

CURRICULUM

Master of Music (cand. musicae), Music Teacher

Degree course CLASSICAL CHOIR DIRECTION Aarhus

Effective as of 2011

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1 Introduction

The MMus (Choir Direction) music education degree course at the Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, is a 2-year course during which students acquire specialist knowledge, skills, and qualifications to become musicians, choir directors, and music teachers at a high level. In addition, the course focuses on making students capable of becoming music business entrepreneurs.

The course structure has a constant focus on the Choir Direction and Ensemble Direction subjects as well as training courses in connection with these subjects. The main study area also encompasses the subjects Singing, Language, and Theory. The Singing and Language/Phonetics subjects are concluded after the second semester, the Ensemble Direction subject after the third, and Theory after the fourth semester. Theoretical and practical pedagogics tuition is covered, and the student learns how to communicate his/her technical and musical knowledge and skills.

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 Music Teacher with Choir Direction 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.

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 and pedagogical subjects.
- 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

ECTS chart:

Music Teacher with Choir Direction	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	Total
Main study area					
Choir Direction	12	12	7	7	38
Ensemble Direction	5	5	7		17
Theory	3	3	3	3	12
Singing	3	3			6
Language/Phonetics	1	1			2
Education Theory	3	3			6
Entrepreneurial Studies	3	3	3		9
Master's project			10	20	30
Total	30	30	30	30	120

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Choir Direction

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Can commence and direct musical ensemble playing and interdisciplinary cooperation independently and at a professional level in the musician and communicator roles.
- Possesses specialist knowledge of artistic and technical practice as well as specialist and internationally recognised knowledge of relevant pedagogical, didactic, and psychological theories, concepts, and methods.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own artistic practice as well as in relation to tuition and communication courses.
- Has mastered advanced tuition skills as well as musical and technical skills and forms of expression.
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to assess and choose among pedagogical methods and tools, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.
- Is able to work with musical and pedagogical communication.
- Is able to manage complex and unpredictable creative challenges in pedagogical processes and while realising his/her musicianship in a globalised world.
- 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

Tuition encompasses methodology, training, and score playing and is organised as class tuition for all direction students as well as individual lessons with Academy direction teachers.

Tuition facilitates a process whereby the student may independently take responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for artistic development, and structure his/her time and work efforts.

During direction classes, emphasis is put on subjects such as:

- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Score playing
- Repertoire

- Movement technique
- Phonetics
- Language and understanding of lyrics

Training:

Weekly classes are executed using the training choir provided by the Academy. The same choir will participate during exams. Each semester concludes with a concert performance at which the training choir and all direction students participate.

Each student directs for 10-15 minutes per concert.

Tuition and work formats

Tuition is divided between the following:

1. Class tuition
2. Training using the Academy's training ensemble
3. Individual lessons

Semesters

1st to 4th semester.

Scope

38 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th semester: Master's examination

Examination content

1. The student instructs the choir in a set movement that has not been covered during tuition. The choir is the Academy's training choir. The student is notified of the movement 7 days prior to the examination. Duration: 30 minutes.
2. The student directs two short a capella movements. The movements are chosen by the student and are performed as a concert. Duration approx. 2 x 5 minutes.
3. The student directs a movement that he or she has not previously directed with the choir but is familiar to the choir. The same movement may be used for all examinations for the year in question. Duration: approx. 5 minutes. The assignment is set 48 hours prior to the examination.

Written material for the master's examination. To be handed in 1 month prior to the examination:

1. Student CV containing relevant information on the student's work as a conductor, chorister, and teacher, other degrees, etc.

2. A repertoire list containing the following:
 - a. AT least 10 stylistically diverse works that the student has directed.
 - b. Repertoire covered during the degree course.

During the subsequent interview (10 minutes), the external examiners may ask clarifying questions.

Examination format

Practical test: 60 minutes.

Discussion and interview

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade.

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

2.1.2 Ensemble Direction

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own artistic practice as well as in relation to tuition and communication courses.
- Has mastered musical skills, leadership qualifications, and direction skills.
- Is able to work with musical and pedagogical communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Can commence and direct musical ensemble playing and interdisciplinary cooperation independently and at a professional level in the musician and communicator roles.
- Is able to act professionally as regards responsibilities and ethics.
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected artistic decisions.

Content

Tuition comprises methods and training.

Methods include subjects such as direction technique, score technique, repertoire orientation, and preparation methods.

Training: At least 20 lessons of 45 minutes with the student's own ensemble distributed across the 2nd and 3rd semester.

Tuition and work formats

On the 1st and 2nd semesters, students attend Academy Ensemble Direction classes for instrumentalists.

On the 3rd semester, tuition is targeted at the examination after the 3rd semester.

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester.

Scope

17 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examinations are held after the 3rd semester in January.

The teacher and the orchestral school organiser develop a repertoire with a scope equivalent to a Bach cantata.

Examination format

Practical test: 30 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Evaluation: Grade.

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

2.1.3 Theory

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Commands critical and analytical approaches to music and musical practice.
- Is able to discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Understands and is able to reflect on general terms and concepts of music theory that are used domestically and abroad.
- Is able to communicate knowledge of music history in writing and orally.
- Is able to acknowledge and handle music history and performance-related practical challenges in an investigative and analytical manner in a teaching context.
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs in the fields of music history and performance practice.
- Possesses knowledge of main trends in contemporary composition techniques, aesthetics, and styles.
- Has acquired and is able to use technical and musical skills in relation to working as a composer.
- Has acquired the auditory, visual, and analytical skills to be able to hear, read, understand, and reproduce music melodically, harmonically, and rhythmically as a whole and in parts, generally and within the main subject area.
- Possesses elementary knowledge and skills regarding musical understanding as well as ear training theory, methods, and repertoire.

Content

Tuition comprises the following:

Music History

- Arrangement/Composition
- Performance Practice
- Ear Training

Music History:

Music History tuition is specifically based on choir and choir/orchestra repertoire as the general introduction to music history belongs on the BMus degree course.

Arrangement/Composition:

The subject is integrated as much as possible with practical work on procuring repertoire for various choirs/orchestras and at various skill levels.

Performance practice:

Students are taught the choir and choir/orchestra repertoire approaches of various historical periods.

Ear Training:

Tuition is closely connected to the main subject and aims to strengthen the student's ability to combine a visual/analytical approach with an auditory one.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition.

Semesters

1st to 4th semester.

Scope

12 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

- Arrangement

By April 1st on the 4th semester, the student hands in a portfolio containing 6 representative arrangements created during the MMus degree course.

- Performance Practice

Two or more recordings of the same work are handed out to the student who must analyse them to pinpoint traits typical of various periods in the respective interpretations.

Preparation: 24 hours.

Examination format

Written and oral examinations after the 4th semester.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. One overall grade.

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

2.1.4 Singing

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Has acquired technical and musical singing skills enabling him/her to sing parts in an adequate manner in rehearsal contexts.
- Is able to make artistic choices and assessments.
- Is capable of assessing the suitability of various warm-up exercises in relation to specific technical vocal issues.

Content

Based on technical exercises and repertoire movements, control over the voice and respiratory system is developed. Tuition must constantly focus on the student attaining the theoretical/voice theoretical background to work as director for singers with singing prerequisites at all levels.

Tuition and work formats

Class and one-to-one tuition.

Semesters

1st and 2nd semester.

Scope

6 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester: Examination

Examination content

- No later than April 1st on the 2nd semester, the student hands in two warm-up programmes. The respective exercises are annotated as regards their suitability and purpose.
- A solo assignment with a difficulty level equivalent to that of J.S. Bach: Schemelli-Gesangbuch is offered along with the warm-up exercises.

Examination format

Practical and oral test. Duration: 20 minutes including discussion.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.1.5 Language/Phonetics

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of phonetics as well as relevant linguistic knowledge.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her knowledge of phonetical and linguistic issues.

Content

Tuition covers the principles of the phonetic alphabet as well as the basic pronunciation rules for French, Italian, German, English, and Latin.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

2 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulations

Certificate with the evaluation Approved/Not approved. 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.

2.1.6 Education Theory

Objectives

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist and internationally recognised knowledge of relevant pedagogical, didactic, and psychological theories, concepts, and methods.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to teaching and communication courses.
- Takes a critical and analytical approach to music and music education practice.
- Is able to discuss music education related issues.
- Is able to manage complex pedagogical processes in multicultural contexts.
- Is able to independently argue and 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

An introduction to music education and music pedagogical work as well as development and research efforts in the field of music education, including key concepts, questions, and themes, based on presentations and themes on eg:

- music education theory and practice
- music pedagogical work in relation to the field of pedagogics as a whole
- musical forms of expression and processes of aesthetic cognition
- existing idiom and individual experience
- the relationship between artistic activity and cultural education
- professional identity and music pedagogical institutions
- personal and musical development
- music and musicality
- aesthetics and didactics
- different forms of knowledge
- participation, direction, and observation

Interaction with the training courses in other subjects is presupposed.

Tuition and work formats

First semester:

Tuition takes place in large classes and study groups.

Each study group receives guidance.

The study group prepares a written assignment on a teacher approved subject.

Scope: 6 to 8 pages.

Second semester:

Tuition takes place in smaller classes (approx. 8 to 10 persons).

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester.

Scope

6 ECTS towards the degree.

Evaluation and examination regulationsAfter the 1st semester

The module concludes with a presentation of the assignment based on the study group work. The presentation is performed in the presence of all large class students. Subsequent to the presentation, the study group receives teacher response and comments.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Approved/not approved.

After the 2nd semester**Examination**

At the examination, a written assignment on a teacher approved subject is handed in.

Work may be done in groups of 1 to 4 students.

Scope:

1-2 students: 10 to 15 pages.

3-4 students: 15 to 20 pages.

The deadline for hand-in is communicated by the studies office

Examination format

The oral examination is individual and is initiated by an independent elaboration by the student lasting for a maximum of 10 minutes. This is followed by an interview of approx. 20 minutes on the subject.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.1.7 Optional lessons

The student may use a small number of lessons to fulfil special and individual learning needs in consultation with the main subject teachers.

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.