

MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION (BM)

NYSED: 33429 HEGIS: 1004.10 CIP: 50.0903

Program Description

Music Theory and Composition students are actively involved in the organization and performance of their own works, in concerts and readings by NYU performance groups in residence, in school performing ensembles, as well as in chamber groups specially hired for specific composition concerts. There is a very active weekly meeting of our department's Composers Forum, in which students meet and work with world-renowned composers and performers, prepare two student showcases per semester, and attend highlights in the New York City new music concert season.

Composers have many opportunities to collaborate with performers, dancers, actors, and multimedia applications, which include music technology, jazz studies, and instrumental and vocal performance programs. Composers will also have the opportunity to work with musicians and other artists from New York City.

Concentrations

The program offers three concentrations:

Concert Music

Students in this concentration take courses in orchestration and conducting, have multiple opportunities to have their concert works performed in concerts, residencies, and readings by NYU performance groups, and collaborate with performers, dancers, and actors. Students participate in a weekly composers forum, prepare two student showcases per semester, and attend highlights in the New York City new music concert season.

Contemporary Production and Songwriting

In this concentration in contemporary production and songwriting, students study the music industry and the craft of writing, producing, and recording songs, through intensive course work and collaboration with professional musicians. The concentration includes courses in songwriting history and criticism, studio production skills and techniques, and the business structure of the music industry. Students take private lessons, learn to use industry-standard music technology, and participate in the Songwriters Forum, a seminar geared toward developing the art and craft of writing popular songs.

Screen Scoring

The concentration for scoring for film and multimedia requires a set of courses designed to provide the diverse knowledge necessary for working with visual media. The courses focus on technology, composition, aesthetics, and historical approaches for music written for the screen.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

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

- Concert Music (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/bm-music-theory-and-composition-concert-music/how-audition/>)
- Contemporary Production and Songwriting (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/bm-music-theory-and-composition-contemporary-production-and-songwriting/how-audition/>)
- Screen Scoring (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/bm-music-theory-and-composition-screen-scoring/how-audition/>)

Program Requirements

Concert Music

Course	Title	Credits
Liberal Arts Requirements		
<i>Foreign Language</i>		
	Select four credits of a foreign language	4
<i>Expository Writing</i>		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
ACE-UE 110	Advanced College Essay: Educ & The Professions	4
<i>Foundations of Contemporary Culture</i>		
	Texts and Ideas ¹	4
	Cultures and Contexts ¹	4
<i>Foundations of Scientific Inquiry</i>		
	Quantitative Reasoning Mathematics ¹	4
	Physical/Life Science ¹	4
<i>Other Liberal Arts Requirements</i>		
MPATC-UE 1067	Music History I	2
MPATC-UE 1068	Music History II: Baroque & Classical	2
MPATC-UE 1077	Music History III	2
	Select one of the following by advisement:	2
MPATC-UE 1195	Songwriting History and Criticism (14 Songs)	
MPATC-UE 1196	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	
MPATC-UE 1078	Music History IV: Twentieth Century	
MPATC-UE 1500	Film Music: Historical Aesthetics/Perspectives	
MPAVP-UE 1351	Music Theatre Hist I	
MPAVP-UE 1352	Music Theatre Hist II	
<i>Music in World Cultures</i>		
MPATC-UE 1123	Context and Analysis in World Music	
MPAJZ-UE 1121	Jazz History	
<i>Unrestricted Liberal Arts Elective</i>		
	Select four credits of Unrestricted Liberal Arts Electives	4
Specialization Requirements		
<i>Required Music Courses</i>		
MPATC-UE 6		1
MPATC-UE 7		1

MPATC-UE 8	Aural Compr in Music III	1
MPATC-UE 9		1
MPATC-UE 35	Music Theory I	2
MPATC-UE 36		2
MPATC-UE 37	Music Theory III	2
MPATC-UE 38		2
or MPAJZ-UE 1039	Jazz Theory & Ear Training I	
MPAPE-UE 72	Keyboard Skills I	1
MPAPE-UE 73	Keyboard Skills II	1
MPATC-UE 92	Collegium & Program Sem ²	0
MPATC-UE 1092	Junior Experience	1
MPATC-UE 1192	Music Composition Undergraduate Capstone	1
<i>Music Composition Specialization Courses</i>		
MPATC-UE 27		2
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	24
MPATC-UE 1088	Orchestration I	3
MPAMB-UE 100	Business Structure of The Music Industry	2
MPATE-UE 1801	Fundamentals of Music Technology	2
<i>Concert Music Concentration Courses</i>		
MPATC-UE 1018	16th-Century Counterpoint	2
or MPATC-UE 1019	18th-Century Counterpoint	
MPATC-UE 1098	Orchestration II	3
MPATC-GE 2082	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music	3
Seminar in Composition		3
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum (4 semesters for 1 credit)	4
<i>Unrestricted Electives</i>		
Select 24 Unrestricted Elective credits		24
<i>Additional Requirements</i>		
SAHS-UE 1	New Student Seminar	0
Writing Proficiency Examination		
Total Credits		128

1

By advisement.

2

Required every semester.

Steinhardt Liberal Arts Core (<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/advisement/LAC/>)

Contemporary Production and Songwriting

Course	Title	Credits
Liberal Arts Requirements		
<i>Foreign Language</i>		
Select four credits of a foreign language		4
<i>Expository Writing</i>		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
ACE-UE 110	Advanced College Essay: Educ & The Professions	4
<i>Foundations of Contemporary Culture</i>		
Texts and Ideas ¹		4
Cultures and Contexts ¹		4

<i>Foundations of Scientific Inquiry</i>		
Quantitative Reasoning/Mathematics ¹		4
Physical/Life Science ¹		4
<i>Other Liberal Arts Requirements</i>		
MPATC-UE 1195	Songwriting History and Criticism (14 Songs)	2
MPATC-UE 1196	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	2
Select two of the following by advisement:		4
MPATC-UE 1067	Music History I	
MPATC-UE 1068	Music History II: Baroque & Classical	
MPATC-UE 1077	Music History III	
MPATC-UE 1078	Music History IV: Twentieth Century	
MPATC-UE 1500	Film Music: Historical Aesthetics/Perspectives	
MPAVP-UE 1351	Music Theatre Hist I	
MPAVP-UE 1352	Music Theatre Hist II	
Music in World Cultures		
MPATC-UE 1123	Context and Analysis in World Music	
<i>Unrestricted Liberal Arts Elective</i>		
Select 4 Unrestricted Liberal Arts Elective credits		4
Specialization Requirements		
<i>Required Music Courses</i>		
MPATC-UE 6		1
MPATC-UE 7		1
MPATC-UE 8	Aural Compr in Music III	1
MPATC-UE 9	²	1
MPATC-UE 35	Music Theory I	2
MPATC-UE 36		2
MPATC-UE 37	Music Theory III	2
MPATC-UE 38	²	2
MPAJZ-UE 1039	Jazz Theory & Ear Training I ²	2
MPAPE-UE 72	Keyboard Skills I	1
MPAPE-UE 73	Keyboard Skills II	1
MPATC-UE 92	Collegium & Program Sem ³	0
MPATC-UE 1092	Junior Experience ⁴	2
<i>Music Composition Specialization Courses</i>		
MPATC-UE 27		2
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	24
MPATC-UE 1088	Orchestration I	3
MPAMB-UE 100	Business Structure of The Music Industry	2
MPATE-UE 1801	Fundamentals of Music Technology	2
<i>Concentration in Contemporary Production and Songwriting</i>		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum (2 semesters for 1 credit)	2
MPATC-UE 1190	Song Writers Forum (2 semesters for 2 credits)	4
MPATE-GE 2637	Advanced Topics in Music Technology: Production for Songwriters	3
MPAMB-UE 205	Music Publishing	2

MPATC-UE 1049	Contemporary Scoring: Creative & Technological Practices	3
Orchestration/Arranging:		
Select one of the following:		
MPATC-UE 1098	Orchestration II	3
MPAJZ-UE 1119	Jazz Arranging & Composition I	
<i>Electives</i>		
Select 20 elective credits		20
<i>Additional Requirements</i>		
SAHS-UE 1	New Student Seminar	0
Writing Proficiency Examination		
Total Credits		128

- 1
By advisement.
- 2
Passing score on Comprehensive Exam in Theory and Aural Skills is required for completion.
- 3
Required every semester.
- 4
Required one credit in Junior and Senior year.

Steinhardt Liberal Arts Core (<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/advisement/LAC/>)

Screen Scoring

Course	Title	Credits
Liberal Arts Requirements		
<i>Foreign Language</i>		
Select four credits of a foreign language		4
<i>Expository Writing</i>		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
ACE-UE 110	Advanced College Essay: Educ & The Professions	4
<i>Foundations of Contemporary Culture</i>		
Texts and Ideas ¹		4
Cultures and Contexts ¹		4
<i>Foundations of Scientific Inquiry</i>		
Quantitative Reasoning/Mathematics ¹		4
Physical/Life Science ¹		4
<i>Other Liberal Arts Requirements</i>		
MPATC-UE 1500	Film Music: Historical Aesthetics/Perspectives	2
Select three of the following by advisement (6 credits):		6
MPATC-UE 1067	Music History I	
MPATC-UE 1068	Music History II: Baroque & Classical	
MPATC-UE 1077	Music History III	
MPATC-UE 1078	Music History IV: Twentieth Century	
MPATC-UE 1195	Songwriting History and Criticism (14 Songs)	

MPATC-UE 1196	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	
MPAVP-UE 1351	Music Theatre Hist I	
MPAVP-UE 1352	Music Theatre Hist II	
<i>Music in World Cultures</i>		
MPATC-UE 1123	Context and Analysis in World Music	
MPAJZ-UE 1121	Jazz History	

Unrestricted Liberal Arts Elective

Select 4 Unrestricted Liberal Arts Elective credits	4
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Specialization Requirements

Required Music Courses

MPATC-UE 6		1
MPATC-UE 7		1
MPATC-UE 8	Aural Compr in Music III	1
MPATC-UE 9	²	1
MPATC-UE 35	Music Theory I	2
MPATC-UE 36		2
MPATC-UE 37	Music Theory III	2
MPATC-UE 38		2
or MPAJZ-UE 1039	Jazz Theory & Ear Training I	
MPAPE-UE 72	Keyboard Skills I	1
MPAPE-UE 73	Keyboard Skills II	1
MPATC-UE 92	Collegium & Program Sem ²	0
MPATC-UE 1092	Junior Experience	1
MPATC-UE 1192	Music Composition Undergraduate Capstone	1
<i>Music Composition Specialization Courses</i>		
MPATC-UE 27		2
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	24
MPATC-UE 1088	Orchestration I	3
MPAMB-UE 100	Business Structure of The Music Industry	2
MPATE-UE 1801	Fundamentals of Music Technology	2
<i>Concentration in Screen Scoring</i>		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum (2 semesters for 1 credit)	2
MPATC-UE 1049	Contemporary Scoring: Creative & Technological Practices	3
MPATC-UE 1248	Composing for Film and Multimedia	3
MPATC-GE 1113		3
MPATC-GE 2555	Music Editing for Screen Music	3
MPATC-UE 1098	Orchestration II	3
<i>Unrestricted Electives</i>		
Select 22 Unrestricted Elective credits		22
<i>Additional Requirements</i>		
SAHS-UE 1	New Student Seminar	0
Writing Proficiency Examination		
Total Credits		128

- 1
By advisement.

2

Required every semester.

Steinhardt Liberal Arts Core (<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/advisement/LAC/>)

Sample Plan of Study Concert Music

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1301	Theory & Practice I: Global Approaches to Music	2
MPATC-UE 1302	Aural Skills I: Global Approaches to Music	1
MPAPE-UE 72	Keyboard Skills I	1
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
MPATE-UE 1801	Fundamentals of Music Technology	2
MPATC-GE 2429	Music Notation	1
Credits		15
2nd Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1088	Orchestration I	3
MPATC-UE 1311	Theory & Practice II: Tonal Harmony & Voice Leading	2
MPATC-UE 1321	Aural Skills II: Tonal Harmony & Voice Leading	1
MPAPE-UE 73	Keyboard Skills II	1
ACE-UE 110	Advanced College Essay: Educ & The Professions	4
MPAPS-UE 1261	Percussion Practicum for Composition	2
Credits		17
3rd Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1098	Orchestration II	3
MPATC-UE 1331		2
MPATC-UE 1341		1
MPATC-UE 1067	Music History I	2
Liberal Arts		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1068	Music History II: Baroque & Classical	2
MPATC-UE 1332	Advanced Theory & Practice: Post Tonal and Contemporary Music	2
MPATC-UE 1342	Advanced Aural Skills: Post Tonal and Extended Chromaticism	1
MPATC-UE 1018 or MPATC-UE 1019	16th-Century Counterpoint or 18th-Century Counterpoint	2
Liberal Arts course		4
Credits		15
5th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1092	Junior Experience	1
MPATC-UE 1112	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music	3
MPATC-UE 1077	Music History III	2
Liberal Arts		4
Electives		2
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3

MPATC-UE 1078	Music History IV: Twentieth Century	2
Seminar in Composition		3
Liberal Arts		4
Electives		3

Credits **16**

7th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
Seminar in Music Theory		3
Liberal Arts Electives		4
MPATC-UE 1156 or MPAMB-UE 100	Rights, Revenue & Relationships: Career-Building for Music Creators or Business Structure of The Music Industry	2
Electives		5

Credits **18**

8th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1192	Music Composition Undergraduate Capstone	1
Electives		10

Credits **15**

Total Credits **128**

Contemporary Production and Songwriting

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
EXPOS-UE 1		4
MPATC-UE 1302	Aural Skills I: Global Approaches to Music	1
MPATC-UE 1301	Theory & Practice I: Global Approaches to Music	2
MPAPE-UE 72	Keyboard Skills I	1
MPATC-UE 1801		2
MPATC-UE 1052	Introduction to Songwriting and Production	2
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
SAHS-UE 1	New Student Seminar	0
Credits		15
2nd Semester/Term		
ACE-UE 110	Advanced College Essay: Educ & The Professions	4
MPATC-UE 1322	Aural Skills II: Popular Music	1
MPATC-UE 1312	Theory & Practice II: Popular Music	2
MPAPE-UE 73	Keyboard Skills II	1
MPATC-UE 1049	Contemporary Scoring: Creative & Technological Practices	3
MPATC-UE 1190	Song Writers Forum	2
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
Texts and Ideas		4
MPATC-UE 1195	Songwriting History and Criticism	2
MPATC-UE 1344	Advanced Aural Skills: Popular Music Transcription	1
MPAJZ-UE 1039	Jazz Theory & Ear Training I	2
MPATC-UE 1634	Drums, Drum Machines and DAWs	2
MPATC-UE 1501	Narrative and Theatrical Songwriting	3
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Credits		17
4th Semester/Term		
Foreign Language		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
MPATC-UE 1196	Songwriting History and Criticisms: 14 Songs	2
MPATC-UE 1088	Orchestration I	3

MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Quantitative Reasoning Mathematics		4
Music History Elective (by advisement)		2
MPATC-UE 1092	Junior Experience	1
MPATC-GE 2506	Rights, Revenue & Relationships: What Music Creators Need to Know	3
MPAJZ-UE 1119	Jazz Arranging & Composition I	3
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Physical/Life Sciences or Societies and Social Sciences		4
Music History Elective (by advisement)		2
MPATC-GE 2637	or	3
	or MPATC-GE 2638	
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Unrestricted Electives		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1190	Song Writers Forum	2
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Unrestricted Liberal Arts Elective		4
Unrestricted Elective (by advisement)		7
Credits		17
8th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1192	Music Composition Undergraduate Capstone	1
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
Unrestricted Elective (by advisement)		10
Credits		15
Total Credits		128

Screen Scoring

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1301	Theory & Practice I: Global Approaches to Music	2
MPATC-UE 1302	Aural Skills I: Global Approaches to Music	1
MPAPE-UE 72	Keyboard Skills I	1
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
MPATE-UE 1801	Fundamentals of Music Technology	2
MPATC-GE 2429	Music Notation	1
Credits		15
2nd Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1088	Orchestration I	3
MPATC-UE 1311	Theory & Practice II: Tonal Harmony & Voice Leading	2
MPATC-UE 1321	Aural Skills II: Tonal Harmony & Voice Leading	1
MPAPE-UE 73	Keyboard Skills II	1
ACE-UE 110	Advanced College Essay: Educ & The Professions	4
MPAPS-UE 1261	Percussion Practicum for Composition	2
Credits		17
3rd Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1098	Orchestration II	3
MPATC-UE 1331		2

MPATC-UE 1341		1
MPATC-UE 1067	Music History I	2
Liberal Arts		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1068	Music History II: Baroque & Classical	2
MPATC-UE 1332	Advanced Theory & Practice: Post Tonal and Contemporary Music	2
MPATC-UE 1342	Advanced Aural Skills: Post Tonal and Extended Chromaticism	1
MPATC-UE 1018	16th-Century Counterpoint	2
	or MPATC-UE 1019	or 18th-Century Counterpoint
Liberal Arts course		4
Credits		15
5th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1092	Junior Experience	1
MPATC-UE 1112	Advanced Orchestration: Concert Music	3
MPATC-UE 1077	Music History III	2
Liberal Arts		4
Electives		2
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1078	Music History IV: Twentieth Century	2
Seminar in Composition		3
Liberal Arts		4
Electives		3
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
Seminar in Music Theory		3
Liberal Arts Electives		4
MPATC-UE 1156	Rights, Revenue & Relationships: Career-Building for Music Creators	2
	or MPAMB-UE 100	or Business Structure of The Music Industry
Electives		5
Credits		18
8th Semester/Term		
MPATC-UE 1021	Composition (Private Lessons)	3
MPATC-UE 1424	Composer's Forum	1
MPATC-UE 1192	Music Composition Undergraduate Capstone	1
Electives		10
Credits		15
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Engage in a variety of collaborative environments.
2. Develop foundational capacity as scholars and researchers.
3. Apply their technical skills to future technology and music aesthetics.
4. Be competent in navigating professional landscapes.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in the aesthetics of music composition.

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/undergraduate/culture-education-human-development/academic-policies/>).