

USC School of Music
Composition Program

**MM Composition Oral Exam
Recommended Study**

During the MM Composition oral examination, the composition faculty will test your knowledge of contemporary music. To help you prepare for this exam, it is highly recommend that you obtain a copy of the following two books:

1. Robert Morgan. *Twentieth-Century Music* (New York: Norton, 1991)
2. Robert Morgan, ed. *Anthology of Twentieth-Century Music* (New York: Norton, 1992)

Morgan's text and its companion anthology introduce 29 important twentieth-century works. Though the exact assessment method is left to the discretion of each member of your committee, expect the oral exam to include score identification and "drop the needle" aural identification, as well questions about the history and analysis of the works found in the Morgan. In addition to the works in the Morgan, you should also be familiar with the following works:

Repertoire List

Adams, John	Harmonielehre
Andriessen, Louis	De Staat
Bartok, Bela	Music for String Instruments, Percussion and Celesta and String Quartet No. 6
Berg, Alban	Violin Concerto and Wozzeck
Berio, Luciano	Sequenza for Flute and Sinfonia
Birtwistle, Harrison	Carmen Arcadiae Mechanicae Perpetuum
Boulez, Pierre	Le Marteau sans Maitre
Carter, Elliot	String Quartet No. 2
Copland, Aaron	Appalachian Spring and Piano Variations
Corigliano, John	Symphony No. 1
Cowell, Henry	The Banshee
Crumb, George	Ancient Voices of Children and Black Angels
Debussy, Claude	Preludes, Book I and La Mer
Dodge, Charles	Speech Songs
Druckman, Jacob	Windows
Feldman, Morton	Rothko Chapel
Harbison, John	Mirabai Songs
Ives, Charles	Concord Sonata and Symphony No. 4
Johnston, Ben	Fourth String Quartet
Lansky, Paul	Idle Chatter
Ligeti, Gyorgy	Etudes, Book I and Lux Aeterna
Lutoslawski, Witold	Symphony No. 3
Maxwell Davies, Peter	Eight Songs for a Mad King
Nancarrow, Conlon	Studies for Player Piano No. 2 and 6
Part, Arvo	Fratres
Partch, Harry	Barstow
Reich, Steve	Music for 18 Musicians
Riley, Terry	In C
Schoenberg, Arnold	Pierrot Lunaire, Suite for Piano, Op. 25, and Verklaerte Nacht
Stockhausen, Karlheinz	Gesang der Junglinge
Stravinsky, Igor	L'Histoire du Soldat, Requiem Canticles, Rite of Spring and Symphony of Psalms
Varèse, Edgard	Density 21.5 and Octandre
Webern, Anton von	Symphonie, Op. 21