



Entrance exam 2024

Master of Arts in Music Composition / Creative Practice
Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition / Creative Practice

General Information

- The entrance exams for the HKB's Master of Arts in Music Composition / Creative Practice and Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition / Creative Practice take place in Room 160, Ostermundigenstrasse 103, 3006 Bern, Switzerland.
- If you are in an overseas country, we can exceptionally make an online interview in individual cases. In that case, please write to us by at the latest on March 15.
- The exams will take place on 15 and 16 April. You will be informed about your time slot by 1 April at the latest.
- The application is exclusively online via [this form](#).

Please upload all your video recordings on *YouTube*. You are free to choose if the video access is set to public or private. For scores, audio files, and other documents, please use *Dropbox* with the download authorization. Make sure that all the files are available and that links are valid at least until the exam date. You will need to provide us the *Dropbox* and *YouTube* links via a *Google* form that we will send to you on 1 April.

Important note: On page 7 of the online [application form](#) under the section “Course-specific documentation” please upload your motivation letter. In the section “Further documents” do not upload anything. All the scores and other material need to be provided as explained down here.

For **composers** applying for the Master in Composition / Creative Practice:

- Upload the scores of three of your works. At least one of them must be accompanied by an audio (or video) recording. MIDI is acceptable, but in audio format (wav, aif, mp3). Deadline: 7 April
- Develop a personal concept, composition, text, sketch, or plan related to the assignment you will receive on 1 April. Prepare a short presentation (10 minutes) for the interview. If needed, bring the accompanying documentation (drafts, scores, drawings, sound files etc.) to the exam.
- For the interview and discussion about your professional goals and ideas, please prepare a short presentation (10 minutes) of one of the works you have uploaded. If you are using any additional material for the interview (documents, scores, sketches), please bring it to the interview.

For **performers** and **composer-performers** applying for the Master in Composition / Creative Practice:

- You have the following options:
 - o other people may perform your pieces (solo or chamber). In this case, provide the scores.
 - o you may perform your own pieces (solo or chamber). In this case, provide the scores or, if not applicable, some additional material (program note, description of the piece etc.)
 - o you may perform repertoire pieces (solo or chamber). In this case, provide the scores.

You can choose to combine different modalities, but in at least one piece you need to be featured as a performer. The duration should not exceed 20 minutes. You are responsible to bring your performers with you. We can provide a piano and a PA stereo system, without a technician/sound

engineer. Some percussion instruments are available on demand. If you need more specific things, please send us your detailed technical rider at least by 15 March.

You can either play all pieces live at the exam or choose to upload the videos of you performing. In the latest case, however, at least one piece must be played live at the exam.

- If applicable, upload the videos of your performances. Deadline: 7 April. At least one piece must be performed live in person at the exam.
- Develop a personal concept or improvisation in relation to the assignment you will receive on 1 April. You are not obliged only to play, but are also welcome to present your work orally. The duration should not exceed 8 minutes. If needed, bring the accompanying documentation (drafts, scores, drawings, sound files etc.) to the exam.
- The interview and discussion about your professional goals and ideas will last 20 minutes.
- You perform/play live (20 minutes maximum)

For **composers** applying for the [Bachelor in Music Composition / Creative Practice](#):

- Upload the scores of three of your works. At least one of them must be accompanied by an audio (or video) recording. MIDI is acceptable, but in audio format (wav, aif, mp3). Deadline: 7 April
- Develop a personal concept, composition, text, sketch or plan in relation to the assignment you will receive on 3 April. Prepare a short presentation (10 minutes) for the interview. If needed, bring the accompanying documentation (drafts, scores, drawings, sound files etc.) to the exam.
- Prepare an oral presentation of the analysis of a chosen repertoire piece (10 minutes).
- Prepare a short improvisation on the instrument of your choice (this can also be voice or electronics). Duration should be at most 5 minutes.
- For the interview and discussion about your professional goals and ideas, please prepare a short presentation (10 minutes) of one of your works.
- Additionally, there will be a music theory part. For more info check:
<https://www.hkb.bfh.ch/en/studies/bachelor/music-classical/> under Eligibility + Entry

If you have any questions regarding the procedure, please contact our assistant nemanja.radivojevic@hkb.bfh.ch

With kind regards,
Xavier Dayer
Head of MA in Music Composition Creative Practice

Bern, 18 Jan 2024

Timeline:

Composers - Master in Music Composition / Creative Practice:

1 April

- you will receive the precise time of your exam and the Google form link
- you will receive the assignment

7 April at the latest

- you upload your scores and the accompanying video/audio
- you provide us with the links via the Google form

15 or 16 April

- the interview takes place in Room 160, Ostermundigenstrasse 103, 3006 Bern, according to the schedule. You bring the assignment with you.

Performers and composer-performers - Master in Music Composition / Creative Practice

1 April

- you will receive the precise time of your exam and the Google form link
- you will receive the assignment

7 April at the latest

- you upload your videos and additional material (if applicable)
- you provide us with the links via the Google form (if applicable)

15 or 16 April

- the exam takes place in Room 160, Ostermundigenstrasse 103, 3006 Bern, according to the schedule. You bring the assignment with you.

Composers - Bachelor in Music Composition / Creative Practice:

1 April

- you will receive the precise time of your exam and the Google form link
- you will receive the assignment

7 April at the latest

- you upload your scores and the accompanying video/audio
- you provide us with the links via the Google form

15 or 16 April

- the exam takes place in Room 160, Ostermundigenstrasse 103, 3006 Bern, according to the schedule. You bring the assignment with you.