HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Graduate Studies Committee

Changes in the regulations governing the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Music: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Music

Ref: MUS/10

The following changes in regulations have been made:

Humanities Divisional Board

Master of Philosophy in Music

Note about nature of the changes
Revision of examination structure to bring into line with MSt in Music.

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first examination in 2014)

1. In Examination Regulations, 2012, p. 558, delete ll. 12-49 and substitute:

‘3. To specialise in musicology, performance or composition. The choice of specialism must correspond to that pursued for the Qualifying Examination, but the subject matter of work submitted must be different from that offered for examination in the first year.

4. To submit two substantial pieces of work, named ‘Part 3’ and ‘Part 4’ as a continuation of the numbering in the regulations for the degree of Master of Studies. The elements of the examination will be determined by the candidate’s chosen specialism.

5. Candidates specialising in musicology will be required to submit:

Part 3: a written project of between 8,000 and 12,000 words in length (or equivalent), which may be either a short dissertation or an edition with commentary or an analysis or a portfolio of essays and ethnographic work. Music Ethnography portfolios may be submitted in a variety of formats, including recordings with commentary, video, photography, transcription and analysis. The topic of the project must be submitted for approval to the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Music, by noon on Friday of the 4th week of Michaelmas Term. Two copies of the project must be submitted, not later than noon on the first Monday in July, to the Chairman of Examiners for the M.Phil. in Music, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

Part 4: either a dissertation of between 22,000 and 25,000 words in musicology or ethnomusicology or a substantial editorial exercise (edition), with prefatory matter, of comparable length. The topic for the dissertation or edition must be submitted for approval to the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Music, by noon on Friday of the fourth week of Michaelmas Term. Subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, a dissertation may be a development of the M.St. dissertation or of the written project submitted in Part 3. Two typewritten copies of the dissertation or edition must be submitted, not later than noon on the first Monday in July, to the Chairman of Examiners for the M.Phil. in Music, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. Successful candidates will be required to deposit one copy of the dissertation or edition in the Music Faculty Library; minor corrections, as required by the examiners, must be incorporated prior to deposit in the library.
6. Candidates specialising in performance will be required to submit:

Part 3: a recital of forty-five minutes’ duration, vocal or instrumental, of at least two contrasted pieces. Two possible programmes must be submitted for approval to the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Music, by Friday of third week of Hilary Term. Candidates will be informed of the examiners’ choice of programme by the Friday of eighth week in the same term.

Part 4: either a dissertation of between 17,000 and 19,000 words in musicology or ethnomusicology or a substantial editorial exercise (edition), with prefatory matter, of comparable length. The topic for the dissertation or edition must be submitted for approval to the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Music, by noon on Friday of the fourth week of Michaelmas Term. Subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, a dissertation may be a development of the M.St. dissertation or of the written project submitted in Part 3. Two typewritten copies of the dissertation or edition must be submitted, not later than noon on the first Monday in July, to the Chairman of Examiners for the M.Phil. in Music, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. Successful candidates will be required to deposit one copy of the dissertation or edition in the Music Faculty Library; minor corrections, as required by the examiners, must be incorporated prior to deposit in the library.

7. Candidates specialising in composition will be required to submit:

Part 3: a written project of between 8,000 and 12,000 words in length (or equivalent), which may be either a short dissertation or an edition with commentary or an analysis or a portfolio of essays and ethnographic work. Music Ethnography portfolios may be submitted in a variety of formats, including recordings with commentary, video, photography, transcription and analysis. The topic of the project must be submitted for approval to the Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Music, by noon on Friday of the 4th week of Michaelmas Term. Two copies of the project must be submitted, not later than noon on Friday of the seventh week of Trinity Term, to the Chairman of Examiners for the M.Phil. in Music, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

Part 4: a portfolio of at least two well-contrasted compositions totalling between thirty-five and forty-five minutes in duration. The portfolio of compositions must be submitted, not later than noon on the first Monday in July, to the Chairman of Examiners for the M.Phil. in Music, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

2. Ibid., p.559, delete ll. 1-4 and substitute:

‘8. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination. In this case the work will normally display an excellent command of the subject studied, evidence of critical understanding, and some demonstration of an original conceptual approach.’

3. Ibid., renumber section 6 as 9.

Explanatory note

These changes bring the regulations for the MPhil in Music into line with those for the MSt in Music, which were substantially revised in 2012 to take account of changes to the pattern of teaching which had been introduced after lengthy consideration of the nature of the course by the Music Faculty Board and in response to student feedback. The changes to the MPhil make clearer the distinct requirements for each of the three ‘pathways’ through the degree (musicology, performance, composition) and some amendments are made to the length of submitted work to give better parity with the requirements for the MSt and for musicology and composition submissions at doctoral
level. The wording of the regulations for the award of a distinction is clarified, in response to a recommendation made by the external examiner for the MSt / MPhil Year 1 in 2011. The requirement for candidates to attend an oral examination when required to do so by the examiners is removed.