

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE



MUSIC COMPREHENSIVE

Music Composition Emphasis

The Music Composition program at UNK focuses on the inquiry into how music is created. Students study the basics of harmony, counterpoint, rhythm, form and the relationship of music to the other arts. Along the way, students grow and develop their compositional and artistic voice. Composition students take individual lessons, a weekly composition seminar, and participate in master classes and lectures given by nationally known professionals. In the junior and senior year, composition majors will present recitals of their own music. Usually, the undergraduate degree in composition prepares students for going on to a Masters program; however, the degree also prepares students for going into many other fields in music.

UNK New Music Series and Festival

The UNK New Music Series and Festival, which has gained national exposure over the past three years, exposes students to recent contemporary classical music. The series runs throughout the year, bringing in contemporary music specialists for performances, master classes, and workshops. Composition students have new works read and discussed with these performers, as well as a high-quality recording. The festival, which runs every March, brings composers and performers from around the world to Kearney for two days of recitals and panel discussions. All UNK Composition students have pieces performed in the festival.

Alumni Profile

“An opportunity to have an hour a week alone with a faculty member is something that I think few college students get,” said JP Lempke, a Wallace, Nebraska native and UNK graduate.



JP LEMPKE

“Music has always been an important part of my life, so continuing the pursuit of it seemed natural. I’m always striving to be a better pianist and composer, and those goals are lifelong and continuous,” he said.

Lempke continued to Arizona State University to pursue a master’s degree in composition while teaching classes.

“Lucky for me, my studies directly reflect my future profession. Right now, I play, compose and teach, and I don’t see that changing anytime soon.”

Alumni Profile

“I have always written music, it is hard to think of a time I wasn’t writing songs or experimenting with sounds,” said Kory Reeder, a 2016 UNK graduate and Kearney native.



KORY REEDER

Reeder is now studying for his Master’s in composition at Bowling Green State University, one of the top public institutions for new and experimental music. Reeder said his time at UNK made graduate school a natural transition for him.

MUSIC COMPOSITION EMPHASIS

FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF MUSIC

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p>Semester 1 (16 credits)</p> <p>MUS 198 Sight Singing and Ear Training I MUS 200 Music Theory I MUS 140 Piano Techniques I MUS 150 and MUS 151 MUS 110 Brass Techniques MUS 165 Small Ensembles ENG 102 and SPCH 100 GS</p>	<p>Semester 2 (16 credits)</p> <p>MUS 199 Sight Singing and Ear Training II MUS 201 Music Theory II MUS 141 Piano Techniques II MUS 150 and MUS 151 MUS 114 Percussion Techniques MUS 165 Small Ensembles MATH 102 and Portal 188 GS</p>
<p>Semester 3 (16 credits)</p> <p>MUS 337 and MUS 139 MUS 240 Piano Techniques III MUS 150 Private Instruction MUS 111 Woodwind Techniques MUS 130 Voice Techniques MUS 103, 104, 105, 173, 174, 176, 219 or 220 Democracy and Distribution Area Course GS</p>	<p>Semester 4 (16 credits)</p> <p>MUS 338 Sight Singing and Ear Training IV MUS 340 Music Theory IV MUS 241 Piano Techniques IV MUS 150 X2 Private Instruction MUS 120 and MUS 122 MUS 103, 104, 105, 173, 174, 176, 219 or 220 MUS 300: 499 and MIS 182 GS</p>
<p>Semester 5 (15 credits)</p> <p>MUS 425 Arranging MUS 150, MUS 151 and MUS 149 MUS 149 Private Instruction Secondary Inst. MUS 347 Music History and Literature I MUS 211 Sound Recording MUS 103, 104, 105, 173, 174, 176, 219 or 220 MUS 406 OR MUS 407</p>	<p>Semester 6 (16 credits)</p> <p>MUS 365 Form and Analysis MUS 149 and MUS 351 MUS 348 Music History and Literature II MUS 387 Recital (Junior) MUS 301 Music Technology MUS 103, 104, 105, 173, 174, 176, 219 or 220 Capstone GS</p>
<p>Semester 7 (12 credits)</p> <p>MUS 351 Advanced Private Instruction MUS 460 Independent Study/Research MUS 103, 104, 105, 173, 174, 176, 219 or 220 PHYS 155 GS/Lab Distribution Area Course</p>	<p>Semester 8 (13 credits)</p> <p>MUS 351 Advanced Private Instruction MUS 488 Recital (Senior) MUS 103, 104, 105, 173, 174, 176, 219 or 220 Distribution Area Course x3</p>

Scholarships:

The department offers funding through Endowed Scholarships and Student Activity Grants:

- E. Roy Blazer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lavern Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Carol Cope Music Scholarship
- Carl and Helen Easterbrook Scholarship Fund
- Friends of Music Scholarship
- Glenn and Terry Luce Music Scholarship Fund

Career opportunities:

- Composition professor
- Arranger/orchestrator
- Freelance composer
- Movie, TV, radio or video game composer

Other ways to get involved:

- New Music Ensemble
- Society of Composers
- Delta Omicron- Music Fraternity

**YOU CAN BE
PART OF THE UNK
EXPERIENCE**

For more information, contact:

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a composition lesson?

Each week, composition students meet individually with their teacher and discuss their current creative project. The composition lesson usually takes many different formats: sometimes it is a critique of the work with suggestions for improvement, sometimes it is a “fine-tuning” session where the small details of the piece are finalized, sometimes it takes on the character of a classroom lecture. Composition lessons can go in many different directions.

What is covered in the seminar?

Students gather at a specific time each week for discussions on a range of topics. The topic changes every semester, usually falling under a technical or artistic category. Students are able to present their own works to their peers, receive feedback, share ideas, and learn about the art together. Some topics are specific, such as the study of counterpoint. Other topics are general, such as the relationships among classical, jazz, world, and popular music.

Who will be my teacher?

Dr. Anthony Donofrio teaches composition and theory at UNK. He earned his Ph.D. in Music Composition from the University of Iowa in 2011, and his music has been featured at many festivals and conferences around the country. His compositional approach applies the creative techniques found in literature and painting to the creation of musical ideas.