

Structure and evaluation of entrance examination for master's programme in Composition

The admissions procedure is divided into two rounds: a correspondence one and an in-person one. In the correspondence round the applicant must demonstrate the consistency and professional standard of their compositional work. In the in-person round the applicant undergoes both a talent exam and a test of their technical knowledge, abilities and qualifications at the level of a graduate of the Composition bachelor's programme at HAMU. Applicants are to submit appropriate output from their previous studies or draw up a short study on historical or modern compositional techniques and electroacoustic music. Over the course of a motivational discussion with the admissions committee, the level of their knowledge is also tested on a theoretical level, as is their general cultural-historical grounding.

Round 1 – correspondence

An applicant for the BA programme is obliged to send in a composition portfolio for the past 3 years within 7 days after the deadline for submission of applications in electronic form to the e-mail address prijimacky_k.skladby@hamu.cz, including a selection of representative sheet music in electronic form (.pdf) and any recordings (.wav, .mp3) or working internet links to such. In the case of questions or other uncertainties regarding the required material, the responsible employees of the Composition Department can be contacted at the e-mail address sekretariat.k101@hamu.cz.

The admissions committee will assess and evaluate these materials and through a vote (pass/fail) decide on whether applicants progress to the next round of the admissions procedure. In the case of a "fail" decision, the admissions procedure is ended. In the case of a "pass" decision, the department will invite the applicant to the in-person part of the admissions procedure.

Material sent after the deadline will not be included in the admissions procedure. Failure to provide the material by the stipulated deadline will be considered failure to meet the conditions of Round 1 and the admissions procedure will be ended.

Round 2 – in-person

This round will take place on either one or two consecutive days depending on the number of applicants. It consists of two parts – written and oral. Scoring of both parts will take place after the second has ended.

Part 1 – written

Testing of knowledge, abilities and qualifications at the level of a graduate of the Composition bachelor's programme at HAMU based on the following:

- 1) Drawing up short studies from historical compositional styles (G.P. da Palestrina, J.S.Bach) and dodecaphony (rows, quaternion and dodecaphonic invention from this material in the style of the Second Viennese School).
- 2) Drawing up a short sound composition (approx. 1 minute) on one's own computer or in the EA lab of the Composition Department (ProTools, Cubase) from the sound material put at their disposal. The technical parameters for the work can be clarified upon request.

The applicant can send the material for the written part of the in-person procedure in advance, or produce it at HAMU using the department's technical equipment on the day of the entrance exam. The committee will evaluate the materials and based on them either recognise or not recognise the individual points (1–2) of the written part of the in-person procedure as completed.

Part 2 – oral

- 1) Presentation of a set of compositions composed in the last three years.
- 2) Presentation of a music theory study (approx. 20 pages, it can be an additional bachelor's essay).

The admissions committee will conduct a technical motivational discussion on a wide spectrum of issues concerning compositional and music theory disciplines and overall music history grounding. The length of the applicant's presentation should not exceed 30 minutes (including the presentation and commentary on the compositions), with the overall length of the presentation and interview not exceeding 60 minutes.

The admissions committee will evaluate the applicant with an overall mark ranging from 1–25. This mark takes into account: an assessment of the significant compositional talent, developed general musical ability, persuasive mastery of compositional techniques, deep knowledge of music theory disciplines and a general cultural grounding, all at least at the level of a graduate of the Composition bachelor's programme at HAMU.

After the entrance exams have been completed, the admissions committee will rank the applicants by their average points and recommend for admission those applicants who have placed up to the number of spots for the field, with the condition that their mark is also at least 20 points.

Should there not be enough applicants that meet the cut-off mark, the full number of spots shall not be filled.