

Composition, B.F.A.

Overview

With an intense program in composition and a university environment enriched by computer technology, the School of Music places a strong emphasis on contemporary music. All members of the composition faculty are professional composers, who share the creative evolution of their own works with their students in a master/apprentice relationship. Students compose works for all types of instrumental and vocal groupings.

The Composition Program at the Carnegie Mellon School of Music values:

An open mind, a commitment to hard work, and a willingness to try new things as a way of opening up creative possibilities. We have no "House Style" here, but we do believe that there is something to be learned from any type of music.

An Undergraduate degree (BFA) in Composition provides guidance, space, and time to:

- explore and develop your creative voice
- learn about and try new methods for generating and developing material
- develop the technical skills necessary to best communicate your ideas to performers and audiences through notated scores.

Any composer's goals are achieved through rigorous work in: ear training, transcription, an understanding of creative health, orchestration, score study, analysis, listening and discussion, and regular concert attendance. **As always, the best teacher is to put your work into practice; students are expected to compose regularly and share their work publicly during their time at CMU.**

Bachelor of Science Programs in Music	Minimum Units Required for Graduation
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Composition	395

Curriculum

First-Year Fall (53 units)

	Units
57-031 Composers Forum	1
57-100 Convocation	1
57-101 Introduction to Music Technology	6
57-149 Basic Harmony I	9
or 57-152 Harmony I	
57-161 Eurhythmics I	3
57-180 Basic Solfege I	3
or 57-181 Solfege I	
or 57-185 Advanced Solfege I	
57-191 Keyboard Studies I	3
or 57-193 Keyboard Studies III	
57-418 Major Instrumental Ensemble	6
or 57-419 Chorus	
57-521 Major Studio (Composition)	9
76-1XX First-Year Writing Course	9
99-101 Core@CMU	3
	53

First-Year Spring (53 units)

57-031 Composers Forum	1
57-100 Convocation	1
57-150 Basic Harmony II	9
or 57-153 Harmony II	
57-162 Eurhythmics II	3
57-182 Solfege II	3
or 57-186 Advanced Solfege II	
57-192 Keyboard Studies II	3
or 57-194 Keyboard Studies IV	
57-283 Music History I	9
57-418 Major Instrumental Ensemble	6

or 57-419 Chorus	
57-521 Major Studio (Composition)	9
XX-XXX Global, Cultural, & Diverse Perspectives Course	9
	53

Second-Year Fall (53 units)

57-031 Composers Forum	1
57-100 Convocation	1
57-151 Counterpoint in Theory and Application	6
57-163 Eurhythmics III	3
57-183 Solfege III	3
or 57-487 Advanced Solfege III	
57-193 Keyboard Studies III	3
57-257 Orchestration I	6
57-284 Music History II	9
57-418 Major Instrumental Ensemble	6
or 57-419 Chorus	
57-521 Major Studio (Composition)	9
XX-XXX Elective	6
	53

Second-Year Spring (53 units)

57-031 Composers Forum	1
57-100 Convocation	1
57-164 Eurhythmics IV	3
57-184 Solfege IV	3
or 57-488 Advanced Solfege IV	
57-194 Keyboard Studies IV	3
57-258 20th 21st Century Techniques	6
57-271 Orchestration II	6
57-285 Music History III	9
57-408 Form and Analysis	6
57-418 Major Instrumental Ensemble	6
or 57-419 Chorus	
57-521 Major Studio (Composition)	9
	53

Third-Year Fall (47 units)

57-031 Composers Forum	1
57-100 Convocation	1
57-234 Performance for Composers *	6
or 57-418 Major Instrumental Ensemble	
or 57-419 Chorus	
57-332 Introduction to Conducting	6
57-347 Electronic and Computer Music	6
57-521 Major Studio (Composition)	9
57-XXX Music Support Course in Analysis	6
XX-XXX General Studies Course(s)	12
	47

Third-Year Spring (47 units)

57-031 Composers Forum	1
57-100 Convocation	1
57-234 Performance for Composers *	6
or 57-418 Major Instrumental Ensemble	
or 57-419 Chorus	
57-336 Instrumental/Choral Conducting	6
57-459 Score Reading for Composition Majors and Conducting Minors	6
57-521 Major Studio (Composition)	9
57-XXX Music Support Course	6

XX-XXX	General Studies Course(s)	12
		47

* Composition majors may only enroll in 57-234 Performance for Composers for *one* semester of their third year.

Fourth-Year Fall (44 units)

57-031	Composers Forum	1
57-100	Convocation	1
57-418	Major Instrumental Ensemble	6
or 57-419	Chorus	
57-521	Major Studio (Composition)	9
57-XXX	Music Support Course	6
XX-XXX	Elective(s)	12
XX-XXX	General Studies Course(s)	9
		44

Fourth-Year Spring (45 units)

57-031	Composers Forum	1
57-100	Convocation	1
57-418	Major Instrumental Ensemble	6
or 57-419	Chorus	
57-521	Major Studio (Composition)	9
57-597	Senior Composition Project	1
57-XXX	Music Support Course	6
XX-XXX	Elective(s)	12
XX-XXX	General Studies Course(s)	9
		45

BFA in Composition Course Categories	Total Units Required
Major Studio	72
Ensemble	42
Composers' Forum	8
Convocation	8
Other Music Courses	148
Mandatory CMU Courses (Core@CMU, First-Year Writing, GCD)	21
General Studies	42
Electives	30