

# Composition Program Portfolio Review Form

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Year Level: BFA2

BFA4

MFA1

MFA2

## Portfolio Contents

The CV and Artist's Statement may be required by the student's mentor.

☐ Curriculum Vitae

☐ Artist's Statement

Work examples are required always. For MFA candidates, at least one work will be archived in the CalArts Library.

☐ Work Examples

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Work Reviewed

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Work(s) Selected for Library \_\_\_\_\_

## Comments

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## Reviewers

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## The Graduation Portfolio

The purpose of the portfolio is twofold: it shows the composition faculty what you've done during your time at CalArts, and it neatly packages your work for others outside of CalArts to hear and see.

### What's In The Portfolio?

The contents of the portfolio will naturally vary from program to program, student to student. You should use media most suited to your areas of interest. For composers of instrumental music the portfolio might contain your scores and audio recordings. For those specializing in ESP, the portfolio could contain a number of DVDs and CD-Rs with examples of electroacoustic pieces, or a single DVD with sound and video, or the above plus code you've written or patches you've made or scholarly articles you've written. For those in the Performer/Composer area, scores and audio and/or video recordings of performances could suffice. You can also add text and photos, or objects. *The portfolio can contain anything (safe) that shows your work at it's best.* It should be of professional quality, something you would show someone outside CalArts.

Note for ESP (or anyone else, for that matter): yes, you can submit your portfolio as a website. If possible, you should burn the site on a DVD so it can be more easily cataloged. This also avoids any unforeseeable network problems. Candidates for the MFA are required to provide one work to be archived in the CalArts Library.

Your mentor may also ask you to write a curriculum vitae and/or artist's statement. And Artist Statement should be 1 to 2 pages. For a description of what goes in a curriculum vitae, see below. These are useful texts that you can use post-CalArts. If your mentor asks you to write either or both, they become part of the portfolio requirement.

### When's The Portfolio Review?

The portfolio reviews are scheduled by a Co-chair in consultation with your Mentor and composition teacher. Reviews usually occur during the student's regularly scheduled lesson time during the last 2-3 weeks of the Spring Semester. Every portfolio is reviewed by two or more members of the composition faculty. For those in the Performer/Composer program, the reviewers might include a member of the instrumental faculty as well as a member of the composition faculty. You can request particular faculty members. They may or may not be able to attend, depending on their schedules. In that case, the reviewers will be selected by a Co-chair to attend your review. We always endeavor to have the student's Mentor at the review, but again, sometimes that's just not possible

### What Happens During The Portfolio Review?

During the review we will listen to and look at your portfolio. You might be asked to describe the changes in your work during your time at CalArts. You might be asked more detailed questions about a particular piece, or set of pieces. You might be asked what your plans are for the future. It's important to understand that this is not a *jury*. We endeavor to make the portfolio review a positive experience, a final opportunity to get feedback about your work, your artistic direction, career advice, etc. If you've been making work at CalArts the portfolio review will be straightforward. If your portfolio shows that you haven't done much at all at CalArts we might decide that you need to return for another semester or year and make more

work. We endeavor to foresee and prevent this problem through mid-residence reviews and mentoring.

Remember that this is a class to be taken for credit. Therefore you'll be graded. Grades will be determined by the reviewers, based on the quality and quantity of work appropriate to your artistic direction.

### What Happens After The Portfolio Review?

After the review we will return your portfolio. As stated above, candidates for the MFA, we provide 1 work example from your portfolio for the CalArts Library. For instrumental composers that would usually be a bound score. For those in the ESP program that could be a DVD or audio CD. For Performer/Composers, that could be a DVD of a recital that includes your own compositions as well as those of others.

### Suggested Curriculum Vitae Guidelines

#### Contact Info

- Name, address, telephone, email, website
- Don't literally write "Curriculum Vitae" or "Contact Info"—they're obvious

#### Education

- Degree or certificate name, institution, location, date (including expected).

#### Awards, Scholarships & Grants

- Title, date
- Don't include \$ amounts unless requested, but have a record of them

#### Employment Experience

- Teaching, accompanying, gigging, copying, archiving, reviewing, etc.
- Usually include only experience that's relevant to music or the profession you're pursuing, but use your judgment
- Use a separate section for teaching experience if you want to highlight it

#### Contributions to the Artistic Community

- Organizing, promotion, advocacy, volunteering, other experience

#### Publications

- Articles/reviews/screeds in newspapers/magazines/webzines
- You may also include a section for presentations

#### Selected Works

- Title, instrumentation, date

#### Selected Performances

- Title, ensemble, venue, location, date

#### Selected Recordings

- Publicly available recordings only

#### Professional Associations

- BMI/ASCAP, ACF, AMC, etc.

#### References

- Usually "available upon request", but know who they would be
- you can leave this off if you like (it's also obvious).

#### In general...

- All entries (!) must appear in REVERSE chronological order.
- Use headings, spacing and indentation to clarify structure and improve readability.
- Make everything as succinct as possible—no full sentences!
- The reader should get all of the essentials from a 30-second skim.