

## **Thesis Proposal Guidelines (MMus in Composition)**

### ***Purpose of the MMus in Composition Thesis Proposal***

The purpose of the thesis proposal for the MMus in Composition is to persuade your readers (generally, your supervisor and second reader) that:

- You have planned a viable original composition of appropriate length, instrumentation, and scope.
- You have the background and experience to complete the thesis composition.

### ***Format and Length of the MMus in Composition Thesis Proposal***

The thesis proposal for the MMus in Composition should consist of an essay in which you include:

- A discussion of the background to and inspiration behind the composition
- A list of the instrumental forces required
- An organizational plan for the composition, including its duration
- An explanation of the theoretical approach to elements such as pitch, rhythm, and form
- Musical examples that elaborate on aspects of the pitch or rhythmic organization, possibly excerpts from the work in progress
- References to musical works by other composers who have influenced or shaped your plans for the thesis composition
- A bibliography, if appropriate

Discuss with your supervisor the relationship between the proposal and the final thesis and a timeline for completing the thesis by the appropriate deadline.

Your proposal should be as succinct as possible while satisfying the requirements above. In most cases, the proposal need be no longer than about 10-12 double-spaced pages.

There is no set pattern for a MMus in Composition Thesis Proposal. The structure, style, content, and length will appropriately vary depending on the background to the composition and its complexity. Discuss with your supervisor the question of appropriate format for your proposal.