

COMPOSING FOR VISUAL MEDIA

“Music is of the spirit...it is ephemeral and invisible, yet it affects us profoundly. It is our job as composers to understand this and to create music that affects people in a profound way. As film composers we have the opportunity to collaborate with other artists to create something that affects us in an emotional, visceral and intellectual way.”

Marty Davich

Composing for Visual Media Faculty Member

Martin began studying piano at the age of 4, and, having played most of the instruments in the orchestra and band during grade school and high school, went to college with a firm grasp of music. He studied music and composition at USC and went on to have a professional career playing and conducting for various artists including Anthony Newley and Burt Bacharach. For the last 30 years, he has made his living as a composer, having written for many dramatic series, including ER for 15 years, Trinity, and Beverly Hills 90210. He has also written for several miniseries, TV movies, cable movies, and motion pictures, such as Mad Money, Touching Home, and I Bring What I Love. He is currently enjoying writing for many media and continuing to grow as a composer.

Composing for Visual Media Department Head

Mark Cross

Mark Cross is an award winning Producer, Composer, Mixer, Educator and Author with an extensive discography in both film and television that spans over 2 decades.

As a Engineer / Mixer Mark has worked on numerous albums, film scores, and television episodes, including the Grammy-winning “I Am Shelby Lynne”, Randy Newman’s Oscar-nominated and Grammy-winning “CARS” and “Meet the Parents” score and soundtracks, along with mixing hundreds of episodes of the NBC prime time series: ER. Additional film credits include: Alien Resurrection, Seabiscuit and Beavis and Butthead Do America.

As a composer he has created original music for the NBC Prime Time Series: Last Comic Standing as well as contributing additional music for: American Idol, Curb Your Enthusiasm and The CBS Evening News (and most recently for HBO’s: Getting On and Comedy Central’s: Key and Peele). Mark has created musical themes for Nickelodeon’s Wow Wow Wubbzy, the Seinfeld Season 8 DVD, as well as producing and performing with Grammy winner John Legend on HBO’s: Curb Your Enthusiasm.



LEARNING OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

The Bachelor of Music in Composing for Visual Media is a professional degree created for students who wish to pursue a career in Composition and Music Production. Graduates of this program are qualified composers who are well versed in many genres of commercial music. Students focus their studies on the many areas needed to be a successful working music composer.

Department Learning Outcomes reflect the mission and learning outcomes of the institution, the academic program and to the acquisition of skills that are specific to a concentrated field of study.

1. Proficiency in Composition: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of musical structure and harmonic language by composing original music that displays expertise in musical form and function.
2. Proficiency in Orchestration: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics and capabilities of acoustic and electronic instruments and the ability to orchestrate compositions for a variety of ensembles and instrumentation from small groups to full orchestra.
3. Stylistic Versatility: Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to compose music in a variety of styles and moods and create an appropriate musical underscore for a wide range of media genres including film, television, commercial advertising and games.
4. Foundational Music: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in music theory, basic keyboard techniques, contemporary music history, and conducting.
5. Professional Creative Practices: Students will be able to demonstrate competency in the professional knowledge and practice of film "spotting" and collaboration with a director, recording studio techniques, computer technology, and the use of sample libraries to create orchestral mockups and electronic scores.
6. Professional Business Practices: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and competency in music and media industry business practices including budgeting and contracts, publishing, marketing and promotion, and entrepreneurship.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Bachelor of Music Degree (12 Quarters)
 Associate of Arts Degree (6 Quarters)
 Diploma Program (4 Quarters)

COMPOSING FOR VISUAL MEDIA

Bachelor of Music - Degree Pacing

193 Credits

QUARTER 1

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-100	English Composition	3
MUS-100	Theory/Ear Training 1	2
MUS-101	Keyboard Skills 1	1
PROD-105	History of Music in Film and TV	3
PROD-230	Apple Logic	3
PROD-1000	Pro Tools 101	3
PROD-106	Intro to Working with Picture	2
Total Credits: 17		

QUARTER 4

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-111	Health & Wellness	3
MUS-290	Theory/Ear Training 4	2
MUS-291	Keyboard Skills 4	1
PROD-107	MIDI Production 1	2
PROD-240	Sibelius	1
PROD-127	Harmony for the Media Composer 1	2
PROD-100	Composing for Drama	3
COMP-230	Private Lesson in Composition 3	2
Total Credits: 16		

QUARTER 2

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-101	English Composition & Critical Thinking	3
MUS-102	Theory/Ear Training 2	2
MUS-103	Keyboard Skills 2	1
PROD-306	Ableton Live	3
PROD-1001	Pro Tools 110	3
PROD-111	Working with Picture/App. Tech. 1	3
COMP-130	Private Lesson in Composition 1	2
Total Credits: 17		

QUARTER 5

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-405	Music Appreciation	3
MUS-301	Music History: Middle Ages to 19th Century	2
COMP-207	Music Business for Songwriters 1	2
PROD-161	Harmony for the Media Composer 2	2
PROD-101	Composing for Comedy	3
PROD-210	Composing for a Music Library	3
COMP-231	Private Lesson in Composition 4	2
Total Credits: 17		

QUARTER 3

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-200	Oral Communication	3
MUS-220	Theory/Ear Training 3	2
MUS-221	Keyboard Skills 3	1
PROD-207	Electronic Film Scoring	3
PROD-103	Composers in Depth	2
PROD-112	Working with Picture/App. Tech. 2	3
COMP-131	Private Lesson in Composition 2	2
Total Credits: 16		

QUARTER 6

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-202	United States History 1890-1954	3
MUS-301	Music History: 19th Century - 20th Century	2
PROD-201	Counterpoint	2
COMP-100	Songwriting 1	1.5
COMP-208	Music Business for Songwriters 2	2
PROD-204	Composing for Video Games	3
COMP-232	Private Lesson in Composition 5	2
Total Credits: 15.5		

COMPOSING FOR VISUAL MEDIA

Bachelor of Music - Degree Pacing Continued

193 Credits

QUARTER 7

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-301	Music Cultures of the World	3
PROD-231	Instrumentation	2
COMP-101	Songwriting 2	1.5
PROD-160	Score Reading	1
PROD-307	Composing for Independent Films	3
PROD-200	Augmenting Your Score	3
COMP-330	Private Lesson in Composition 6	2

Total Credits: 15.5

QUARTER 10

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-306	Physics for Musicians	3
GE-410	Music and Society	3
MUS-416	Conducting	1
IND-207	Music Supervision	2
PROD-309	Composing for Horror	3
PROD-337	Orchestration Techniques for Film 2	2
COMP-430	Private Lesson in Composition 9	2

Total Credits: 16

QUARTER 8

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-302	Philosophy	3
PROD-335	Intro to Orchestration	2
PROD-212	Production Styles for Composers	3
PROD-313	Composing for Documentary Film	3
COMP-333	Composing for Strings	3
COMP-331	Private Lesson in Composition 7	2
PROD-312	Junior Project (CVM)	1

Total Credits: 17

QUARTER 11

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-401	Sociology	3
GE-402	Political Science	3
ELE-104	Internship Prep	1
PROD-311	Composing for Trailers	3
PROD-408	Music Editing for Film	3
COMP-431	Private Lesson in Composition 10	2

Total Credits: 15

QUARTER 9

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-303	Spanish 1	3
GE-305	Statistics	4
PROD-406	Composing for Action	3
PROD-413	Composing for Commercials	3
PROD-211	Orchestration Techniques for Film 1	2
COMP-332	Private Lesson in Composition 8	2

Total Credits: 17

QUARTER 12

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
GE-403	Psychology	3
GE-406	Physiology	3
PROD-412	Internship	4
COMP-432	Private Lesson in Composition 11	2
COMP-450	Senior Project / Recital	2

Total Credits: 14

COMPOSING FOR VISUAL MEDIA

Associate of Arts - Degree Pacing

90 Credits

QUARTER 1

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-100	Theory/Ear Training 1	2
MUS-101	Keyboard Skills 1	1
PROD-105	History of Music in Film and TV	3
PROD-230	Logic	3
PROD-1000	Pro Tools 101	3
PROD-106	Intro to Working with Picture	2
Total Credits: 14		

QUARTER 2

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-301	Music History: Middle Ages to 19th Century	2
MUS-102	Theory/Ear Training 2	2
MUS-103	Keyboard Skills 2	1
PROD-306	Ableton Live	3
PROD-1001	Pro Tools 110	3
PROD-111	Working with Picture/App. Tech. 1	3
COMP-130	Private Lesson in Composition 1	2
Total Credits: 16		

QUARTER 3

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-301	Music History: 19th Century - 20th Century Theory/	2
MUS-220	Ear Training 3	2
MUS-221	Keyboard Skills 3	1
PROD-207	Electronic Film Scoring	3
PROD-103	Composers in Depth	2
PROD-112	Working with Picture/App. Tech. 2	3
COMP-131	Private Lesson in Composition 2	2
Total Credits: 15		

QUARTER 4

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-290	Theory/Ear Training 4	2
MUS-291	Keyboard Skills 4	1
PROD-240	Sibelius	1
PROD-107	MIDI Production 1	2
PROD-231	Instrumentation	2
PROD-127	Harmony for the Media Composer 1	2
PROD-100	Composing for Drama	3
PROD-160	Score Reading	1
COMP-230	Private Lesson in Composition 3	2
Total Credits: 16		

QUARTER 5

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
COMP-207	Music Business for Songwriters 1	2
PROD-335	Intro to Orchestration	2
PROD-161	Harmony for the Media Composer 2	2
PROD-101	Composing for Comedy	3
PROD-210	Composing for a Music Library	3
COMP-231	Private Lesson in Composition 4	2
Total Credits: 14		

QUARTER 6

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
PROD-201	Counterpoint	2
COMP-208	Music Business for Songwriters 2	2
PROD-211	Orchestration Techniques for Film 1	2
PROD-212	Production Styles for Composers	3
PROD-204	Composing for Video Games	3
COMP-232	Private Lesson in Composition 5	2
COMP-250	AA Project	1
Total Credits: 15		

COMPOSING FOR VISUAL MEDIA

Diploma - Degree Pacing

60 Credits

QUARTER 1

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-100	Theory/Ear Training 1	2
MUS-101	Keyboard Skills 1	1
PROD-105	History of Music in Film and TV	3
PROD-230	Apple Logic	3
PROD-1000	Pro Tools 101	3
PROD-106	Intro to Working with Picture	2
Total Credits: 14		

QUARTER 4

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-290	Theory/Ear Training 4	2
MUS-291	Keyboard Skills 4	1
PROD-240	Sibelius	1
PROD-231	Instrumentation	2
PROD-127	Harmony for the Media Composer 1	2
PROD-100	Composing for Drama	3
PROD-160	Score Reading	1
COMP-230	Private Lesson in Composition 3	2
COMP-150	Diploma Project	1
Total Credits: 15		

QUARTER 2

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-301	Music History: Middle Ages to 19th Century	2
MUS-102	Theory/Ear Training 2	2
MUS-103	Keyboard Skills 2	1
PROD-306	Ableton Live	3
PROD-1001	Pro Tools 110	3
PROD-111	Working with Picture/App. Tech. 1	3
COMP-130	Private Lesson in Composition 1	2
Total Credits: 16		

QUARTER 3

CODE	COURSE	CREDITS
MUS-301	Music History: 19th Century - 20th Century Theory/	2
MUS-220	Ear Training 3	2
MUS-221	Keyboard Skills 3	1
PROD-207	Electronic Film Scoring	3
PROD-103	Composers in Depth	2
PROD-112	Working with Picture/App. Tech. 2	3
COMP-131	Private Lesson in Composition 2	2
Total Credits: 15		