Requirements (Revised) for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Music

Department of Music
University of California, Davis

August 4, 1999

1 The Program

The central goals of the Ph.D. degree in Music are to impart the breadth
of knowledge, the critical attitudes, and the kind of writing skills which
may positively influence both the discipline itself and the general public's
understanding of serious music. These are served by a program of unusual
scope and focus. Its cornerstones are the required series of proseminars
in music theory, musicology, and ethnomusicology; the requirement that
advanced seminars outside a student's particular area of interest must be
completed; a Pre-Qualifying Examination that ranges over the entire field
of musical scholarship; and unusual flexibility in choosing the dissertation
topic.

1.1 Admission.

Candidates for admission to the Ph.D. program should hold the M.A. degree
(or a related degree, such as the M.F.A. or, in some cases, the M.A.T.) with
major study in the history of music, theory, or composition. Unusually well-
qualified candidates with outstanding undergraduate records and test scores
may be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program without having previously
earned the M.A. All candidates for admission must hold a baccalaureate
degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.

All candidates will present themselves for the departmental graduate
entry examination in history, theory, and musicianship (sight-singing, har-
monic and melodic dictation, and score-reading and figured-bass at the key-
board). The decision to admit will be based on the results of that examina-
tion, grades in previous undergraduate and graduate work, Graduate Record Examination scores (including the Advanced Test in Music), samples of writing (and compositions, in the case of composers), letters of recommendation, and evaluation of work submitted on application.

All candidates must meet the general requirements for admission as set forth in the *Announcement of the Graduate Division*.

**Advanced Standing.** Candidates for admission to the Ph.D. program who hold the M.A. degree from an accredited institution may be granted a waiver of up to 24 of the 36 units of graduate seminars required (see Unit Requirements below). This waiver is not automatic; it will be granted only for advanced courses judged by the Graduate Committee to be comparable to graduate seminars offered in the Department of Music at the University of California, Davis. The core course requirement will not be waived.

### 1.2 Foreign Languages.

Candidates for the Ph.D. are expected to conduct primary research in the major European languages and in any specific languages required by their dissertation study. Candidates should ordinarily present evidence of mastery of at least one and preferably two European languages upon admission. Language examinations in two languages—ordinarily German and another European language other than English—must be passed (or, in cases of obvious mastery, waived by the Music Department Graduate Committee) for admission to the Pre-Qualifying Examination (see below). The Department of Music will support graduate students in their efforts to master unusual European languages (e.g., Czech, Russian), eastern languages (e.g., Chinese), and advanced technical languages (notably computer languages and symbolic logic) when appropriate to their degree work.

### 1.3 Program of Study.

**Specific Fields of Emphasis.**

- Theory of Music and Composition
- Musicology and Music Criticism

Within these specific fields of emphasis we note particular strength in composition, the theory and analysis of post-tonal music, computer music,
and in historical musicology of the Italian Renaissance and the nineteenth century.

**Plans.** This is a Doctor of Philosophy, Plan B program [see Academic Senate Manual, DDR520(c)(4)]. The Dissertation Committee is composed of at least three faculty members. The candidate will be required to defend the dissertation in a Final Public Oral Examination.

**Unit requirements.** This program requires 12 units of core coursework, 36 units of subdisciplinary specialization, and a dissertation.

**Required and recommended courses, including teaching requirements.** See Course of Study, below.

**Licensing and Certification.** None required.

**Course of Study.** Coursework, the majority of which will generally be accomplished in two years' time, consists of the required Proseminars and additional graduate-level courses. The units required are as follows:

Music 210A–C: Proseminar (12 units)
210A: Theory (4)
210B: Musicology (4)
210C: Ethnomusicology (4)
Courses chosen from Music 200–297:

The proseminars are intensive reading courses on the recent accomplishments of each sub-discipline. The shared purpose of the other courses numbered 200–297 is to introduce students to advanced concepts of music study and of the concerns and research programs of the faculty with which they may wish to continue dissertation work. Students will be expected to master through individual initiative other important developments in the various sub-disciplines. The graduate teaching staff will assure that the specific topics of the seminars among the graduate offerings cover a wide range of concerns in the field over two- or three-year cycles.
1.4 Pre-Qualifying Examination.

Students will be admitted to the Pre-Qualifying Examination, to be offered at the beginning of the Fall Quarter, after successfully completing all core courses, the foreign language requirements, and the majority of the sub-disciplinary courses. The examination will stress breadth of knowledge and will evaluate the student's knowledge of the field as a whole. Students will normally take the Pre-Qualifying Examination at the beginning of their third year of full-time study; they must take it by the beginning of the fourth year of full-time study.

The Pre-Qualifying Examination will:

1. Be written by the Music Department Graduate Committee, which shall consist of at least one faculty representative of each of the sub-disciplines.

2. Be composed of:

   (a) Three written examinations to be taken over a three-day period. The examinations will consist of questions on (1) the history of music, (2) the theory of music and analysis, and (3) the music of non-Western cultures. At the committee's discretion, the titles of individual compositions may be set for purposes of the examination, but the Pre-Qualifying Examination is without limitation as to questions asked,

   (b) and an oral examination to be scheduled shortly after the written examinations. Students will be examined by an Oral Examination Committee appointed by the Graduate Advisor. The oral examination will consist of questions about unidentified excerpts from musical scores presented to the students prior to the examination and questions from the written portion of the examination.

3. Be assessed by the Music Department Graduate Committee, with the results of the examination released to the student within five working days.

1.5 Qualifying Examination and Advancement to Candidacy.

After successful completion of the Pre-Qualifying Examination and all required courses, students may petition the Graduate Division to be admitted to the Qualifying Examination. The Graduate Division, in consultation with
the graduate advisor, will appoint the Qualifying Examination Committee. The chair of the Qualifying Examination will be someone other than the student's major professor, and the committee will include representatives of all the sub-disciplines within the Department of Music.

Two weeks prior to the Qualifying Examination the student will:

1. Submit a complete, written study in the sub-discipline of the student’s specialty. A master’s thesis or a substantial paper written in connection with advanced course work is of the appropriate scope.


The form and content of the Qualifying Examination is the responsibility of the Qualifying Examination Committee. The usual examination, however, will consist of an oral presentation by the student on some aspect of the study or proposal submitted earlier, followed by questions and discussion from the Committee. The examination ordinarily will not exceed three hours in duration.

In evaluating the student’s performance, the candidate’s Qualifying Committee will weigh the various attributes of the requirements for advancement to candidacy, including (1) the student’s ability to communicate orally the nature of a primary research project (its purpose, design, and results) and to defend the research when questioned; (2) the student’s ability to demonstrate general competence in the field of music; and (3) the appropriateness and scope of the dissertation proposal.

Upon successful completion of the Qualifying Examination, students will be advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. In accordance with the rules of the Graduate Division, students who receive a grade of “not passed” may be admitted to the Qualifying Examination a second time.

Students are expected to have passed the requirements for advancement to candidacy no later than the beginning of their fourth year of full-time study. Ordinarily the process of advancement to candidacy should be completed well before the end of the third year.

1.6 Dissertation.

The Ph.D. dissertation shall be a substantial original contribution to the field of musical scholarship or, in the case of composition/theory students, an original composition of considerable scope and substance and an original theoretical or analytical essay.
Although not a formal requirement for the dissertation, simultaneous publication of the results of dissertation research and, in the case, of theory/composition students, professional public performances of their compositions is strongly encouraged by the Department of Music. It should be noted, in this context, that opportunities for graduate students of composition at Davis are exceptionally attractive, with a continuing series of concerts performed by professional players in the UC Davis Contemporary Music Players and by outstanding student performers. Computer and Electronic Music Studio concerts are also a regular feature of the UC Davis concert season.

1.7 Final Public Oral Examination.

Candidates will discuss and defend their dissertations in a Final Public Oral Examination, which will not exceed three hours in duration, on the Davis campus.

1.8 Special Requirements.

None.

1.9 Relationship to the M.A. and M.A.T.

Requirements for year 1 of the Ph.D. program and year 1 of the M.A. and M.A.T. degrees are substantially the same. Outstanding M.A. and M.A.T. students holding superior GPAs (in the area of 4.0) and giving other evidence of aptitude for doctoral-level study may be invited by the faculty to transfer to the Ph.D. program at the end of their first year.

1.10 Provision for the Training of Teachers.

Tutorial training in classroom instruction for students in the Ph.D. program will be provided, in large measurements for year 1 of the Ph.D. program and year 1 of the M.A. and M.A.T. degrees are substantially the same. Outstanding M.A. and M.A.T. students holding superior GPAs (in the area of 4.0) and giving other evidence of aptitude for doctoral-level study may be invited by the faculty to transfer to the Ph.D. program at the end of their first year.
1.11 Provision for the Training of Teachers.

Tutorial training in classroom instruction for students in the Ph.D. program will be provided, in large measure by the individual instructors with the T.A.s are working.