Composition I Music theory | Improvisation

Programmes of study:

**Bachelor Programme**
*Duration of study programme:* 8 semesters
*Profile:* Composition, Composition/Music theory, Music theory, Improvisation
*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:* - Composition (consecutive artistic): 4 semesters
- Harmony and counterpoint (consecutive): 4 semesters
- Electroacoustic music (consecutive artistic): 4 semesters

*Degree earned:* Master of Music

**Master Programme Improvisation** (consecutive artistic)
Continuation on a first degree in another musical course of study, a completed teacher education program for grammar school in the subject of music or a completed master's degree for a music teacher education program.
The programme is aimed primarily at instrumentalists, singers, pedagogues, composers and conductors who wish to supplement and perfect their knowledge and skills in the field of improvisation from an instrumental and pedagogical point of view.
*Duration of study programme:* 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:* - Composition: 4 semesters
- Electroacoustic music: 4 semesters

*Degree earned:* Master Class Diploma

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

a. Profile: Composition

To be submitted with the application for authorization:
- the candidate is requested to submit a number of compositions of his own, in written form (score on paper, max. 3), including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces, well labelled sound recordings on CD (if available)
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short letter of motivation in German language (approx. 1 page), biography, if applicable teacher's request.

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
(Duration: 2 hours)

2. Oral Exam
- harmonise a melody on the piano (with preparation time)
- harmonic and formal analysis of a piece from the 18th or 19th century (with preparation time)
- improvise freely on a given motif
- 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, Duration: up to 10 minutes)
- Discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces; these are part of the evaluation.
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. Ear training
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.
- 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
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)
4. **Instrument**

In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.

**Piano:**
- Performance of three works from three stylistic periods (baroque and classical music obligatory), including at least one more virtuoso work
  
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

**Organ:**
- Performance of three works of different stylistics, one of them by J. S. Bach
  
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

**Violin, viola, cello, double bass:**
- Performance of at least two works of different styles and an etude
  
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

**Concert guitar, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba:**
- Performance of three works of different styles
  
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

**Accordion:**
- Performance of three works of different styles, including an original composition and a work from the baroque period
  
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

**Compulsory subject piano (not applicable if piano is the main subject):**
- Performance of at least two piano compositions (including at least one baroque, classical or romantic work)
  
  (Duration: approx. 10 minutes)

b. **Profile: Composition I Music theory**

**To be submitted with the application for authorization:**
- Presentation of own compositions and music theoretical or compositional works in written form and in German language
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short letter of motivation in German language, biography, if applicable teacher’s request.

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
  
  (Duration: 2 hours)
2. **Oral Exam**
- harmonise a melody on the piano (with preparation time)
- harmonic and formal analysis of a piece from the 18\textsuperscript{th} or 19\textsuperscript{th} century (with preparation time)
- improvise freely on a given motif
- 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, Duration: up to 10 minutes)
- Discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces; these are part of the evaluation.
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. **Ear training**
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.
- 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
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

4. **Instrument**
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) the audition jury member representing the subject.

**Piano:**
- Performance of three works from three stylistic periods (baroque and classical music obligatory), including at least one more virtuoso work
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

**Organ:**
- Performance of three works of different stylistics, one of them by J. S. Bach
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

**Violin, viola, cello, double bass:**
- Performance of at least two works of different styles and an etude
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

**Concert guitar, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba:**
Performance of three works of different styles (Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

**Accordion:**
Performance of three works of different styles, including an original composition and a work from the baroque period (Duration: approx. 15 minutes)
Compulsory subject piano (not applicable if piano is the main subject):
- Performance of at least two piano compositions (including at least one baroque, classical or romantic work)
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes)

c. Profile: Music theory

To be submitted with the application for authorization:
- Presentation of own compositions and music theoretical or compositional works in written form and in German language
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short handwritten letter of motivation in German language, biography, if applicable teacher’s request.

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 in a style of the 20th or 21st century according to material specifications
(Duration: 2 hours)

2. Oral Exam
- harmonise a melody on the piano (with preparation time)
- harmonic and formal analysis of a piece from the 18th or 19th century (with preparation time)
- improvise freely on a given motif
- 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, Duration: up to 10 minutes)
- Discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces; these are part of the evaluation.
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. Ear training
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.
- 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
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

4. Instrument
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury
member representing the subject.

Piano or Organ or Harpsichord:
- perform three pieces (original works) from three periods (including Baroque or Classical Period), one of those has to be an etude or a piece of virtuoso character. One piece must be performed by heart.
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

d. Profile: Improvisation

To be submitted with the application for authorization:
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short handwritten letter of motivation in German language, biography, if applicable teacher's request.

1. Written Exam
- general music theory test
- write a four-part homophonic setting of a song
(Duration: 1 hour)

2. Oral Exam
- harmonise a melody on the piano (with preparation time)
- harmonic and formal analysis of a piece from the 18th or 19th century (with preparation time)
- free improvisation with self-chosen theme
- improvisation on tasks of the commission
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. Ear training
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.
- 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
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

4. Instrument
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.

Piano:
- Performance of four works from four stylistic periods (baroque and classical music obligatory), including at least one more virtuoso work
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)
Bachelor Programme  
**Audition Requirements for 5th semester and above**  

a. **Profile: Composition**  

**To be submitted with the application for authorization:**  
- the candidate is requested to submit a number of compositions of his own in written form (score on paper, max. 3), including an analytical commentary (in German) on one of the pieces, well labelled sound recordings on CD (if available)  
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short letter of motivation in German language (approx. 1 page), biography, if applicable teacher's request.  

1. **Written Exam**  
- compositional sketch on a given material  
(Duration: 2 hours)  

2. **Oral Exam**  
- playing a medium-heavy basso continuo  
- harmonise a melody on the piano  
- improvise freely on a given motif  
- 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, Duration: up to 10 minutes)  
- knowledge in form analysis, score reading, instrumentation and harmony  
- Discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces; these are part of the evaluation.  
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)  

3. **Ear training**  
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.  
- sight-singing  
- demonstrate rhythms  
- name and repeat through singing intervals and chords  
- determining simple chord progressions  
- repeat through singing or playing and analyze a tonal melody based on its route position, tessitura and form  
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)  

4. **Instrument**  
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.  

Piano:  
- Performance of three works from three stylistic periods (baroque and classical music obligatory), including at least one more virtuoso work  
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)
Organ:
- Performance of three works of different stylistics, one of them by J. S. Bach
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

Other instruments:
- Performance of three works from three stylistic periods, one of those has to be an etude or a piece of virtuoso character
  (Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

Compulsory subject piano (not applicable if piano is the main subject):
- Performance of at least two piano compositions (including at least one baroque, classical or romantic work)
  (Duration: approx. 10 minutes)

b. Profile: Composition I Music theory

To be submitted with the application for authorization:
- Presentation of own compositions and music theoretical or compositional works in written form and in German language
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short letter of motivation in German language, biography, if applicable teacher's request.

1. Written Exam
- write a polyphonic two-part setting on a cantus firmus or a given motif
- compositional sketch on a given material
  (Duration: 90 minutes)

2. Oral Exam
- playing a medium-heavy basso continuo
- 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, Duration: up to 10 minutes)
- knowledge in form analysis, score reading, instrumentation and harmony
- Discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces; these are part of the evaluation.
  (Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

3. Ear training
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.
- sight-singing
- demonstrate rhythms
- name and repeat through singing intervals and chords
- determining simple chord progressions
- repeat through singing or playing and analyze a tonal melody based on its route position, tessitura and form
  (Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)
4. Instrument
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.

Piano:
- Performance of three works from three stylistic periods (baroque and classical music obligatory), including at least one more virtuoso work
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

Organ:
- Performance of three works of different stylistics, one of them by J. S. Bach
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

Other instruments:
- Performance of three works from three stylistic periods, one of those has to be an etude or a piece of virtuoso character
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes)

Compulsory subject piano (not applicable if piano is the main subject):
- Performance of at least two piano compositions (including at least one baroque, classical or romantic work)
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes)

c. Profile: Music theory

To be submitted with the application for authorization:
- Presentation of own compositions and music theoretical or compositional works in written form and in German language
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short handwritten letter of motivation in German language, biography, if applicable teacher's request.

1. Written Exam
- write a polyphonic two-part setting on a cantus firmus or a given motif
- compositional sketch in a style of the 20th or 21st century according to material specifications
(Duration: 90 Minutes)

2. Oral Exam
- playing a medium-heavy basso continuo
- 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, Duration: up to 10 minutes)
- knowledge in form analysis, score reading, instrumentation and harmony
- Discussion of compositional and theoretical questions on the basis of the submitted own pieces; these are part of the evaluation.
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)
3. **Ear training**
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.
- sight-singing
- demonstrate rhythms
- name and repeat through singing intervals and chords
- determining simple chord progressions
- repeat through singing or playing and analyze a tonal melody based on its route position, tessitura and form
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

4. **Instrument**
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the commission member representing the subject.

Piano or Organ or Harpsichord:
- Performance of four works from three stylistic periods, including at least one more contemporary work.
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

d. **Profile: Improvisation**

**To be submitted with the application for authorization:**
- Indication of the desired profile and instrumental main subject, short handwritten letter of motivation in German language, biography, if applicable teacher's request.

1. **Oral Exam**
- playing a medium-heavy basso continuo
- harmonise a melody on the piano
- knowledge in form analysis, score reading, instrumentation and harmony
- free improvisation with self-chosen theme
- improvisation on tasks of the commission
(Duration: approx. 30 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

2. **Ear training**
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.

- 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
(Duration: approx. 10 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)
4. Instrument
In addition to § 10, section 1 of the regulations concerning enrolment, this part is only passed if it has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) by the audition jury member representing the subject.

Piano:
- Performance of four works from four stylistic periods (baroque and classical music obligatory), including at least one more virtuoso work
(Duration: approx. 15 minutes, individual elements of the examination may be waived)

**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 (e.g. fixed-media, live electronic, computer music/algorithmic composition), 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 (max. 10 min.)
- conversation on theoretical issues and the history of electroacoustic music
- proof of basic knowledge in acoustic, studio technology and programming (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 and live-coding also possible) (Duration: approx. 15 minutes, can be waived)

Improvisation

1. Improvisation

- Free improvisation with a theme of one’s own choice
- Improvisation on a structural theme (motif, tone row, musical form)
- Improvisation on a theme
- Improvisation on a picture or musical graphic
- Improvisation on a commission task
- Discussion about aspects of improvisation
(duration: approx. 30 minutes)

2. Lesson with a task of the candidate’s choice
(duration: approx. 10 min)
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 (e.g. fixed media, live electronic, computer music/algorhythmic composition), 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).

Oral Exam

- perform an briefly analyse a piece of his/her own considering the electroacoustic media used in it (max. 15 min.)
- conversation on theoretical issues and the history of electroacoustic music
  - proof of basic knowledge in acoustic, studio technology and programming (duration: about 40 minutes)

Leipzig, 03.02.2021

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