

# STUDYING COMPOSITION AT UNM

University of New Mexico Department of Music

## FACULTY

### THEORY & COMPOSITION

David Bashwiner

Steven Block, *music department chair*

Peter Gilbert

Richard Hermann

José-Luis Hurtado

Paul Lombardi

Karola Obermüller

Patricia Repar

### TECHNOLOGY & RECORDING

C.K. Barlow

Doug Geist

Manny Rettinger

The composition program is jointly led by Karola Obermüller, Peter Gilbert, and Patrice Repar (who also spearheads the Arts-in-Medicine program at UNM), but we pride ourselves on the degree to which we work together in Theory-Composition as an area. Every faculty member of the Theory & Composition area is an experienced and accomplished composer. We are also lucky to have such outstanding artists/teachers in the technology and recording area.

## DEGREES OFFERED

- **Bachelor of Music: Concentration in Theory and Composition**
- **Master of Music: Concentration in Theory and Composition**  
(with a thesis in either theory or composition)

## COMPOSITION ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Composition Studio Class:** Weekly colloquia (Fridays, 11am) foster community amongst the UNM composers. Many weeks feature visits from guest composers, performers and artists. Other meetings involve group projects and discussions.
- **Composition Studio Concerts:** Two or three concerts a year are dedicated solely to student works. UNM composition students work together to put on these concerts and they have the freedom and agency to organize these events according to their vision. Recent concerts have included numerous large scale chamber works, work with live electronics, work with video projected upon the audience, and work presented in the round with dancers moving through the public.

(cont.)

# STUDYING COMPOSITION AT UNM

University of New Mexico Department of Music

## COMPOSITION ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)

- **John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium:** Every year UNM is host to an important symposium of contemporary music that features national & international guest composers, guest performers, panel discussions, master classes, and numerous concerts of contemporary music. All UNM students have the great opportunity to interact with world-class composers and performers.
- **Scott Wilkinson Composition Prize:** A composition contest for UNM student works is held annually. A monetary prize is awarded and the winning piece is considered for performance at the John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium.
- **Reading Sessions:** UNM composers have reading sessions with the top university chorus, the wind symphony and the orchestra (at least one such session each year). In these readings, several students get the opportunity to hear their large ensemble piece and get a recording of the reading session.
- **New Music New Mexico (NMNM):** The music department has an ensemble made up of outstanding student players that is dedicated to contemporary music performance. In addition to playing numerous concerts each of year of "contemporary classics", NMNM performs also performs student compositions on their concerts. New Music New Mexico also does work with the composition courses and workshopping of student works.
- **Courses & Private lessons:** Students take both courses in composition and private lessons in composition as a part of their curriculum. Because of the large number of professional composers in the music department, students have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of teachers. Students and teachers are paired up so as to have a productive and successful working partnership. Student requests for specific teachers can often be accommodated. The faculty generally recommends two semesters with any given teacher, but this is flexible.
- **Electroacoustic Music Offerings:** UNM offers separate classes in electroacoustic composition, MIDI, interactive software (Max/MSP), and composing for film. For recording courses we work with Grammy Award-winning engineer Doug Geist at the Santa Fe Center Studios (in Albuquerque). There is also a live-electronic music ensemble called "The Choppers" that features a unique amalgam of old and new technology. UNM has made a healthy investment in collaborative digital media research facilities giving students here the opportunity to take advantage of some powerful and unique resources.
- **Juries:** Each semester the area faculty gather for composition juries and students have the opportunity to present and discuss their semester's work and get some brief feedback from the faculty.

For more information regarding curriculum and requirements please consult the Theory-Composition Handbook.

# STUDYING COMPOSITION AT UNM

University of New Mexico Department of Music

## DEPARTMENT & CAMPUS FACILITIES

- The Music Department has 400 students (310 undergraduates, 90 graduates), instrumental, vocal and academic faculty (30 tenured/tenure-track faculty, 27 part-time faculty & lecturers), numerous ensembles and additional guest artists-in-residence.
- In addition to housing a major theatrical hall (**Popejoy Hall**, the largest in New Mexico), the **Center for the Arts** houses a beautiful recital hall (Keller Hall), classrooms, practice rooms, an electronic music studio, the campus art museum, and an experimental theatre.
- Nearby is the **Interdisciplinary Film and Digital Media (IFDM)** building which is home to our course in film music in addition to many other interesting digital media courses (including film, video games and more). Plans are underway to offer partnered classes in digital music with IFDM as soon as next year.
- The **Arts Lab** on campus is home to multi-media technology research with a black-box/green-screen space (used for professional film-making) and an immersive dome space.
- The **Mesa Del Sol** facility is a new arts/technology/research center opening up with a theatrical black box, collaboration workrooms, a recording studio, and large well-appointed classrooms for work in film and digital media.
- **The Fine Arts and Design Library** is located in George Pearl Hall, conveniently close to the Center for the Arts. It contains the library materials for Art, Music, Theatre and Dance, and Architecture. The music collection comprises approximately 20,500 books on music, 55,000 music scores (including collected editions), 850 microfilm reels, 23,000 sound recordings, and 600 videotapes.

## PLACEMENT EXAMS

Links for information on the Undergraduate and Graduate placement exams are available at the UNM Music Department website under Department Areas/Theory & Composition.