

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

Department of Performing Arts Technology

Master of Arts in the Media Arts

Thesis and Performance Requirements

In the course of studies toward the Master of Arts in the Media Arts, candidates complete a comprehensive thesis that usually consists of two parts: a technology-enhanced performance of original work that engages various media, and a written thesis that documents the performance. Other projects of a primarily scholarly nature (e.g., work on aspects of sound recording) may also be appropriate, in consultation with the student's thesis advisor. In this case, it is appropriate to incorporate an original media component such as recordings or video clips appropriate to the topic. The candidate should select a committee that consists of three to five faculty, with one member of the committee having an appointment outside of SMTD.

A performance component should demonstrate original work in several of the following areas: musical composition, extended performance techniques, performance interfaces, image processing and projection, lighting design, set design, costume design, choreography. The written thesis should demonstrate ability to conduct independent research on all aspects related to the performance thesis, including a literature and repertoire review, analytical and documentary writing, as well as an annotated bibliography/discography. The written thesis provides the basis of a manuscript that is adaptable for subsequent publication.

Following is the suggested sequencing of the content of the thesis. It may be adapted in consultation with the candidate's advisor.

Content of Thesis

Title Page

Abstract

Copyright Page

Acknowledgements

Table of Contents

List of Tables and Figures

Body of Thesis

 Introduction

 Literature and Repertoire Review

 Creative Work

 Analysis

 Conclusion

References

Appendices

Preceding Body of Thesis

Title Page

See the sample at the end of the Thesis Guidelines.

Abstract

The abstract is a summary of the thesis in no more than 250 words written in the third person plural.

Acknowledgements [*optional*]

The acknowledgements section can be used to recognize individuals and organizations providing important support and encouragement toward the completion of the degree.

Table of Contents

The table of contents lists the sections of the thesis and indicates the page number where each section begins. It includes the page numbering for the abstract page, acknowledgements, and table of contents, as well as the page numbering for sections of the body of the thesis, references, and appendices. The title page and copyright page are not numbered.

List of Tables and Figures

The list of tables and list of figures identify each table or figure number, each table or figure title, credits for tables and figures (where appropriate), and the page number for each table and each figure.

Body of Thesis

The body of the thesis will contain the following sections:

Introduction The introduction presents the questions or issues that have been researched in the performance thesis.

Literature & Repertoire Review

This section provides historical and theoretical background and puts this work in context with other work that has been done in the area of this thesis. Citations are included for published work and performances that have influenced the development of the ideas in the thesis. (See “References” below for formatting citations)

Creative Work

Present the creative work. Use prose, figures, illustrations, tables, poetry, animations, stage plots, lighting design, scores, sound files, and other representations to thoroughly represent the creative work and research.

Analysis

Interpret the work, reflect on the work, and/or explain the work. Explain how and why this work is compelling and important.

Conclusion

Briefly restate the questions and issues addressed in the thesis, what has been learned from the thesis, and a critical summary of its importance. Identify new questions that arise from this thesis work and suggest areas for future research.

Following Body of Thesis

The following sections will follow the body of the thesis:

References List

citations at the end of the thesis in an MLA-formatted, annotated bibliography in alphabetical order by author/editor and chronologically for each author/editor.

Appendices [*optional*]

Document highly technical and detailed material in the form of appendices at the end of the thesis. Appendices are numbered and referred to in the text by that number.

Media Requirements

Bound copies on permanent, acid-free or archival quality white bond paper of 100% cotton fiber (8 1/2 x 11 inches, minimum 20 pound weight)., one copy for the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, one for the Chair of the Department of Performing Arts Technology, one for each committee member, and one for the student. One CD-ROM or DVD-ROM documenting the thesis.

Illustrations

Illustrations, diagrams, photographs, video clips, sound clips, animations, and other visual materials are inserted as numbered figures. All illustrations must be accompanied by a legend. The PDF file contains links to time-based material on a single CD or DVD disk. The printed thesis only shows a figure number and legend for time-based material. Details for producing and including illustrations should be developed in consultation with the MA Committee. Any inclusion of copyrighted material must include notification of permission from the copyright holder.

Resources

University of Chicago Press Staff, ed.. *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers*. Chicago :University of Chicago Press, 1982-

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, New York : Modern Language Association of America, 1998.

“for grads.” *Sweetland Writing Center (University of Michigan)*. 24 Jan. 2007. Gayle Morris Sweetland Writing Center. 25 January 2007 <<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/swc/grads/>>

Thesis and Performance Schedule and Deadlines

By end of 2 nd semester	Selection of thesis advisor; formulate initial ideas for thesis/performance proposal
Early 3 rd semester	MA committee selection; Draft of thesis/performance proposal
Early October (3 rd semester)	Committee meets to discuss thesis/performance proposal
Mid October (3 rd semester)	Thesis/performance proposal approved by committee. Performance venue booked, date (cf. deadline below) communicated to committee.
Late Nov./early Dec. (3 rd semester)	Committee meeting to discuss status of the thesis/performance progress. No more than one week after the committee meeting, the student presents summary of committee comments to Thesis Advisor.
Third week of January (4 th semester)	Initial draft of Introduction, Literature & Repertoire Review, and Creative Work presented to Thesis Advisor & Director for comment. Thesis Advisor & Director return comments to student by February 1.
	Detailed performance arrangements and plans in appropriate format determined in consultation with advisor.
By February 15 (4 th sem.)	Students have draft of Introduction, Literature & Repertoire Review, and Creative Work edited by staff at Sweetland Writing Center as necessary.
By April 1 (4 th sem.)	Thesis performance.
By April 10 (4 th sem.)	Fully-developed thesis second draft, one copy to each committee member. Include all sections (with illustrations/figures/tables/animations/video sequences/sound-bites) as described in Format section below.
By April 15 (4 th sem.)	Thesis oral presentation to committee
By April 25 (4 th sem.)	Committee meets to discuss thesis performance and written thesis and to present comments and questions to the student. One week following this meeting, the final draft is due.
On date grades are due	Signed thesis to Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Chair of Performing Arts Technology, and all committee members.

Thesis Title

by

Candidate's Name

Prior Degree(s), Where Earned, Year Conferred

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of

Master of Arts, Media Arts

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Date of submission

Approved by:

(Committee Member's Name), Thesis Director, School or College affiliation

(Committee Member's Name), Thesis Director, School or College affiliation

(Committee Member's Name), Thesis Director, School or College affiliation

(Committee Member's Name), Thesis Director, School or College affiliation

Date Degree Conferred: May 20__