Music Composition

Offered by: School of Music

Objective: To provide a program of individually supervised creative-works folio and related research output that leads to enhanced professional career opportunities in the field of music composition.

Rationale: Graduates in BMus programs specialising in composition seldom have sufficient experience to compete viably in the creative industries sector. Through the development of a high quality portfolio of creative work, and congruent research experience, successful candidates can obtain a significant advantage in the field.

Structure: Candidates complete a folio of compositions comprising a number of original works scored variously for solo instrument, chamber and large ensembles of instruments and/or voices. It may include or comprise electro-acoustic compositions. A major work or works of 20 to 90 minutes (in the case of theatre pieces) forms the core of the folio. A folio is normally between 60-80 (for MPhil) and 90-120 (for PhD) minutes in duration.

Thesis Format: The thesis is composed of a critical commentary plus the folio of compositions. The critical commentary analyses the folio of compositions, and must not exceed 10,000 (for MPhil) or 20,000 (for PhD) words in length. The folio and the critical commentary are assessed simultaneously by the thesis examiners.