

MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION (MM)

Department Website (<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/>)

NYSED: 31651 HEGIS: 1004.10 CIP: 50.0904

Program Description

The Master of Music in Music Theory and Composition offers three concentrations in the following areas:

Concert Music Composition

This concentration involves lessons, courses, and seminars aimed toward providing composers a well-rounded education in contemporary practice as well as opportunities to hear their compositions performed.

Composers choose music electives and composition courses to enhance areas of particular interests. Opportunities for performance include projects with the percussion, strings, and vocal performance programs, residencies/readings with the NYU Contemporary Ensemble and NYU Orchestra, and collaborations with visiting guest ensembles.

Composers also have the opportunity to study electroacoustic and computer music composition through the department's multiple on-site music production labs (including the James Dolan recording studio with 10.2 surround sound and SSL Duality), as well as through University-wide computing facilities, offering students multimedia workstations.

Screen Scoring

This concentration offers intensive professional training in composing for film, television, video games, and media. Students examine music for moving images and popular song through their rich histories and aesthetics. Students engage in collaborative projects that result in screenings at major film festivals and performances in national and international venues.

Songwriting

This concentration offers intensive professional training in the art and craft of songwriting. Students examine popular song through its rich history and aesthetics.

Admissions

Admission to graduate programs in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development requires the following minimum components:

- Résumé/CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Proficiency in English

See NYU Steinhardt's Graduate Admissions website (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/admissions/how-apply/graduate-students/>) for additional information on school-wide admission. Some programs may require additional components for admissions.

See How to Apply for admission requirements and instructions specific to each concentration:

- Concert Music Composition (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/mm-music-theory-and-composition-concert-music/how-apply/>)
- Screen Scoring (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/mm-music-theory-and-composition-screen-scoring/how-apply/>)
- Songwriting (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/mm-music-theory-and-composition-songwriting/how-apply/>)

Program Requirements

The program requires the completion of 39 credits, and students choose one of the following concentrations:

Concert Music Composition

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
<i>Core</i>		
Select one Music Theory (T) & one Music History/Literature (H) - by advisement:		6
MPATC-GE 2039	Contemporary Music (H)	
MPATC-GE 2046	Music Criticism (H)	
MPATC-GE 2069	Opera in The 20th Cent (H)	
MPATC-GE 2095	Songwriting History and Criticism (H)	
MPATC-GE 2096	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs (H)	
MPATC-GE 200X	Seminar in Music Theory (T)	
MPATC-GE 2550	Screen Music: History, Analysis, and Aesthetics. (H)	
<i>Music Composition Concentration</i>		
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons (taken three times for 3 points each)	9
MPATC-GE 2027	Seminar in Composition: String Quartet I	3
MPATC-GE 2028	Seminar in Composition: String Quartet II	3
MPATC-GE 2520	Seminar in Composition: Masterclass with Julia Wolfe	1
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum	3
MPATC-GE 2127	Aesthetics/Compositional Process in Symphony	3
or MPATC-GE 2082	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music	
<i>Terminal Experience</i>		
MPATC-GE 2026	Colloquy in Music	3
Electives ¹		
<i>Guided Electives</i>		
Select eight units by advisement from a wide selection of courses:		8
MPAME-GE 2118		
MPATC-GE 2018	16th-Century Counterpoint	
MPATC-GE 2019	18th-Century Counterpoint	
MPATC-GE 2021	Seminar in Composition: Chamber Ensembles and Electronics	

MPATC-GE 2042	Psychology of Music
MPATC-GE 2049	Contemporary Scoring Techniques
MPATC-GE 204X	Scoring Techniques Film and Animation or Video Games
MPATC-GE 2109	Narrative Writing for Music Analysis
MPATC-GE 2131	Conducting: Foundations
MPATC-GE 2133	Conducting: Intermediate Instrumental
MPATC-GE 2135	Conducting: Advanced Instrumental
MPATC-GE 220X	Seminar in Music Theory
MPATC-GE 2555	Music Editing for Screen Music
MPATE-GE 2047	Advanced Computer Music
MPATE-GE 2135	Mixing in the Digital Audio Workstation
MPATE-GE 2604	Game Audio I
MPATE-GE 2604	Game Audio I (Audio for Games and Immersive Environments)
MPATE-GE 2609	Electronic Music Performance
MPATE-GE 2620	Audio for Video I
MPATE-GE 2629	Adv Audio Production
MPATE-GE 2636	
MPATE-GE 2650	Ear Training for Audio Engineers

Total Credits **39**

1

Core courses and concentration courses not counting towards the concentration may also count as electives.

Screen Scoring

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
<i>Foundations</i>		
MPATC-GE 2024	Seminar in Composition: Advanced Scoring Toolkit	3
MPATC-GE 2550	Screen Music: History, Analysis, and Aesthetics.	3
<i>Area of Concentration: Screen Scoring</i>		
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum (2 semesters for 1 unit)	2
MPATC-GE 2429	Music Notation	1
MPATC-GE 2049	Contemporary Scoring Techniques	3
MPATC-GE 2041	Scoring Techniques: Video Games (Film and Animation, Video Games)	3
MPATC-GE 2555	Music Editing for Screen Music	3

9 points of these courses, with a maximum of 3 points in the Masterclass. Placement in the Masterclass course is by advisement only

MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons (repeatable)	
MPATC-GE 2322	Composition Masterclass (repeatable)	
Choose one orchestration course by placement:		3
MPATC-GE 2088	Orchestration I	
MPATC-GE 2098	Orchestration II	
MPATC-GE 2081	Advanced Orchestration: Screen Scoring	

Terminal Experience

MPATC-GE 2026	Colloquy in Music	3
---------------	-------------------	---

Electives¹

Guided Electives

Select six units by advisement from a wide selection of courses: 6

MPATC-GE 2025	African-American Music: Its Origins and Influence	
MPATC-GE 2041	Scoring Techniques: Video Games	
MPATC-GE 2042	Psychology of Music	
MPATC-GE 2048	Scoring Techniques: Film & Animation	
MPATC-GE 2080	Advanced Orchestration	
MPATC-GE 2082	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music	
MPATC-GE 2090	Song Writers Forum	
MPATC-GE 2095	Songwriting History and Criticism	
MPATC-GE 2096	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	
MPATC-GE 2098	Orchestration II	
MPATC-GE 2131	Conducting: Foundations	
MPATC-GE 2133	Conducting: Intermediate Instrumental	
MPATC-GE 2134	Conducting: Advanced Musical Theater	
MPATC-GE 2135	Conducting: Advanced Instrumental	
MPATC-GE 2135	Conducting: Advanced Instrumental (Mixing in the Digital Audio Workstation)	
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum	
MPATC-GE 2506	Rights, Revenue & Relationships: What Music Creators Need to Know	
MPATE-GE 202X	Seminar in Composition	

MPATE-GE 2047	Advanced Computer Music	
MPATE-GE 2604	Game Audio I	
MPATE-GE 2604	Game Audio I (Audio for Games and Immersive Environments)	
MPATE-GE 2620	Audio for Video I	
MPATE-GE 2629	Adv Audio Production	
MPATE-GE 2636		
MPATE-GE 2650	Ear Training for Audio Engineers	
Total Credits		39

Songwriting

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
<i>Core</i>		
MPATC-GE 2095	Songwriting History and Criticism	3
MPATC-GE 2096	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	3
<i>Area of Concentration: Screen Scoring</i>		
MPATC-GE 2090	Song Writers Forum (taken twice for 3 points, each)	6
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons (taken three times for 3 points, each) ¹	9
MPAMB-GE 2506		3
Choose one production course by placement and advisement: 3		
MPATC-GE 2049	Contemporary Scoring Techniques	
MPATC-GE 2637		
MPATC-GE 2638		
MPATC-GE 2135	Conducting: Advanced Instrumental	
<i>Terminal Experience</i>		
MPATC-GE 2026	Colloquy in Music	3
Electives		
<i>Guided Electives</i>		
Select nine units by advisement: ² 9		
MPATC-GE 2025	African-American Music: Its Origins and Influence	
MPATC-GE 2501	Narrative and Theatrical Songwriting	
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum	
MPAVP-GE, MPAJZ-GE, or MPAXX-GE 2321	Secondary Private Lesson (in Vocal Performance, Jazz Studies, or Instrumental Performance)	
MPAVP-GE 2181	Instrumental Techniques and Materials: Chamber Music	

MPAMB-GE 2225	Music Publishing: Background Practice
MPAJZ-GE 2273	Jazz Arranging & Composition I (including Jazz Theory I)
MPATC-GE 2135	Conducting: Advanced Instrumental
MPATE-GE 2650	Ear Training for Audio Engineers
MPATE-GE 2629	Adv Audio Production
MPATC-GE 204X	Scoring Techniques (for Film and Animation or Video Games)
MPATC-GE 2550	Screen Music: History, Analysis, and Aesthetics.
MPATC-GE 2555	Music Editing for Screen Music
MPAMB-GE 2201	Artists and Repertoire Seminar Music Business
MPAMB-GE 2101	Principles and Practice in The Music Industry
MPAMT-GE 2946	Music Improvisation for Artistic Growth
MPATC-GE 2088	Orchestration I
MPATC-GE 2XXX	Orchestration II
MPATC-GE 2081	Advanced Orchestration: Screen Scoring
MPATE-GE 2604	Game Audio I
MPATE-GE 2604	Game Audio I (Audio for Games and Immersive Environment)
MPATE-GE 2047	Advanced Computer Music
MPATE-GE 2620	Audio for Video I
MPAME-GE 2021	Music Reference and Research Materials
MPATC-GE 202X	Seminar in Composition
MPATC-GE 2039	Contemporary Music
MPATC-GE 2042	Psychology of Music
MPATC-GE 2046	Music Criticism
MPATC-GE 2069	Opera in The 20th Cent
MPATC-GE 2082	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music
MPATC-GE 2109	Narrative Writing for Music Analysis
MPATC-GE 2127	Aesthetics/Compositional Process in Symphony
MPATC-GE 2131	Conducting: Foundations

MPATC-GE 2133	Conducting: Intermediate Instrumental
MPATC-GE 2134	Conducting: Advanced Musical Theater
MPATC-GE 2135	Conducting: Advanced Instrumental
MPATC-GE 220X	Seminar in Music Theory
MPATC-GE 2429	Music Notation
MPAME-GE 2118	
Total Credits	39

1
May be taken a fourth time as an elective.

2
This is a sample of pertinent courses. Many more are available.

Sample Plan of Study Concert Music Composition

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons	3
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum	1
MPATC-GE 2027	Seminar in Composition: String Quartet I	3
MPATC-GE 2082	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music	3
MPATC-GE 2039	Contemporary Music	3
Credits		13
2nd Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons	3
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum	1
MPATC-GE 2028	Seminar in Composition: String Quartet II	3
MPATC-GE 220X	Seminar in Music Theory	3
Elective I		2
Credits		12
3rd Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons	3
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum	1
MPATC-GE 2026	Colloquy in Music	3
MPATC-GE 2XXX	Elective II	2
Credits		9
4th Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2021	Seminar in Composition: Chamber Ensembles and Electronics (optional)	3
MPATC-GE 2XXX	Elective III (as needed or desired)	2
Credits		5
Total Credits		39

Screen Scoring

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2550	Screen Music: History, Analysis, and Aesthetics. (2 semesters for 1 unit)	3
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum (2 semesters for 1 unit)	1
MPATC-GE 2049	Contemporary Scoring Techniques	3
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons (repeatable)	3
Credits		10

2nd Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2429	Music Notation	1
MPATC-GE 2555	Music Editing for Screen Music	3
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons (repeatable)	3
MPATC-GE 2088 or MPATC-GE 2098 or MPATC-GE 2080	Orchestration I or Orchestration II or Advanced Orchestration	3
Credits		10
3rd Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2424	Composers Forum (2 semesters for 1 unit)	1
MPATC-GE 2041	Scoring Techniques: Video Games (Film and Animation, Video Games)	3
MPATC-GE 2321	Private Composition Lessons (repeatable)	3
Elective		3
Credits		10
4th Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2024	Seminar in Composition: Advanced Scoring Toolkit	3
MPATC-GE 2026	Colloquy in Music	3
Elective		3
Credits		9
Total Credits		39

Songwriting

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2090	Song Writers Forum	3
MPATC-GE 2095	Songwriting History and Criticism	3
MPATC-GE 2049	Contemporary Scoring Techniques	3
MPATC-GE 1021		3
Credits		12
2nd Semester/Term		
MPTAC-GE 2056		3
MPATC-GE 2096	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	3
MPATE-GE 2637	Advanced Topics in Music Technology: Production for Songwriters	3
MPATC-GE 1021		3
Credits		12
3rd Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2090	Song Writers Forum	3
MPATC-GE 2025	African-American Music: Its Origins and Influence	3
MPATC-GE 2501	Narrative and Theatrical Songwriting	3
Credits		9
4th Semester/Term		
MPATC-GE 2026	Colloquy in Music (includes Terminal Experience project)	3
MPATC-GE 1021		3
NOTE: Many students, including most international, students, take 3 additional points in order to maintain full-time status.		
Credits		6
Total Credits		39

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Apply their technical skills to future technology and music aesthetics.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in the aesthetics of music composition.
3. Engage in a variety of collaborative environments.
4. Navigate professional landscapes.
5. Demonstrate scholarship and research skills in their field of study.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

Steinhardt Academic Policies

Additional academic policies can be found the Steinhardt academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/culture-education-human-development/academic-policies/>).