeship in Pedagogy  
TH 475: Intermediate Keyboard Skills (or) TH 476: Advanced Keyboard Skills  
TH 480: Advanced Harmony and Composition  
TH 511: Theory and Analysis of Tonal Music I

### **421 (I, II-3/4) Pedagogy of Theory**

The materials, organization, techniques, and problems of the first two years of theory and aural skills teaching. Bibliographical survey of texts and anthologies. Observation and teaching of freshman and sophomore classes.

### **423 (II-3) Multimedia Programming for Pedagogy and Research.**

This course develops multimedia programming skills for application in music-theory pedagogy and as a basis for further research and study. The central focus is web-based presentation and supporting applications. Students also learn scripting languages and basic multimedia techniques for using sound, image, and video files.

Prerequisite: A basic familiarity with computers. Students with minimal familiarity with computers should meet with the instructor before enrolling in this course.

**451 (I-3) Modal Counterpoint**

Intensive work in the polyphony of the late Renaissance. Written skills involving composition through eight voices, paraphrase, cantus firmus, parody techniques, canzona and chromatic styles. Analysis of relevant literature.

**452 (II-3) Eighteenth-Century Counterpoint**

Contrapuntal techniques of the late Baroque period.

**471, 472 (I, II-1, 2) Apprenticeship in Pedagogy**

A two-semester student-mentor relationship in which the student will learn first-hand about the working of the undergraduate curriculum and then design a project. In the first semester, the student will observe each of the undergraduate core courses and, when appropriate, assist the theory faculty members who are coordinating the courses. The student will be called upon to provide occasional class tutorials or review sessions. The student will submit a written summary of each of the c. 30 observations at the end of the semester. In the second semester, the student will create, design, and craft an original project that focuses on some pedagogical aspect of the written or aural curricula. A teaching recital is also required as a final project for TH 472. Open only to M.A. in Theory Pedagogy majors.

**475 (1-3) Intermediate Keyboard Skills**

Practical experience in score reading, figured bass realization, transposition, melody harmonization, and "pop" symbols. All students are expected to perform weekly assignments at the keyboard.

**476 (II-3) Advanced Keyboard Skills**

Intensive practical experience in the realization of figured bass, score reading with emphasis on C-clefs, transposition, modulation, and improvisation. All students are expected to perform weekly assignments at the keyboard. Prerequisites: TH 475 or equivalent. An audition with the instructor, to be scheduled during the first week of fall semester, is required of all students.

**480 (I, II-3) Advanced Harmony and Composition**

A course that seeks to build a bridge between undergraduate theory studies and composition. The advanced material in Aldwell/Schacter, "Harmony and Voiceleading," furnishes a point of departure for the course. Assignments begin with melody harmonization but lead quickly into sophisticated chorale settings. More advanced compositional projects include text setting in Lieder styles of the later nineteenth century or composition of short "character" pieces. (Primarily for Theory majors. Available as an elective for other students with permission of the instructor).

**511(I-3) Theory and Analysis of Tonal Music I**

Introduction to the theories of Heinrich Schenker and their application to the analysis of tonal music. Intensive analytical work and selected readings. Prerequisite: at least one upper-level undergraduate form and analysis course.

## **APPLIED STUDIES**

Any student wishing to continue studies in his/her applied areas must first arrange an audition in order to be assigned a teacher. All auditions are scheduled through the Associate Dean's office. The student may register for one-hour lessons (3 credits per semester) or half-hour lessons (2 credits per semester).

## **ELECTIVES**

Possible electives might include CMP 221 (Composition for non-majors) - 3; MUE 402 (Measurements and Evaluation) - 2; MUE 471 (Teaching Internship) - 2; JCM 201-202 (Basic Jazz Theory) - 1 + 1; and JCM 211-212 (Improvisation) - 1 + 1. Descriptions of these courses may be found in the official Supplement to the Eastman Catalogue. Other appropriate electives may be found among the offerings of the psychology department on the River Campus.

## **THE MASTERS SKILLS EXAM**

The student in the MA Pedagogy program will take a skills examination during the last semester of study. This examination, administered during Jury Week in the Spring semester, will consist of both prepared and at-sight work. Model examinations for study can be found in the Theory department office. The examination will be attended and graded by three Theory faculty.

## **THE TEACHING RECITAL**

In lieu of a thesis, the student in the MA Pedagogy program will present a Teaching Recital (or model class presentation) during the last semester of TH 472 which will effectively illustrate the various areas involving the teaching of theory. It will be attended and graded by the instructor of TH 472 and two other Theory faculty.

## **GRADUATION**

Those students desiring to graduate at the Spring Commencement must file a degree application card with the registrar by February 1. The degree can be officially conferred in May, October, or February. For the deadlines of the latter two degree-conferrals, consult the secretary to the Associate Dean.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

### **GRADUATE AWARDS**

Financial support from Eastman to its graduate students is available through the School's Graduate Award program. Award-holders are designated as "teaching assistants" (TAs). TAs teach in the aural skills (musicianship) curriculum for at least one year, and may teach in the written theory curriculum in their second year. The normal graduate award carries at least 12 credit hours of tuition remission and a stipend of at least \$4,000 per year. In addition, holders of a Graduate Award will be asked to assist the faculty with admission and placement testing on audition days and during orientation week. Assuming satisfactory work as a student and as an Award-holder, Graduate Award recipients normally are supported in this way for the duration of their degree(s).

Graduate Awards are issued by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Chair of the Theory Department. The student must register his/her intentions to apply for an assistantship with the Chair early in the spring for the following fall semester. Students are normally notified of the nature and tuition/stipend of the assistantship in April or May. As noted before, Graduate Award holders who wish to be enrolled on a full-time basis must carry at least 9 credits per semester.

### **CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT**

Before graduation, the student is advised to secure reference letters from selected faculty members to go on file in the Career Planning and Placement office (SLC 103). There is a fee to initiate the placement file and a continuing fee per year thereafter to keep it active. The student should also keep in contact with the Placement office, the Theory Department secretary, and faculty concerning possible job offerings that may arise.

### **INTÉGRAL**

The graduate theory students, in conjunction with the Eastman School, publish an annual refereed journal entitled *Intégral*. It has featured a wide range of topics by acknowledged scholars in the field. For further information, consult the current student editor(s).

### **THEORY SYMPOSIA**

The graduate theory students plan and present a series of bi-weekly symposia throughout the year. These colloquia deal with topics and issues of current theoretical and related interest. In addition to invited speakers and faculty members, student presentations on research in progress are scheduled. The Musicology and Composition Departments also sponsor similar series in their respective areas.

## **INVITED SPEAKERS**

Periodically the Theory Department will invite prominent scholars in various areas of music theory or musicology to deliver papers at the school. The time and place for these presentations are posted well in advance.

## **CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES**

The student is encouraged (within his/her financial limits) to attend regional and/or national theory conferences as often as possible to keep abreast of recent developments and to make contacts with eminent scholars in his/her area of research. The Graduate Student Association may reimburse a certain percentage of the costs incurred to attend a conference. Any promising papers or projects from courses should be written up as proposals (upon consultation and advice from the mentor and other faculty) and submitted to various conventions. Many of the regional theory societies and conferences now offer a prize for the best graduate student paper read at their respective conventions (for instance, the Music Theory Society of New York State). The inclusion of papers read or articles published represents a valuable asset to one's *vitae* prior to graduation and is strongly encouraged.