

Thesis Preparation Guidelines
Master of Music in Composition Degree
(Revised 10/2010)

1. Work with your thesis advisor to determine the appropriate ensemble and length of the work. Generally, the work is for large ensemble (such as orchestra, chamber orchestra, wind ensemble, or chorus with one of these ensembles). It is generally 8-12 minutes in length.
2. Review the work with your advisor at each stage of development.
3. The final version must be in computer software notation, and the quality of notation must be that of a commercially published score. The final version must be approved by your advisor before final printing. It is not necessary to generate parts.
4. Every effort should be made to reduce the score to be printed on 8½ x 11 paper. (This is a study/library score, not a performance score.) If this size is not possible, check with the music librarian to determine what size would be appropriate for shelving.
5. Once the score has been prepared, the following thesis format should be followed:
 - a. Cover page (which will appear on the cover of the bound copies) formatted like the attached the sample
 - b. Title page. Use lower-case Roman numerals for all prefatory material, but omit the number on the title page.
 - c. Approval page. Be sure that the page number (ii) appears on each of the three required copies of the signature page when you submit these pages for signatures.
 - d. Acknowledgements and dedication (optional)
 - e. Performance notes (including instrumentation list) and program notes. If there are two or more pages of notes, they should be double-sided.
 - f. Score. The main, Arabic, numbering of the score begins with the score; but omit the number on the first page. The score must be printed double-sided. (The first page of the score will appear on the right side of the bound copy.)
6. There is no thesis defense.
7. You must submit one copy of your complete thesis (unbound), plus two additional copies of the signature page at least 20 days before your graduation date. All of this material must be printed on 20-lb. archival paper (25% rag content). Obtain your thesis advisor's signature on each of the three signature pages before submitting these materials to the graduate program chair. Each of these copies must contain original signatures; photocopies of signatures are not acceptable.
8. Two bound copies of the thesis must be submitted to the graduate chair at least 7 days before graduation. Both copies will be disseminated to the library (one copy for circulation, one copy for the archives). The third copy of the thesis is for yourself and may be bound or unbound.
9. The thesis must be bound in black and the cover imprinted in gold lettering as follows: MASTER'S THESIS; thesis title; author's first name, middle initial, and last name; year. The letter size should be approximately one-quarter inch high. The spine of the thesis should be printed in the same style with gold letters and contain: the student's name, degree (abbreviated, MM Composition), year of completion, short title. It is not required, but many students go to Ridley's Book Bindery, 2435 North Triphammer Rd., Ithaca — www.ridleysbookbindery.com.

(Cover Example)

MASTER'S THESIS

Brahmaputra Bhatiali
for Chamber Orchestra

David B. McGrew

2008

(Title Page Example)

BRAHMAPUTRA BHATIALI
for Chamber Orchestra

A Masters Thesis presented to the Faculty of the School of Music Composition Program
Ithaca College

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Music in Composition

by

David B. McGrew

July 2008

Ithaca College

(Approval Page Example—be sure to add page number ii to this page)

School of Music
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

MASTER OF MUSIC IN COMPOSITION THESIS

This is to certify that the Thesis of

David B. McGrew

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree Master of Music in the School of Music
at Ithaca College has been approved.

Thesis Advisor: _____ date: _____

Chair, Graduate Program: _____ date: _____

Dean, Graduate Studies: _____ date: _____