

M Manhattan School of Music

Concerning the Graduate Orchestral Work Requirement

Manhattan School of Music requires all MM, DMA and Professional Studies candidates to submit an orchestral work for prescreening. The orchestral work should be written for the following instrumentation and be about 8 minutes long. Parenthetical instruments are doublings.

2 Flutes (1/Piccolo 2/Alto)
2 Oboes (2 English Horn)
2 B flat Clarinets (2 Bass Clarinet)
2 Bassoons (2 Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
2 Tenor Trombones
1 Bass Trombone
1 Tuba

3 Percussion
1 Timpani

1 Harp
1 Piano

Strings 10/8/6/5/4

While a work submitted for any of the three graduate degree programs does not have to have this exact instrumentation or duration, it must fulfill the following guidelines:

A piece for at least multiples (not singles) within the woodwind and brass families and string sections with more than one on a part. While inclusion of percussion is not required, it is encouraged. A work with voice or chorus could also, if the instrumentation meets these guidelines, be submitted.

The allocation of these instruments can be traditional (winds and brass in twos or threes) or nonstandard, for example Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms which omits the violins and violas or the Mahler Fourth Symphony which has horns and trumpets but no trombones or tuba. A piece for wind ensemble or string orchestra, for example, would therefore not meet the guidelines.

If a graduate applicant does not at this point have an orchestral piece but is still interested in applying to MSM, the applicant should start one and submit as much as possible for the December application deadline. If the applicant is invited to the March Audition, work should then be continued and the completed score brought to the audition.