



Music is a language—one that’s universal. Its depth—both technical and emotional—is unmatched as a form of communication. Our music composition program will give you the tools to speak that language in your own unique voice. At Loyola University New Orleans, we strongly emphasize the development of fundamental tools—control of melody, harmony, and form—but we also make courses available in analog and digital synthesis, recording technologies, jazz composition, and songwriting. That way, you graduate with not just a realized artistic voice but also a way to capture and share it.

This is the place.

There’s no better place to study music composition than New Orleans, home to some of the most talented musicians and arrangers in the world. At Loyola, you’ll learn from the authentic history and character of the city. Because we’re not just in New Orleans—we’re part of it. You won’t even have to leave campus to experience the genuine magic of our musical culture.

Our faculty are artist-teachers with worldwide reputations who possess the talent and experience to guide our students to discovering their unique voice. They’re established composers, performers, and conductors—they’ve done it all, and they’re eager to mentor you as you grow. You can bring your unique voice from imagination to life, gaining the real-world experience you need to make a career out of your passion.

Courses

Our music composition curriculum includes music theory, ensembles, history, performance, and private instruction in composition. While honing your own voice, you’ll get a well-rounded understanding of the world of music. Here’s a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

Music Theory Classes

Students learn the technical basis of music composition, including form and analysis, orchestration, arranging, and compositional techniques for contemporary music.

Major Ensemble Classes

Loyola Symphony Orchestra, Loyola Chamber Orchestra, University Band, University Chorale, University Chorus, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble: These courses involve regular rehearsals and performances in groups of various sizes and constitutions, an essential experience for composers.

Performance Classes

You’ll study your instrument privately with great teachers and have master classes with world-renowned artists. Whether you play piano, guitar, sax, violin—or maybe you sing—you’ll be able to grow into a fine performer, a very great advantage for composers.

History of Western Art Music II

Music history courses: Learn the cultural and historical background in which music was written. Performance practice and historical techniques can inform your own performance and compositional methodologies. Study the lives of composers and the philosophical, artistic, social, and political movements that influenced them.