

# **University of Southern California**

## **Thornton School of Music**

### **Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition**

#### **Program Learning Objectives**

##### **Composition (M.M.) and (D.M.A.)**

The purpose of the graduate degrees in Composition is to develop the talents of student composers to the highest possible professional level, and to prepare such students for professional composition work and/or teaching careers at the university level. Upon completion students will:

- a. have the knowledge and technical skill to compose concert music for a variety of soloists, ensemble groups, and other media at the highest professional level;
- b. have honed a unique artistic voice;
- c. have developed a customizable and complementary profile of expertise in academic and elective fields of their choosing (including outside the School of Music, if desired);
- d. have received the opportunity to develop skills in academic teaching;
- e. be prepared for a career as a professional composer and academic at the university level;
- f. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the classical canon and 20th and 21st c. concert music repertory;
- g. be able to work as a leader and in collaboration in areas of musical interpretation and performance;
- h. have an understanding of the societal impact of music and the ethical responsibility of a professional musician;
- i. have the practical, technical and historical knowledge to be erudite musical citizens who can communicate their values and understanding of music to the world at large.

##### **Doctor of Musical Arts**

This degree represents the highest level of expertise in a major field of musical practice and competence in several additional areas. Students choose an academic field from among Musicology, Theory and Analysis, Music Teaching and Learning, Choral Music or Sacred Music in addition to two elective fields to complement their major field of composition. In addition to the objectives above, graduates will also:

- a. gain the pedagogical tools to teach at the collegiate level in composition and related areas;

- b. gain cross-disciplinary knowledge to teach introductory collegiate courses in their academic field;
- c. demonstrate achievement of extraordinary professional competence in composition, and develop a unique artistic/intellectual voice;
- d. develop a comprehensive knowledge of and ability to communicate about the broader music field through the lens of composition.