

CURRICULUM

Master of Music (Songwriter) (cand. musicae)

RHYTHMIC MUSIC, SONGWRITING Aarhus

Effective as of 2015

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1 Introduction

Content and opportunities

The MMUS Songwriter degree course at The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, is a 2-year course during which students build upon the skills and qualifications acquired during the BMus degree course.

The candidate may use the following title: Cand. Musicae/Master of Music.

Central to the MMus degree course is the in-depth, specialised development of the student's artistic practice, method and professionalism, including the development of communicative and entrepreneurial competences. The aim of the degree course is tuition that combines individual projects with a series of group platforms called "laboratories" that feature discussion, criticism and knowledge sharing between students and teachers. The degree course qualifies students to choose in relation to future artistic careers. The master's degree also prepares students for postgraduate studies at soloist or PhD level.

Course structure

Main study area: The degree course focuses on the development of the student as a songwriter/composer and communicator. Work is done on qualifications, skills and knowledge that support and develop a creative and reflective approach. Tuition additionally covers the management and communication of creative processes.

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

Master's project: The MMus Songwriter degree course concludes with a student-defined master's project based on the student's artistic profile. The project constitutes the student's final specialisation.

The course subjects are divided into the following fields

- **Main study area:** Divided into a) individual projects and b) class laboratories as well as subjects supporting these disciplines.
- **Entrepreneurial Studies:** Subjects and projects where students immerse themselves in the role as entrepreneurs and managers of dynamic processes and develop their career administration tools.
- **Master's project:** In addition to the project work itself and related guidance, students receive tuition in subjects that prepare them for the final project work.

2 Course content, individual subjects, and examinations

ECTS chart:

	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	
Main study area					
Individual projects	9	9	5	8	31
Laboratories	8		5	7	20
Internship		10			10
Coaching	3	3			6
Communication	3	3			6
Workshop	2				2
Electives	2	2	2		6
Entrepreneurial Studies	3	3	3		9
Master's project			15	15	30
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Songwriting

Objective

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Is capable of artistic expression at a high level.
- Possesses specialist knowledge of internationally recognised artistic and songwriting 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.
- Has mastered artistic, songwriting and compositional 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 songwriting career in a globalised world.
- Can commence, realise and communicate his/her own works independently and participate in interdisciplinary cooperation.
- 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 to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

Tuition encompasses development of the student's personal musical expression and technical ability through work on the following:

- Student projects: Songwriting and composition
- Creativity and creative processes
- Management of creative processes
- Various songwriting and composition techniques
- Artistic practice in relation to internship

Mandatory participation in Academy activities:

The Academy regularly arranges projects and special seminars that the students must participate in. Participation in these is included in the ECTS points awarded for the subject.

Tuition and work formats

A) Individual projects

Individual projects give students room for immersion and development of an artistic practice and production of their own.

Each project lasts one semester and is concluded with a report containing a project description as well as a 4 to 6 page process description and a product: at least 5 songs or 15 minutes of music. If two students work together on a project as co-writers, the minimum is 7-8 songs or 20-25 minutes of music.

Project description:

- A description of the intended project, including project title and idea
- Requests for supervisor
- To be submitted for approval with the coordinator by 15 September/15 February

No later than three weeks hereafter, the student receives the approved preliminary project description and an answer to the request for supervisor from the coordinator responsible for the project.

Evaluation of individual projects

The project is evaluated by the supervisor, fellow students, a coach and the coordinator.

No later than 12.00 on 1 December (1st and 3rd semester) or 1 May (2nd and 4th semester), the student hands in a portfolio or CD/DVD (3 copies) with a report containing the following:

1. Project description

2. A description of student prerequisites in relation to the project

- Description of professional student prerequisites
- Experience from similar projects
- Chosen subject
- Expectations of the student's own performance
- Expectations of the project
- How are you going to reach your goal, and what skills and competences will it take?

3. A description of the process

- What choices were made, and why?
- What choices provided the basis for the planning process?
- Did the choices contribute to furthering the process?

- Which aspects were potentially risky?
- What other choices could have been made?
- Was there a plan B?
- At which points in the process were the decisive choices made?
- How and in what manner was the supervisor involved?

4. Evaluation and perspectives

- What did you learn, and what would you do differently next time?
- How did the project end compared to what you wrote in the project description?

Presentation

Presentation of max. 20 minutes during which the student accounts for his/her thoughts on the product and process of the project.

During the presentation, the student may play music examples and/or display other material relevant to the project.

The presentation may include the following:

- Project context (project description)
- Process, learnings, development, creativity
- Challenges and reflections along the way
- The product
- Perspectives

B) Laboratories

Class tuition

In consultation with the coordinator, the students choose subject areas relevant to songwriting. Tuition is handled by a specialist in the field.

Teachers for laboratory tuition are chosen for at least 1 semester at a time.

Content

Can be immersion in subjects such as the following: creativity and creative processes, lyrics writing in Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and/or English, production, film music, a focus on different music genres, recording and sound.

Semesters, individual projects and laboratories

1st, 3rd, and 4th semester. There is no laboratory tuition on the 2nd semester.

Prior to the commencement of studies, the following is discussed during a kickoff meeting with the subject coordinator:

- Supervisors for individual projects
- Teachers for laboratories

The coordinator and the Head of Studies make the final decisions based on the kickoff meeting.

An evaluation/planning meeting with the coordinator is held prior to each semester.

Scope

51 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 1st semester

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.

After the 3rd semester

Presentation of the student's own songs/works and an interview

Examination content

No later than 1 May, the student hands in a presentation of 2 to 4 works/songs written during the study period and with a total duration of no more than 30 minutes which will form the basis of the evaluation.

The presentation must include an audio reproduction of the songs/works as well as relevant annexes (scores, lyrics, descriptions etc.) and can be in the form of several media (website/portfolio, CD catalogue, book or similar).

The presentation format is agreed with the coordinator, and the presentation should be handed in to him/her.

No matter which format is used, a written guide for the examiners' use of the material must be handed in.

Examination format:

Oral examination based on the material handed in.

The student presents the songs/works orally based on

- technical, aesthetic, and content-related considerations
- a reflection of his/her own practice and development options

Duration:

Student presentation: 30 minutes

Interview: 20 minutes

Discussion and comment: 10 minutes.

Total duration including discussion: 60 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail as well as a short oral statement.

The assessment must reflect to what extent the overall objectives of the course are expected to be achievable for the main study area over the two years of study.

After the 4th semester

Presentation of the student's own songs/works and an interview.

Examination content

- No later than 15 May, the student creates a general presentation of his/her composer/songwriter activities with the main emphasis on works/songs written during the study period. 5-8 important works/songs are singled out (total duration: no more than 45 minutes) which will form the basis of the evaluation. The presentation may include scores, audio examples, lyrics, descriptions, etc. and may be created using various media (website/portfolio, CD catalogue, book, etc.).
No matter which format is used, a written guide for the examiners' use of the material must be handed in.
- During a subsequent interview, the examiners may ask the student questions regarding the works.

Duration

Student presentation: 30 minutes

Interview: 20 minutes

Discussion and comment: 20 minutes

Total duration including discussion: 70 minutes

The examination repertoire may overlap that of the master's project.

Examination format

Oral examination based on the material handed in.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade.

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

2.1.2 Internship

Objective

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own further artistic development.
- Is capable of artistic expression at a high level.
- 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 manage complex and unpredictable creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her musicianship in a globalised world.
- Can commence, realise and communicate his/her own works independently and participate in interdisciplinary cooperation.
- Is able to formulate and execute a cohesive project and carry it out through all phases from idea to realisation.
- 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 to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

The internship gives the student an opportunity to expand his/her network, create relevant business contacts, work in communities of practice, create a foundation for his/her own business and try out various possibilities in regard to his/her future career. An internship can include artistic, entrepreneurial and communicative dimensions. By the end of the internship, the student creates a written reflection on the project.

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one and class tuition

In consultation with the coordinator, the student chooses an internship where he/she will spend a limited period during the 2nd semester in training or working with an organisation within the arts, business or music.

Support subjects: Communication and Coaching.

Internship may take place:

- **Internationally**
 - Training periods abroad, possibly in cooperation with educational institutions or businesses. May be supported by ERASMUS programmes
- **Nationally**
 - Performance, production, curating, organisation, cooperation with other artists and similar
- **In businesses**
 - Team building, marketing, sound design, production, entrepreneurship and similar
- **As a cooperation with other educational institutions**
- **Focusing on pedagogics**
 - Tuition, parent cooperation, project management and similar

Semesters

2nd semester

Scope

10 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

By the end of the internship and no later than 12.00 on 15 May, the student hands in a portfolio or CD/DVD (3 copies) containing one or more recordings of the project(s) as well as the songs/music created in connection with the project. In addition, a report (at least 6-8 pages per project excluding annexes) must be handed in. The report must contain the following:

1. Project description
2. A description of student prerequisites in relation to the project
3. A description of the course
4. Evaluation and perspectives

Relevant annexes are to be attached.

Examination format

During the evaluation of the internship, the student accounts for his/her project. Video and sound examples may be included during the presentation.

Duration

Presentation: no more than 20 minutes

Interview: 20 minutes

Discussion and oral comment: 15 minutes

Total duration including discussion: 55 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail.

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

2.1.3 Coaching

Objective

Upon completion of the Coaching subject, the student:

- Is able to act professionally regarding ethics and responsibility in relation to the teaching/communication role.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to courses of development.
- Is able to organise, execute and manage progressive courses of development.
- Is able to discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to evaluate and handle artistic and communicative challenges in a creative, investigative and analytical manner.
- Can participate independently in and oversee cooperation with pupils, other non-specialists and peers.
- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options and potential for creative development, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

The subject focuses on the student developing his/her personal, artistic and communicative skills over the course of tuition and building the necessary resources for realising these skills in a professional context. This is achieved through work on the following:

- Further development of the student's self-understanding and authenticity in the realisation of his/her resources and creative potential as a songwriter
- Further development of the student's ability to use communicative and relational methods supporting creative development processes
- Further development of the student's social leadership competences; in other words, the student's ability to create optimal conditions for the realisation of his/her creative potential and that of others
- Further development of the student's ability to evaluate and anchor the results of the above

The subject is connected to the Internship subject.

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one and class tuition

Semesters

1st and 2nd semester

Scope
6 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After each semester: 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.

2.1.4 Communication

Objective

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of relevant pedagogical concepts and methods.
- Is able to act professionally as regards ethics and responsibility in relation to the teaching/communication role.
- Understands and is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to teaching and communication situations.
- Possesses specialist songwriting tuition and communication skills.
- Is able to manage complex progressive pedagogical courses.
- Is able to work with artistic communication and discuss music related and professional problems with peers as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to evaluate and handle pedagogical challenges in a creative, investigative and analytical manner.
- Is able to independently argue and assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs and potential for artistic development in the field of pedagogics, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts in relation to organisation of teaching courses.
- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options and potential for creative development, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

- Further development of the student's ability to communicate and teach songwriting in various contexts
- Further development of the student's general subject understanding and communicative ability
- Further development of the student's creativity and ability to enhance creativity in others
- Further development of the student's management skills through the planning and execution of pedagogical and/or artistic work processes
- Communication of music through presentations and practical exercises
- Tuition makes use of practical exercises, theoretical presentations and discussions drawing on relevant literature.

The subject is connected to the Internship subject.

Tuition and work formats

Class and one-to-one tuition

Semesters

1st and 2nd semester

Scope

6 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After each semester: 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.

2.1.5 Workshop

Objective

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, songwriting technical or composition technical practice, 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

During a workshop, students, teachers, and (optionally) invited guests present and discuss relevant issues as well as their own ideas and projects.

The workshop may also be used for presentations or debate on issues that the students, in consultation with the teachers, consider relevant for the degree course.

Teachers confer with students regarding future subjects and guests.

Tuition and work formats

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

Semesters

1st semester

Scope

2 ECTS

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 Elective

Objective

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.
- Is able to manage complex artistic challenges in a creative, investigative and analytical manner.
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs and potential for artistic development within the main area, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts in relation to own instrument practice and ensemble rehearsals.
- Is able to act professionally as regards to responsibilities and ethics.

Content

Electives provide students with an opportunity for immersing themselves in a subject area or issue of their own choice with a view towards strengthening and adding to their artistic profile.

The subject area is chosen in consultation with the coordinator.

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one or class tuition

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Scope

6 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After each semester: 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.

2.2 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.