

CURRICULUM

Master of Music (cand. musicae), composition

Degree course CLASSICAL MUSIC Aarhus

Effective as of 2011

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1 Introduction

The MMus (Classical Composition) degree course at The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, is a course during which students acquire specialist knowledge, skills, and qualifications to become composers at the highest level and distinctive music business entrepreneurs. The master's degree also prepares students for postgraduate studies at soloist or PhD level.

The course structure has a constant focus on the Composition subject. The main study area also gives the student options for specialisation in instrumentation or performance or another relevant support subject, depending on the student's profile.

The Entrepreneurial Studies subject is concluded after the 3rd semester and provides the student with relevant tools for administering his/her artistic qualities through e.g. self-management and entrepreneurial skills.

The Classical Composition degree course concludes with a student-defined master's project which is based on student interests and needs and also constitutes their specialisation in the field of composition.

The course subjects are divided into the following fields:

Main study area: Subjects where the student is a performer as well as subjects that support this aspect.

Entrepreneurial Studies: Subjects and projects where students gain skills and qualifications as entrepreneurs and managers of dynamic processes and acquire career administration tools.

Master's project: The project itself as well as guidance and subjects that prepare the student for project work.

The elements of the course are credited with ECTS points based on an assessment of the workload involved in the subjects.

2 Course content, individual subjects, and examinations

MMus Composition	ECTS by semester				
	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	Total
Subject:					
Composition	19	19	4	12	54
Seminar and workshop	3	3	3	3	12
Support subject: Theory	5	5	5		15
Entrepreneurial Studies	3	3	3		9
Master's project:			15	15	30
TOTAL ECTS	30	30	30	30	120

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Composition

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.
- Has mastered artistic and composition-technical skills and forms of expression.
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.
- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and unpredictable creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her work as a composer in a globalised world.
- Can commence and direct musical ensemble playing and interdisciplinary cooperation independently in the composer and communicator role.
- Is able to act professionally as regards responsibilities and ethics.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development and prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

- Peer and teacher guidance during the creative process with the student's own works.
- Analysis of relevant works of music from past to present.
- Study of important technical literature regarding contemporary main trends in composition technique, aesthetics, and style.

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one tuition and joint classes.

Semesters

1st to 4th semester.

Scope

54 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester: 1st year test

By May 1st, a representative selection of works created during the first year of the master's degree course is handed in.

The student orally presents at least one of the works offered in terms of technique and aesthetics. Examination: 50 minutes. Discussion: 10 minutes.

Marking and evaluation:

Internal marking, approved/not approved

After the 4th semester: Examination

By April 1st, a representative selection of works created during the master's degree course is handed in. Works that form part of the master's project cannot be used.

The student orally presents at least one of the works offered in terms of technique and aesthetics and accounts for his/her own artistic development.

Examination: 60 minutes. Discussion: 30 minutes.

Marking and evaluation:

External marking. Grade and a written statement.

The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives have been achieved.

2.1.2 Seminar and Workshop

Objectives

Upon completion of the subjects, the student:

- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Possesses specialist knowledge of internationally recognised artistic and composition-technical practice, repertoire, methods, and theory.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.

Content

At the seminars, students, teachers, and invited guests present and discuss their ideas and projects. Seminars may also be used for presentations or debates on technical or theoretical subjects. In the workshop format, students test their composition ideas in practice with their fellow students or possibly an external ensemble. Teachers continuously confer with students regarding future subjects and/or guests.

Tuition and work formats

Seminar tuition takes the form of joint classes with one main subject teacher acting as moderator/presenter.

Workshop tuition takes the form of joint classes with teachers and fellow students called in for the purpose.

Semesters

1st to 4th semester.

Scope

12 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

Certificate. This certifies that the objectives have been achieved at a level at least corresponding to a Pass, and that current attendance rules have been followed.

2.1.3 Support subject: Theory

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of music theory.

Content

The aim is that selected topics from music theory are covered, but the subject may also include topics relating to analysis, performance, or other relevant issues.

Support subjects are arranged jointly by students, main subject teachers and the director of studies.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition or one-to-one tuition.

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester.

Scope

15 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 1st and 2nd semester

A written assignment (7 to 10 pages) is handed in after each subject.

Marking and evaluation:

Internal marking, approved/not approved.

After the 3rd semester: Written examination

No later than December 1st, a written assignment (10 to 15 pages) is handed in.

The assignment topic is defined by the student in consultation with the teacher.

Marking and evaluation:

External marking. Grade.

The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives have been achieved.

2.2 Entrepreneurial Studies

Objective

Upon completion of the Entrepreneurial Studies subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of the music business and culture in an international context.
- Understands and is able to reflect on professional practice and the complex relations between music industry players.
- Commands programme creation and communication with a view to employment in music.
- Is able to assess challenges and issues in relation to his/her career, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected career decisions.
- Is able to communicate his/her own profile and discuss vocational issues in relation to peers, audiences, and media players.
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in relation to the music business and culture in a globalised world.
- Can commence and lead independently in various professional contexts and interdisciplinary cooperation.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own potential for creative development in a professional career context.

Content

Tuition on the individual semesters covers various subjects including:

1st semester:

- Career plan
- Individual research
- Self-management
- Communication
- Financials
- Music and society

2nd semester:

- Business plan
- Sales
- Marketing
- Partnerships and cooperation with other music industry players
- Development of ideas
- Project design

3rd semester:

- Project management
- Individual and group guidance
- Realising a project
- Career plan

Mandatory assignments

To pass each semester, the student must hand in an online learning portfolio containing the work/assignments completed over the course of the semester.

At the start of the tuition course, the teacher announces which online platform is to be used. The semester can only be passed if the assignments have been handed in and approved by the teacher. All assignments must relate theory and/or method to practice.

1st semester: Development of a career plan drawing on perspectives from the interview with a business professional chosen by the student

2nd semester: Development of business plan for project

3rd semester: Examination assignment

Scope of written assignments on the 1st and 2nd semester: 3 to 5 pages.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, seminars and individual guidance.

Scope

9 ECTS towards the degree.

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format:

Oral examination based on the examination assignment.

Duration: 20 minutes

Discussion: 10 minutes

The examination assignment is handed in online and consists of two parts:

- A well-developed presentation portfolio/home page with a professional look
- A project assignment/learning portfolio Scope: 5-7 pages or corresponding video material/accessible portfolio content. The assignment must include a reflection on the student's practical experience with entrepreneurial activities and must relate to 2-3 themes from the core areas of the subject with relevant literature (theory and/or method).

Marking and evaluation:

Internal marking. Evaluation: grade. The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives of the course have been achieved.

2.3 Master's project

Objective

Upon completion of the master's project, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of practice, methods and theory within the chosen project area.
- Understands and is able to reflect on his/her practice and choice of specialist methods in relation to the project.
- Has mastered relevant methods, tools and forms of expression for creative, performative, and/or pedagogical work.
- Is able to identify project relevant knowledge in an independent and critical manner and evaluate, create and choose from project related solution models.
- May communicate and discuss project idea and results orally and in writing to both peers and non-specialists.
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in relation to project work.
- Is able to independently find relevant cooperation partners and act critically and professionally in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs and potential for development in relation to project work, and to draft and manage realistic schedules.

Content

The student chooses and defines his/her own master's project. The project must include the following elements:

- At least one of the following dimensions: an artistic, performative, pedagogical or theoretical dimension
- A communicative dimension
- A written reflection. Scope: 15 to 30 pages

The repertoire of the 4th semester main instrument concert may overlap that of the master's project.

Tuition and work formats

Individually, in large groups and in study groups

The main project is completed during the 3rd and 4th semesters.

Individual project guidance is provided by the main supervisor, possibly assisted by an external supervisor.

Preparations for the project are made in the Master's Project: Joint Classes subject.

The Master's Project: Joint Classes subject includes tuition in project management, method awareness, literature searches, interview techniques, etc. and provides an introduction to various research methods.

During the course, student projects are used as case studies as applicable.

The student prepares his/her own project plan as part of the tuition.

Deadlines

1 April, 2nd semester

The student sends a preliminary title and a draft of the content to the project coordinator along with a prioritised application for a main supervisor.

Early September, 3rd semester

In the Master's Project: Joint Classes subject, the students are introduced to the scope, form and expectations/options in connection with the master's project and are instructed to prepare a preliminary project description.

Study groups of 3 to 4 students are formed. The group convenes at least three times during the project period. A report of these meetings must be included as an annex to the written part of the project.

1 November, 3rd semester

The preliminary project description is submitted for review by the project coordinator.

This includes a description of the intended master's project as regards title, work format, plans for project realisation and final presentation format.

1 February, 4th semester

In cooperation with the main supervisor, the student prepares the final project description which forms the foundation for the remaining work and the evaluation of the project.

This project description is binding in relation to the written part of the project.

1 April, 4th semester

The written reflection (including material that the examiners are expected to be familiar with at the presentation) is handed in.

Special regulations regarding the written reflection

In the written reflection, the student should account for e.g. the following:

- The chosen angle of the project

Which delimitations have been made, and for what reasons?

- The target audience of the project. "Who am I trying to reach?"

An identification and description of these as well as an evaluation of the degree to which they have been involved in work on the project.

- Music business anchoring. "Who may assist me?"

Where and how is the project meant to be located on the local/national/international music scene? This includes an evaluation of, and proactive measures in relation to, stakeholders.

- Traditions

An account of the artistic/pedagogical/performance related tradition that the project aspires to be a part of, including a list of relevant literature (in the broad sense of books, articles, TV shows, interviews, recordings, websites, etc.).

In addition, the written reflection must include the following:

- Literature list

- Abstract

Short summary (max. ½ page) of the project in English

- Annexes

All relevant material is included as annexes, including the final project description and reports from study group meetings.

Late May, 4th semester

Presentation of final project

See the evaluation and examination regulations.

Semesters

3rd to 4th semester

Scope

30 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format

A: Presentation (30 minutes)

Depending on the nature of the project, the presentation may take the following forms:

- A concert incorporating oral communication
- A teaching situation using a project approach
- A lecture

B: Interview with the board of examiners (10 minutes)

Duration of presentation and interview: 40 minutes. Duration of exam including discussion: 60 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade and a written statement.

The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives have been achieved.