

ACHIEVEMENT GOALS

STUDY PLAN FOR COMPOSITION AND MUSIC THEORY

Basic Goals

The study plan for the “Composition and Music Theory” program at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz is divided into a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree program. The main emphases are Composition, Music Theory, Computer Music (or Electronic Music) and Music Theater.

This study program should qualify graduates to be active in an independent, innovative and creative way in their chosen field. Because of the multi-faceted nature of this primarily artistic line of work, the whole area is important. This entire, universal viewpoint means that in the course of study special emphasis is placed on fitting knowledge and skills to the young artist’s personality.

Field of Activity and Qualifications

In view of the relevant fields of activity (composition, applied music, publisher’s reader and copyist’s work, instruction in music theory, cultural management, etc.), students will be taught the scholarly foundations and methods of music theory, practical artistic matters, as well as the broad-based interdisciplinary aspects of the above-mentioned fields. The study of “Composition and Music Theory” will also consider the connections between research and teaching. At the same time, the one-on-one instruction in composition will be oriented to the individual predispositions and interests of the students.

The scope and content of the compulsory and elective courses, as well as the admission and examination requirements, have as their goal the completion of the degree within the stipulated duration for this study program.

Bachelor’s Degree in Composition and Music Theory:

Graduates will have acquired fundamental knowledge about contemporary compositional techniques, practical methods of electronic sound production, as well as the methodology of music theory. In addition, they are able to demonstrate comprehensive expertise in the areas of ear training, harmony, counterpoint, analysis, music history, as well as the theoretical fundamentals of composition. Concerning musical skills, graduates have an all-rounded knowledge of piano-playing and score-reading, as well as basic competency in the areas of improvisation and conducting.

Master’s Degree in Composition:

Graduates will have acquired comprehensive expertise in composition involving all areas of contemporary music (solo literature, chamber music forms, solo and ensemble vocal music, choral music, orchestra settings, music drama), also taking into consideration stylistic and aesthetic variety.

Master’s Degree in Music Theory:

Graduates are in a position to instruct music theory subjects (harmony, counterpoint, ear training, form, analysis) at the university level. In addition, they have acquired the scholarly

expertise to supervise and mark relevant Bachelor's and Master's theses. Moreover, graduates are qualified to write and/or edit music theory articles for different professional purposes (e.g. encyclopedia articles, publications in scholarly journals, program texts, etc.).

Master's Degree in Composition and Musical-Theatre:

In addition to the qualifications already given under the category "Composition," graduates will have gained experience in all areas of music theater, especially regarding innovative theater forms (including multiple media and electronic forms of production).

Master's Degree in Composition and Computer Music:

In addition to the qualifications already given under the category "Composition," graduates will have gained experience in the multiple ways of using the computer for contemporary musical creation, as well as the necessary technical, aesthetic and artistic prerequisites.