



# Music Composition

Code: MCO

Curriculum for Academic Year 2021-2022

## Instructor Information

### Instructor

**Upamanyu Kar**  
Master of Arts (Music)

### Email

ukar@metmsm.org

### Availability

Music School LIVE  
Music School Arabia

## General Information

### Description

Music Composition (MCO) is a professional training program custom designed for online training. Coursework comprises of study modules, periodic assessment, project review and coaching support for international music examination board assessments.

### Expectations and Goals

MCO is delivered in two tutored levels (Levels I & II) and a guided level (Level III). Students who successfully complete Level I, are expected to qualify ABRSM<sup>1</sup> Grade 6 Music Theory assessment and those who successfully complete Level II, are expected to qualify AMusTCL<sup>2</sup>.

Completion of Level III is optional and helps student build portfolio of their creative work to launch a professional career in music business.

### Eligibility

Students who enrolling for MCO program should have ideally qualified Grade 3 assessment in Music Theory conducted by ABRSM or another similar music examination board. Those having knowledge about basic rudiments of music theory may also be accepted for enrolment, at the discretion of Instructor. Others interested in enrolling for the MCO program are required to complete at least one term of Music Theory and Appreciation (MTA) program conducted by Music School LIVE.

Students should be minimum aged 16 years at the time of enrolment.

### Certification

Students are certified by The Metropolitan School of Music upon successful completion of each Level.

---

<sup>1</sup> Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> Associate Diploma in Music Literacy from Trinity College London

## Music Composition: Level I

Modules	<b>4</b>
Sessions	<b>24</b>
Session length (minutes)	<b>60</b>
Average completion time (weeks)	<b>18</b>

### Suggested readings

1. Eric Taylor: Music Theory in Practice - Grade 4 (ABRSM Publishing)
2. Eric Taylor: Music Theory in Practice - Grade 5 (ABRSM Publishing)
3. Anna Butterworth: Harmony in Practice (ABRSM Publishing)
4. Walter Piston: Harmony - 5th Edition (W. W. Norton & Company)

### Module 1: Composing a Melody

Code	Topic	Sessions
MCO 01	Listening and analysis of modern songs	2
MCO 02	Melodic relative pitch and melodic dictation	2
MCO 03	Introductory Harmony: Chords and Primary Triads	1
MCO 04	Cadences and their applications	2
MCO 05	The art of improvisation	2
MCO 06	Composing a melody on given words	1
	Assessment week	
	<b>Total sessions</b>	<b>10</b>

### Module 2: Scoring using Sibelius™ and NotePerformer™

Code	Topic	Sessions
MCO 07	Operating Sibelius™	2
	Writing scores for different instruments in Sibelius™	
	Producing a written score using NotePerformer™	
	Assessment week	
	<b>Total sessions</b>	<b>2</b>

### Module 3: Application of Harmony in Melodic Context

Code	Topic	Sessions
MCO 08	Diatonic Triads	2
MCO 09	Chromatic Triads	2
MCO 10	Four-part Harmony	2
MCO 11	Writing in Four-parts	2
MCO 12	The bass line	1
MCO 13	Extensions of Triads and their resolutions in Part-writing	1
MCO 14	Use of Harmonic text painting	2
	Assessment week	
	<b>Total sessions</b>	<b>12</b>

### Module 4: Project work and Review

## Music Composition: Level II

Modules	<b>3</b>
Sessions	<b>14</b>
Session length (minutes)	<b>60</b>
Average completion time (weeks)	<b>12</b>

### Suggested readings

1. Anna Butterworth: Harmony in Practice (ABRSM Publishing)
2. Walter Piston: Harmony - 5th Edition (W. W. Norton & Company)
3. Alfred Blatter: Instrumentation and Orchestration (2nd Edition)
4. Samuel Adler: The Study of Orchestration (W. W. Norton & Company)

### Module 5: Scoring of Voices, Instruments and Ensemble

Code	Topic	Sessions
MCO 15	Understanding voices and instrument sounds	2
MCO 16	Analysis of songs with accompaniments	2
MCO 17	Scoring harmonized accompaniment parts	2
	Assessment week	
<b>Total sessions</b>		<b>6</b>

### Module 6: Film scoring

Code	Topic	Sessions
MCO 18	Understanding film music and analyzing background scores	2
MCO 19	Thematic composition of film music	3
MCO 20	Introduction to orchestration and scoring for ensembles	3
	Assessment week	
<b>Total sessions</b>		<b>8</b>

### Module 7: Project work and Review

## System & Software

### System requirement

#### Windows

64-bit Windows 7 (SP1 or later), Windows 8.1 (not Windows RT) or Windows 10  
4+ GB of RAM

#### Mac

macOS 10.12 or 10.13, 10.14, 10.15, 11.0  
4+ GB of RAM

NOTE: the following storage device format is not supported  
APFS (Case-sensitive)  
APFS (Case-sensitive, Encrypted)  
Mac OS Extended (Case-sensitive, Journaled)  
Mac OS Extended (Case-sensitive, Journaled, Encrypted)

### Software requirement

Software	Version
Sibelius™	Sibelius   Ultimate* <i>or</i> Sibelius
NotePerformer™	Full version* <i>or</i> 30-days Trial version

\* preferred version

Sibelius™ is a trademark of Avid Technology, Inc.  
NotePerformer™ is a trademark of Wallander Instruments AB.