



COMPOSITION

START A MOVEMENT.

*Collaborate with dance, theatre, video, film
and world-class musicians.*

The Division of Music offers challenging and practical degree programs in a positive, cosmopolitan, and inspiring environment. The Composition program benefits from the broad experience of the Division's internationally recognized faculty, accomplished students, outstanding facilities, visiting artists, and the cultural prominence of North Texas. Maintaining active professional participation in music performance, creation, and research, the faculty of SMU Meadows is committed to the highest standards of teaching. A limited enrollment allows for personal interaction with the faculty and the program provides necessary resources to prepare students with the skills and experience required for professional careers as composers.

**THE COMPOSITION PROGRAM:
BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN COMPOSITION
MASTER OF MUSIC IN COMPOSITION**

The Composition program offers many unique opportunities. With approximately 300 music majors within the Division of Music, composers can hear the music they write for solo instruments, voice, and ensembles. Being at SMU Meadows, student composers frequently collaborate with students in dance, theatre, video, and film, creating and performing their music in a wide variety of venues both on and off campus. Composers will benefit from the Division of Music's active commitment to new music performance and state-of-the-art electronic and computer

music. The program of study is flexible and designed to encourage independent stylistic development, technical skill, and artistic excellence.

The Electronic Music Studio at SMU is well equipped for creation, production, and instruction of electronic music in a comfortable environment. The studio has Mac-based hardware and software with 5.1 surround sound playback and two large-screen monitors; in addition to a full array of software, there are also effects processors, MIDI equipment, and digital sampling hardware to help realize students' visions. Recording and mixing equipment includes analog and digital methods and an isolated recording booth. Limited class size allows greater studio access.

Our faculty consists of internationally known composers, including Robert J. Frank, Kevin Hanlon, Simon Sargon, Martin Sweidel, and Xi Wang. All of our composition majors study with faculty from the first lesson – not with graduate students. Frequent guest composers are a regular part of studies at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, and students have the opportunities to make personal connections with composers when they are in Dallas to premiere works with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Voices of Change, and other professional ensembles.



COMPOSITION FACULTY

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FULL BIOGRAPHIES ARE AVAILABLE AT
MEADOWS.SMU.EDU

COMPOSITION PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION

The Composition Portfolio should include at least 2 or 3 works that best demonstrate the diversity and strength of your compositional skills. Variety will strengthen your portfolio. Length is not important – a short (2-3 minute) work that is highly professional would be far better than a 20-minute, 3-movement average work. All scores should be copies (no originals) and look as professional as possible. You do not need to submit parts. Recordings of live musicians for all works submitted are not required, but very strongly advised if available (we understand “rough” performances/demos – it’s the music that we are listening to, not the performance). Also provide a complete list of works written to date, with performance dates if available, and a short written statement of your compositional goals – both for study at the university level and for your long-term career.

Applicants for the Bachelor of Music in Composition must also apply for academic admission to SMU, complete a music theory diagnostic exam, and audition on their principal instrument. Graduate students, in addition to submitting a composition portfolio, must apply to SMU Meadows School of the Arts, and submit transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and a one-page goals statement describing your professional goals and compositional approach. For information about applying to SMU Meadows, please visit smu.edu/meadows/admissions.