

MASTER OF MUSIC IN MUSIC THEORY

Why an MM in Music Theory?

The Master of Music in Music Theory offers students an excellent opportunity to hone the scholarly, pedagogical, and presentational skills necessary to thrive in a competitive academic field. The degree offers a full complement of courses and seminars that encourage engagement with both traditional and more current lines of research in the discipline.

Why an MM in Music Theory at BGSU?

The M.M. in Music Theory at BG is broad-based, offering extraordinary opportunities in the area of contemporary music. The resources of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music enrich the learning experience with visiting artists and especially with the internationally renowned New Music Festival. Further, the College of Musical Arts (CMA)—with around 500 students and 56 full-time faculty members—offers students the resources and experiences of a large university with the feel of a more intimate setting.

M.M. in Music Theory students therefore enjoy exceptional mentoring opportunities: they receive individual attention, assistantship assignments, and professional guidance that at other schools are typically reserved for doctoral students. Additionally, BGSU is located near several major cities with a vibrant professional music culture, including Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Chicago.

Learning outcomes

As a student in the M.M. in Music Theory program, you will gain a solid foundation on which to build a career as a music theorist, researcher, and educator. Fundamental analytical techniques for music from the early modern period through the twenty-first century are stressed within the context of current scholarly thought.

We have an excellent record of placing our graduates in top Ph.D. programs, recently including Yale University, Florida State University, the University of Texas at Austin, and UC-Santa Barbara.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Robert Satterlee, College of Musical Arts, at rsatter@bgsu.edu or call 419-372-2182.

Program strength and uniqueness

- Individual attention
- Teaching opportunities in the first year
- Mentorship in both research and teaching
- Excellent record of placing graduates into top Ph.D. programs
- Flexible culminating experience—students choose to write a thesis or submit a portfolio of work
- Wide-ranging faculty interests
- Resources of a large research university
- One of the top contemporary music programs in the country

Faculty

Per Broman: music and philosophy, aesthetics, film music, new music

Gregory Decker: music and meaning, the 18th century, Renaissance polyphony, Schenkerian analysis

Nora Engebretsen: transformational theory, music and mathematics, chromaticism, history of music theory

Gene Trantham: music theory pedagogy, analysis and performance, 17th-century keyboard works



Widely known as one of the country's outstanding collegiate music programs in music education and contemporary music, the College of Musical Arts prepares students to be educators, performers, and scholars on an international level.

Admission requirements

Applicants must hold a four-year undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. To gain regular status admission and be considered for funding, applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0/4.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA). Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from all colleges and universities attended. They are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

All applicants must submit writing samples and three (3) letters of recommendation. We seek strong musicians, writers, and critical thinkers who are inquisitive and interested in deepening their understanding of and engagement with music as a compositional and cultural practice.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

What is the cost of tuition?

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Funding options

Graduate students in music theory are typically offered assistantships in theory or aural skills. These assistantships provide valuable teaching experience, beginning in the first year. We also offer assistantships in music arranging, the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music (MACCM), music history, music technology, world music, and non-major courses. Assistantships generally come with a tuition waiver and stipend. Consideration for assistantships requires an on-campus interview.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/musicadmissions

For fall admission, application deadline for funding consideration is March 1

Curriculum

A total of 34 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required.

Core Courses

19 hours

- MuCT 5110 Counterpoint I 2 hours
- MuCT 5120 Counterpoint II 2 hours
- MuCT 5190 Seminar in Music Theory 3 hours
- MuCT 6130 Music Theory Pedagogy 3 hours
- MuCT 6140 Advanced Structural Analysis 3 hours
- MuCT 6170 Techniques for the Analysis of 20th-Century Music 3 hours
- MuCT 6180 Schenkerian Analysis 3 hours

Electives

8 hours

Students chose from courses in music literature, musicology, ethnomusicology, music technology, and music performance

Research

7 hours

- MuCT 6020 Research Techniques 2 hours
- MuCT 6900 Directed Research 2 hours
- MuCT 6980/6990 Portfolio/Thesis Research* 3 hours

* Students choose Plan I (thesis) or Plan II (portfolio)

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS:

34 HOURS

Recent Seminar Topics:

Exploring Music and Meaning

Music and Film

The Music of Béla Bartók

Late-Romantic Chromaticism

Analysis and Performance

Notions of Musical Time

Readings in the History of Music Theory