Composition I Music theory

Programmes of study:

**Bachelor Programme**  
*Duration of study programme:* 8 semesters  
*Degree earned:* Bachelor of Music  
*Area of professional activity:* teacher at music schools, freelance work

**Master Programme**  
Continuation of study programme following a completed Bachelor or comparable degree in an artistic relevant area.  
*Duration of study programme:*  
  - consecutive artistic composition: 4 semesters  
  - consecutive Music theory: 4 semesters  
  - consecutive artistic electroacoustic music: 4 semesters  
*Degree earned:* Master of Music

**Master Class Programme (Meisterklassenstudium)**  
Continuation of study programme following a completed Diploma or Master in the same or a related area.  
*Duration of study programme:* 4 semesters  
*Degree earned:* Master Class Diploma

»FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY« LEIPZIG
Bachelor Programme
Audition Requirements for 1st to 4th semester

Composition I Music theory

The candidate is requested to submit a number of compositions of his own and I or works of tonal writing, including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces (to be handed in with the application material).

1. Written Exam

- write a polyphonic two-part setting on a cantus firmus or a given motif
- write a four-part homophonic setting of a song
- compositional sketch on a given material
(duraiton: 2 hours)

2. Oral Exam

- harmonise a melody on the piano
- play an easy basso continuo
- improvise freely on a given motif
- harmonic and formal analysis of a piece from the 18th or 19th century (time to prepare: about 15 minutes)
  - reflection of selected extracts from scores
- brief oral analysis (prepared beforehand) of a piece composed after 1950 and chosen by the candidate (own compositions excluded, scores in triplicate are to be brought along)
- discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted pieces
(duraiton: about 40 minutes)

3. Ear training

- sight-singing of tonal I modal melodies
- demonstrate rhythms
- name and repeat through singing major, minor and modal scales, intervals, triads and dominant seventh chords
- identify chord progressions in cadences without suspensions
- repeat through singing or playing and analyze a tonal melody based on its route position, tessitura and form
(duraiton: about 10 minutes)

4. Piano or Organ or Harpsichord

- perform three pieces (original works) from three periods (including Baroque and Classical Period). One of those has to be an etude or a piece of virtuoso character.
One piece must be performed by heart.
(duraiton: about 15 minutes)
Bachelor Programme
Audition Requirements for 5th semester and above

The audition jury may stop the performance of a composition. The audition jury reserves the right to fully test the musical skills of the auditioning student.

Main area Composition

The candidate is requested to submit a number of own compositions, including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces (to be handed in with the application material).

1. Written Exam

   - compositional sketch on a given material
     (duration: 1 hour)

2. Oral Exam

   - play a basso continuo of medium difficulty
   - harmonise a melody on the piano
   - improvise freely on a given motif
   - brief oral analysis (prepared beforehand) of a piece composed after 1950 and chosen by the candidate (own compositions excluded, scores in triplicate are to be brought along)
   - knowledge of musical forms, score reading, and instrumentation
   - discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces
     (duration: about 30 minutes)

3. Ear training

   - sight-sing
   - demonstrate rhythms
   - name and repeat through singing intervals and chords
   - identify simple chord progressions
   - repeat through singing or playing and analyze a tonal melody based on its route position, tessitura and form
     (duration: about 10 minutes)

4. Piano or Organ or Harpsichord

   - perform three pieces (original works) from three periods (including Baroque and Classical Period). One of those has to be an etude or piece of virtuoso character.
   - One piece must be performed by heart.
     (duration: about 15 minutes)
Main area Music theory

The candidate is requested to submit a number of music theoretical works in German and I or works of music theory in a written form (to be handed in with the application material).

1. Written Exam
- write a polyphonic two-part setting on a cantus firmus or a given motif
- write a four-part homophonic setting of a melody
  (duration: 60 minutes)

2. Oral Exam
- play a basso continuo of medium difficulty
- harmonise a melody on the piano
- improvise freely on a given motif
- improvise a Passacaglia
- harmonic and formal analysis of a piece from the 18th or 19th century (time to prepare: about 15 minutes)
- reflection of a piece from the 20th or 21st century
- knowledge of musical forms, score reading, and instrumentation
  (duration: about 30 minutes)

3. Ear training
- sight-sing
- demonstrate rhythms
- name and repeat through singing intervals and chords
- identify simple chord progressions
- repeat through singing or playing and analyze a tonal melody based on its route position, tessitura and form
  (duration: about 10 minutes)

4. Piano or Organ or Harpsichord
- perform three pieces (original works) from three periods (including Baroque and Classical Period). One of those has to be an etude or a piece of virtuoso character.
  One piece must be performed by heart.
  (duration: about 15 minutes)
Master Programme
Audition Requirements

The audition jury may stop the performance of a composition. The audition jury reserves the right to fully test the musical skills of the auditioning student.

Composition

The candidate is requested to submit at least three compositions of his/her own for various settings, including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces (to be handed in with the application material).

1. Written Exam
   - compositional sketch on a given material
     (duration: 60 minutes)

2. Oral Exam
   - brief oral analysis (prepared beforehand) of a piece composed after 1950 and chosen by the candidate (own compositions excluded, scores in triplicate are to be brought along)
   - discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces
     (duration: about 40 minutes)

3. Ear training
   - sight-sing
   - demonstrate rhythms
   - name and repeat through singing interval suites and chords
   - identify chord progressions
   - aural analysis (recording)
     (duration: about 15 minutes)

Music theory

The candidate is requested to submit at least one own work of music theory and one music theoretical work of his/her own in German (to be handed in with the application material).

1. Written Exam
   - write a polyphonic three-part setting as demanded
   - write a musical composition study in a 20th/21st century style. according to specifications
     - (duration: 60 minutes)
2. **Oral Exam**

- harmonise a melody on the piano
- improvise freely on a given motif
- Knowledge of forms, scores, instrumentation and harmony
- interpret a piece from the 20th or 21st century
- continuo playing (duration: about 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. **Ear training**

- sight-sing
- demonstrate rhythms
- name and repeat through singing interval suites and chords
- identify chord progressions
- aural analysis (recording)
- (duration: about 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

4. **Instrument or Voice (may be waived)**

- perform two pieces from two periods (including Baroque and Classical Period)

One piece must be performed by heart. (duration: about 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

**Electroacoustic Music**

The candidate is requested to submit three compositions with essential electroacoustic shares of various genres if possible (audio tape, live electronic, computer music), including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces. At least one recording of a piece is demanded (to be handed in with the application material).

1. **Oral Exam**

- knowledge of forms, scores, instrumentation and harmony
- perform and briefly analyse a piece of own considering electroacoustic media is used in
- conversation on theoretical issues and the history of electroacoustic music
- proof of basic knowledge in acoustic and studio technology

(duration: about 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

2. **Ear training**

- sight-sing
- demonstrate rhythms
- name and repeat through singing interval suites and chords
- identify chord progressions
- aural analysis (recording)
(duration: about 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. Instrument, Voice or Performance

- Performance of a representative selection of pieces (improvisations also possible)
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, can be waived)

Master Class Programme

Audition Requirements

The audition jury may stop the performance of a composition. The audition jury reserves the right to fully test the musical skills of the auditioning student.

Composition

The candidate is requested to submit at least three own compositions for various settings, including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces (to be handed in with the application material).

1. Written Exam

- compositional sketch on a given material
(duration: 60 minutes)

2. Oral Exam

- brief oral analysis (prepared beforehand) of a piece composed after 1950 and chosen by the candidate (own compositions excluded, scores in triplicate are to be brought along)
- perform an own composition (live or from a recording)
- discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces
(duration: about 40 minutes)

Electroacoustic Music

The candidate is requested to submit three compositions with essential electroacoustic shares of various genres if possible (audio tape, live electronic, computer music), including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces. At least one recording of a piece is demanded (to be handed in with the application material).
3. Oral Exam

- perform an briefly analyse a piece of his I her own considering the electroacoustic media used in it
- conversation on theoretical issues and the history of electroacoustic music
- proof of basic knowledge in acoustic and studio technology
(duration: about 40 minutes)