

GUIDELINES FOR COMPOSER AUDITIONS

Website Copy:

Students wishing to pursue composition as a major at NDSU have a two-part audition process:

- Students must perform an Instrumental, Vocal, or Piano audition as listed on this page.
- Students must submit a portfolio of original composition work for evaluation by the composition faculty.

The Composition Portfolio

The portfolio should consist of:

1. Demonstration of the student's ability to write music. Music should be properly notated in a standard notation program (e.g., Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, Musecore, Noteflight, Notion, etc) or neatly hand-copied.
 - a. For incoming freshmen: ideally one or two works or works-in-progress.
Incoming students who do not have a portfolio available can enter the Challey School of Music as a general Music major and take composition lessons as they are developing their portfolio.
 - b. For upper-division transfer students: two or three completed works.
2. a brief document describing the student's past work with composing, a list of past performances of compositions, and career goals while studying composition at NDSU.

The portfolio may be submitted in hard copy by mail to Kyle Vanderburg, PO Box 6050, Dept. 2334, Fargo, ND 58108, or by PDF to kyle.vanderburg@ndsu.edu.

Guidelines for Performance Faculty evaluating auditions:

- NDSU's composition degree aims to give students the tools to pursue portfolio careers as composers, and part of that includes performance competency. As far as performance is concerned, the BM Composition plan identical to the BA/BS general music degree. (6 credits applied, 6 credits major ensemble). An additional 4 credits of minor ensembles are required for composers.
- The student must be competent in both parts of the audition process (portfolio and performance) to be accepted into the BM Comp program.
 - If a student is competent in performance but has no portfolio, we'd recommend the BA/BS.
 - If a student is competent in their portfolio but not their performance audition, we don't have a pathway to admit them to the program.
- Students auditioning into the BM Comp program should be held to the same standards as we would hold our BA/BS applicants.
- Composition does not currently have its own scholarship pool—students should be considered for scholarships based on their musical accomplishment and their potential in CSOM ensembles.
- Kyle will report to the student the result of their audition process.