Master of Arts in Early Music Performance
2026 Catalogue Year

Requirements		Units	Semester	Progress Record (☑ when completed)
ENSEMBLE COURSES (MUEN) - 3 units				
550	Early Music Ensemble (1 unit/semester)	3	Fall/Spring	__ __ __
MUSIC HISTORY COURSES (MUHL) - 16 units				
570	Research Materials and Techniques	2	Fall/Spring	__
572	Seminar in Historical Musical Notation	2	Spring†	__
574	Music of the Renaissance (or 584)	2	Spring	__
575	Music of the Baroque Era	2	Fall††	__
589	Seminar in Renaissance Repertoires	2	Spring	__
591	Seminar in Baroque Rep and Perf Practice	2	Fall	__
594ab	Master's Thesis (includes recital)**	4		__ __
EARLY MUSIC PERFORMANCE COURSES (MPEM) - 5 units				
553	Individual Instruction	5	Fall/Spring	__ __ __ __ __
ELECTIVES and ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS - 8 units				
Collegium Workshop (MPEM 450) OR MUHL electives OR additional MPEM 553 instruction		2	Varies	__
Graduate-level electives (any course at ≥ 400 level)		6	Varies	__
Foreign language proficiency**		0	Varies	
Total Units:		**32*** **		

† This course is offered every other year in even spring years, e.g. Spring 2026.
††This course is offered every other year in odd fall years, e.g. Fall 2025.

*The thesis will include the planning, research, preparation and leadership of a full-length program in early music. This practical work will be supported by a written essay that deals, as appropriate, with historical data sources, authentic performance practices and a stylistic assessment of the repertoire that is performed. If a student does not complete the thesis in two semesters, they will be required to register for MUHL 594Z every semester until the thesis is completed. This course will be listed as 0 units on the transcript but will be billed at the rate of 2 units. In lieu of a comprehensive examination, candidates for the Early Music Performance Emphasis will be required to pass periodic reviews to demonstrate progress.

** An academic reading knowledge of a language other than English is required of all Thornton master of arts students. For more information regarding satisfactory completion of this requirement, please review the foreign language requirement listed for the MA Early Music Performance Emphasis in the USC Catalogue (https://catalogue.usc.edu)

*** Entrance exams and their corresponding review courses for this major are as follows:

Aural Skills (MUCO 333-1 unit) ___
Theory/Analysis (MUCO 300-1 unit) ___
Orchestration (MUCO 339-1 unit) ___
Instrumental Conducting I (MUCD 343, 2 units) ___ or Choral Conducting I (MUCD 340, 2 units) ___

If a student does not pass the entrance exams in these areas, they must take the appropriate review courses. As these courses are at the 300 level (e.g., MUCO 333), they are not considered graduate courses and cannot be used to fulfill elective credit toward the M.A. Therefore, they will add units to the total number of units you will need to take to complete your degree. Students who hold a Bachelor of Music or a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Thornton School of Music are exempt from any examinations in fields in which they have taken comparable coursework.

Your advisor is:
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