University of Alberta – Department of Music
Guidelines for portfolios
(rev. 8-2017)

BMus

All applicants to the BMus in composition are first required to audition on one of the following instruments (this is primarily to determine placement in ensembles and applied tutorials – composers are not expected to be virtuosi): piano, organ, voice, violin, viola, violoncello, double bass, classical guitar, lute, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, tuba, percussion, and harp.

Upon successful completion of the audition and other general admission requirements (see the University Calendar for full admission details), students may request promotion into the composition route by submitting a portfolio of works representing your creative interests and composition abilities.

The portfolio should consist of at least one scored work for Western instrument(s), with recording if possible (MIDI mock-ups are acceptable). Other works (i.e. electronic works, game/film music, etc.) may be submitted, up to five in total. Collaborative works are acceptable, but at least 2 works must be single-authored works.

MMus/DMus

MMus and DMus applicants are not required to audition, and are not required to participate in performance ensembles, but are encouraged to do so if desired. Both MMus and DMus applications must submit a portfolio with between 3-5 works, two of which must be scored works for Western instrumentation (which may also include electronic media). Scored works must include recordings, showing evidence of successful reading or performance (NO MIDI mock-ups). The portfolio must include works showing evidence of contemporary compositional practices. Collaborative works are acceptable, but at least 3 works must be single-authored works.

Portfolio format (all applicants):

All portfolios must include cover sheet with your name, a short bio, and an index listing the names and details of the compositions, including short program notes if desired. Include in this index the name of included media files for each piece. The portfolio should be submitted as a collection of files, preferably gathered into a single .zip file (or other standard archive file format). Acceptable media file formats are as follows:

- Cover index: PDF
- Scores: PDF
- Audio recordings: MP3, WAV
- Video recordings (if applicable): MP4, MOV
- Links to streaming audio or video (e.g. Soundcloud, Vimeo) are acceptable, but each link must be listed on the cover sheet index. Please ensure that each piece is a distinct link to that specific piece (do not send a general link to your soundcloud or vimeo page)