Commitment to Excellence
Theory is a key component of each student’s musical education at UNI. The integrity of the theory and aural skills program is the product of a unified and comprehensive approach in presenting theoretical concepts and developing aural and analytical skills. The program is one of very few in the United States that offers separate credit for sight-singing, theory and aural training. UNI is also unique among institutions of comparable size and scope in that all levels of theory, aural training and sight-singing components are taught by faculty, not graduate assistants.

The Professional Advantage
Most of UNI’s theory and composition staff are published composers and recipients of many honors and awards. All have had extensive performance experience and each is dedicated to the encouragement of the creative process.

Finding Your Voice
In composition, faculty artists encourage students to explore a variety of techniques and styles in their writing; there is no emphasis on any one particular “school” of composition. Rather, students are guided in a search for their own voice. Additionally, students are introduced to the most recent technological aspects of composition, as well as being given a solid foundation in more traditional forms and techniques. Weekly forums are offered wherein students get to hear their own compositions as well as interact with visiting composers and performers.
Visiting Artists and Clinicians
Among the many fine artists who visit the School of music each year are some of the world’s most respected composers. UNI theory and composition students have had master classes with composers including Samuel Adler, Karel Husa, David Amram, Libby Larsen, Kamillo Lendvai, Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon and Michael Daugherty.

Learn about our faculty at:
music.uni.edu/directory