

Contemporary Writing and Production

The student majoring in contemporary writing and production will study composition, arranging, scoring, and production techniques and practices. He/she will be able to apply those skills and concepts by writing for and overseeing the production of a wide variety of instrumental, vocal, acoustic, and electronic combinations, ranging from small workshop groups to a studio orchestra in live performance situations and recording studio environments. The student will explore contemporary concepts and techniques of arranging and sound production in both the analog and digital domains and will gain valuable experience by being able to create, arrange, and produce projects using hybrid MIDI and digital audio workstations and professional recording studios. Interpersonal and other situational skills will be developed as the student works with performers, "clients" (i.e., instructors and other students), and studio personnel in a variety of creative settings as music writer, conductor, and/or producer. The student will be presented with many opportunities to develop the ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate musical concepts of jazz, pop, rock, Latin, and other contemporary music idioms and styles through the study of quality compositions and arrangements. Interacting with faculty who are also professional writers, arrangers, producers, and conductors, the student will develop techniques and skills that will enhance the creative adaptation of his/her musical projects. Applying the writing and production concepts and techniques learned, the student will complete a graduation portfolio of five pieces, which will demonstrate understanding of traditional and contemporary electronic writing and production styles. The contemporary writing and production major will develop skills and knowledge to function as a professional writer, arranger, and producer under a wide variety of conditions and music industry environments.

Contemporary Writing and Production Concentrate

30 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma

| Course Number | Course Title | Semesters: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----------------|--|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ISKB-211 & 212 | Basic Keyboard 1 & 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| PW-161 | Technology Tools for the Writer | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| AR-112 | Arranging 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| CW-171 | Groove Writing | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| CW-261 | MIDI Applications for the Writer | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| CW-216 | Vocal Writing | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| CW-211 | Writing for Small Ensemble | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| CW-222 | Intro. to Writing & Prod. for the Recording Studio | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| CW-311 | Writing for Large Ensemble 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| CW-361 | Sound Processing Applications for Writers | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| CW-411 | Writing for Large Ensemble 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| CW-422 | Advanced Production for Writers | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| CW-498 | Directed Study in Contemporary Writing & Prod. | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Advanced Technology Elective * | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | Approved Specified Elective** | | | | | | | 2 | | |

* Advanced Technology Elective - select from the following: CW-435, CW-450, CW-461, FS-P370.

**Approved Specified Electives - select from the following: AR-201, AR-203, CM-231, COND-351, COND-361, CP-361, CW-141, CW-151, CW-205, CW-218, CW-221, CW-225, CW-237, CW-247, CW-255, CW-275, CW-305, CW-343, CW-345, CW-435, CW-445, CW-450, CW-461, CW-495, ET-351, ET-441, FS-221, FS-231, FS-P370, HR-231, HR-241, HR-335, MB-211, MP-210, MB-335, MP-210, PST-451, PSW-341, PW-361, PW-365, SW-211, SW-231, SW-241, SW-345, SW-362.

Score and Part Proficiency: As part of the contemporary writing and production concentrate requirements, this proficiency must be completed in order to graduate. Information can be obtained from the Contemporary Writing and Production Department chair.

Contemporary Writing and Production Portfolio Completion: As part of the contemporary writing and production concentrate requirements, a portfolio must be satisfactorily completed. Information can be obtained from the department chair.

Core Music: 42 Credits Required for Degree/Diploma

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|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| PERF 1-4 | Performance Core* <i>Private Instruction, Ensembles, and Labs</i> | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | | |
| PW-111 | Music Application and Theory | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| PW-110 & HR-111 | Writing Skills and Harmony 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| AR-111 | Arranging 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| HR-112 to 212 | Harmony 2-4 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| ET-111 & 112 | Ear Training 1 & 2 | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| ET-211 & 212 or ET-231 & 232 | Ear Training 3 & 4 or Solfege 1 & 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| CM-211 & 212 | Tonal Harmony and Composition 1 & 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | |
| CP-210 & 212 | The Art of Counterpoint & Counterpoint 2 | | | | | | 3 | 2 | | |
| COND-211/216 | Conducting 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| COND-212/217 | Conducting 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | |

*Students are required to enroll in an ensemble during their first 4 full-time semesters. Additionally, in semesters 2-4 they must select either a 50-minute lesson (2 credits) or a 30-minute lesson (1 credit) with a corequisite 1-hour lab (1 credit - ILXX course)

Liberal Arts: 40 Credits Required for Degree/13 Credits Required for Diploma

Required of All Degree/Diploma

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| MTEC-111 | Introduction to Music Technology | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| LHUM-100 | Artistry, Creativity, and Inquiry Seminar | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Lxxx-xxx | Liberal Arts Elective | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| LHUM-400 | Professional Development Seminar | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| LSOC-208 | Principles of Music Acoustics | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| LHAN-211 & 212 | History of Western Music 1 & 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |

Required of Degree

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| LENG-111 & 201 | Writing and Communication & Literature | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| LHIS-xxx | Any course in history | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| LAHS-xxx | Any course in art history | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| LSOC-xxx | Any course in social sciences | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| LSOC-xxx | Any course in music and society | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Lxxx-xxx | Any three courses in liberal arts not already taken | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 3 |

General Electives: 8 credits required for degree/11 credits required for diploma

Total Required Credits: 120 credits for degree/96 credits for diploma

For the most current information on requirements, consult the Office of the Registrar.

The contemporary writing and production major requires the purchase of the contemporary writing and production major bundle, which includes specific hardware and software components that meet the curricular, musical, and professional goals of the major. More information may be found at berklee.edu/computers, or obtained from the Contemporary Writing and Production Department chair.