



Det Jyske
Musikkonservatorium
**The Royal Academy
of Music**

CURRICULUM

Bachelor of Music (BMus) programme

CLASSICAL COMPOSITION

Aarhus

Effective as of 2019

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1 Introduction

Classical Composition is a 3-year BMus programme at the Royal Academy of Music where students work with composition in an artistic and critically reflective manner. Taking the student's compositions as a starting point, the programme includes a broad range of subjects and projects that form the basis for the student's choice of further studies and future career.

The programme focuses on the student's composition and technical skills in an artistic context. It includes communication of music in practice and in theory, and the programme concludes with a bachelor project where the student specialises in a subject chosen by the student him/herself.

The programme subjects are divided into the following fields:

- Main study area: subjects where the student works with composition in an investigative, creative, and methodical manner as well as Ear training and Instrumentation that support this
- Pedagogy: subjects where the student works with artistic communication and pedagogical practice
- General studies: music theory, music history, and music analysis. Among other things, students work on knowledge of periods and works, notation, arrangement, and style analysis
- Artistic entrepreneurship: subjects and projects where the student gains experience as an entrepreneur and manager of dynamic processes and acquires career management tools, based on his/her artistic practice
- Bachelor project: specialisation including guidance and immersion in a subject chosen by the student

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

2 Programme content, individual subjects, and examinations

	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	5th sem	6th sem	Total
Main study area							
Composition	10	10	10	10	10	15	65
Instrumentation	5	5	5				15
Ear training	5	5	5				15
Joint module (all programmes)	5						5
Pedagogy							
Communication and theory				5			5
General studies							
Music theory	5						5
Music history and music analysis		5	5				10
Entrepreneurial studies			5	5	5		15
Electives		5		10	15	5	35
Bachelor project						10	10
Total	30	30	30	30	30	30	180

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Composition

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of main trends within composition technique, aesthetics, and style, musical and technical practice, repertoire, literature, methods, and theory
- Is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own artistic practice
- Has acquired and is able to use technical and musical skills and forms of expression related to his/her work as a composer
- Is capable of making artistic choices and assessments
- Is able to communicate musical and artistic expression in a way that is relevant for a given target audience
- Is able to identify and discuss artistic challenges in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Can participate independently in various musical contexts
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and creative potential for development within composition, and to prioritise and structure his/her time and work efforts in relation to these
- Can use entrepreneurial competences in his/her artistic practice

Content

Tuition includes the following:

- Guidance during artistic work with the student's own works, including sparring with fellow students and guidance during work on the creative works
- Seminars providing in-depth perspectives on selected subjects, including cooperation with other composition programmes
- Reflection on practice and choice of methods in relation to the student's own artistic practice
- Communication of musical and artistic ideas and positions
- Project weeks on the main study area, possibly including general or cross-disciplinary skills

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one and class tuition

Semesters

1st to 6th semester

Scope

65 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester: 1st year evaluation

Examination content

The student hands in at least two works composed on the 1st and 2nd semesters and a brief written presentation of the works. At the oral examination, the student gives a short presentation of the works submitted and is subsequently evaluated orally by fellow students and teachers.

Examination format

Written assignment and oral examination

Duration of the oral test: 30 minutes, including 15 minutes of presentation followed by 15 minutes of interview and questions from the teacher, the examiner, and optionally the fellow students. This is followed by 10 minutes of deliberation.

Total duration including deliberation: 40 minutes

Scope of written presentation: 1-2 pages

The works composed must be handed in by 1 May.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail.

The assessment must reflect whether the overall objectives of the programme are expected to be achievable for the subject over the three years of study.

After the 6th semester: examination

Examination content

The student hands in a representative selection of works (at least 4) composed on the 3rd to 6th semesters and a written presentation of the works (2-3 pages).

Oral examination: technical and aesthetic discussion of at least one of the works handed in, chosen by the student.

Examination format

Written assignment and oral examination

Duration of the oral test: 45 minutes, including 20 minutes of artistic presentation of the works and 25 minutes of interview. This is followed by 15 minutes of deliberation.

Total duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

The works composed must be handed in by 1 May.

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade.

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

2.1.2 Instrumentation

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Has acquired elementary knowledge of instruments and instrumentation
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and potential for creative development in the instrumentation field
- Is able to investigate and experiment with the possibilities of the various instruments
- Is able to analyse and reflect on the methodological and aesthetic choices made in a given instrumentation
- Can apply instrumentation strategies and methods in his/her own practice
- Is able to communicate his/her instrumentation choices in a way that is relevant to a given target audience

Content

1st semester: instrument knowledge

An introduction to the technical and expressive possibilities of selected instruments. Tuition focuses on instrument acoustics, physical characteristics, and playing techniques.

2nd semester: instrumentation theories

An introduction to theories, methods, and analysis of instrumentation, including a discussion of the stylistic and aesthetic aspects of the discipline.

3rd semester: transcription/instrumentation

An introduction to elementary and artistic transcription and guidance during student work on his/her own instrumentations.

Tuition and work formats

Tuition may take the following forms: presentations, student presentations, discussion, analyses, studying technical literature, listening exercises, and instrumentation assignments.

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Scope

15 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Oral examination after the 1st semester

The examination consists of a presentation of an instrument covered during tuition and an interview about a work (possibly an excerpt) for chamber ensemble (maximum 5-8 minutes of music). The presentation must focus on the acoustics, physical design, and performance technical possibilities of the instrument. The interview focuses on the use of each individual instrument in the work provided. The music is handed out in the

form of a score and an audio file. The student is given 30 minutes for listening to the music. The instrument to be presented is announced at the start of the examination.

Preparation: 30 minutes
Presentation and interview: 30 minutes
Deliberation: 15 minutes
Total duration including deliberation: 45 minutes

Marking and evaluation
Internal marking. Pass/fail.

Written assignment after the 2nd semester

Instrumentation analysis of an orchestra work provided by the Academy. The scope of the analysis must be 3-5 pages excluding examples/images. Score examples must be inserted in the assignment so that it can be read without access to the score. The assignment must be handed in no later than 2 weeks after the handout date.

Marking and evaluation
Internal marking. Grade.

Written assignment after the 3rd semester

Creating an instrumentation for orchestra (approx. 60-75 bars/15 orchestra pages) as well as a brief account of the deliberations, methods, and ideas used during the creative process. In consultation with the teacher, the student selects the work or excerpt for which the instrumentation is to be created. The assignment must be handed in as a PDF file, score file, and MIDI file. The original must be provided at the bottom of the score. The text is to be handed in as a PDF file. The assignment must be handed in no later than 3 weeks after the handout date.

Marking and evaluation
Internal marking. Grade.

The diploma will include the average of the 2nd and 3rd semester examination grades.

2.1.3 Ear training

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Has developed the musical imagination, memory, and awareness required to perform music at a professionally and artistically high level
- Has acquired auditive, visual, and analytical skills enabling the student to hear, read, understand, and reproduce the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic unities in music, in general and within the main study area
- Possesses elementary ear training knowledge and skills as well as knowledge about the theory, methods, technologies, and repertoire of the ear training discipline

Content

Tuition may include the following:

- Melody (auditive and visual): tonal and atonal sight singing, intonation, singing by ear, imitation, and improvisation
- Rhythm (auditive and visual): sense of pulse and tempo, marking the tempo, phrasing, imitation, and improvisation
- Scales and intervals, chords, and harmonic analysis
- Auditive analysis, dictation, and correction

Scope

15 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

The subject is studied in small classes.

Tuition

- is supported by examples from music literature to a considerable extent
- can be arranged taking individual main study area requirements into consideration
- can be supported by digital platforms

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 1st and 2nd semesters, tuition is concluded with tests of student skills.

After the 3rd semester, students take a final examination.

Students who have attended classes with an attendance record of at least 80% are examined on a reduced curriculum.

Students who have not attended classes with an attendance record of at least 80% are examined on the full curriculum for the oral examination and must hand in additional written assignments on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd semesters.

By choosing Ear training as an elective on the 4th semester, students can postpone the final examination to after the 4th semester instead of the 3rd semester.

After the 1st semester: proficiency test of student skills

ORAL EXAMINATION

- A: Rhythm reading
- B: Melody reading/sight singing
- C: Auditive analysis

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

- D: Dictation and harmonic analysis

Examination format

At the beginning of the semester, the teacher informs the students which disciplines are included in the oral and written examinations.

Oral examination:

- Two weeks prior to the examination, the teacher reveals which assignments students will be examined on.

Written examination:

- Weekly assignments

Duration of the oral examination including deliberation: 15 minutes. Preparation time: 15 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking.

The examination is indicative, and its purpose is to reveal whether the student possesses the skills and qualifications necessary to achieve the overall programme objectives of the Ear training subject over the three semesters, provided that the student keeps attending classes at a satisfactory level. If the examination reveals an unsatisfactory student level, a new examination is scheduled for late January on the subsequent semester.

After the 2nd semester: proficiency test of student skills

ORAL EXAMINATION

- A: Rhythm reading
- B: Melody reading/sight singing
- C: Auditive analysis

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

- D: Correction and dictation

Examination format

At the beginning of the semester, the teacher informs the students which assignments within discipline A through D are included in the oral and written examinations.

Oral examination:

- Two weeks prior to the examination, the student chooses which assignments he/she wants to be examined on. At least one assignment each from disciplines A and B must be included. Auditive analysis is mandatory.

Written examination:

- home assignments
- proctored group examination

Duration of the oral examination including deliberation: 25 minutes. Preparation time: 25 minutes

Duration of the written examination: 60 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking.

The examination is indicative, and its purpose is to reveal whether the student possesses the skills and qualifications necessary to achieve the overall programme objectives of the Ear training subject over the three semesters, provided that the student keeps attending classes at a satisfactory level. The oral and written examinations are evaluated separately. If an examination reveals an unsatisfactory student level, a new examination is scheduled for mid-September on the subsequent study year.

After the 3rd semester: final examination

ORAL EXAMINATION

A: Rhythm reading

B: Melody reading/sight singing

C: Auditive analysis

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

D: Auditive analysis/music dictation

Examination format

Oral examination:

- Two weeks prior to the examination, the student chooses which assignments he/she wants to be examined on. At least one assignment each from disciplines A and B must be included. Auditive analysis is mandatory.

Written examination:

- proctored individual examination

Duration of the oral examination including deliberation: 30 minutes. Preparation time: 30 minutes

Duration of the written examination: 2 hours

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Two grades.

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

The oral and written examinations are evaluated separately. Both examinations must be passed.

2.1.4 Joint module

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Is capable of making artistic choices and assessments
- Is able to search for and acquire relevant information
- Can participate independently in cooperation with fellow professionals

Content

Tuition may include the following themes:

- Study technique
- An overview of music history
- Critical reflection
- Knowledge of artistic citizenship
- Knowledge of the Academy as a place of study, including digital platforms
- Musical interventions
- Co-creation projects
- An introduction to artistic entrepreneurship

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and group work

Semesters

1st semester

Scope

5 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.

2.2 Pedagogy

2.2.1 Applied music theory

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Can apply knowledge of music theory in practice in musical interaction and cross-disciplinary cooperation
- Is able to communicate musical and artistic forms of expression in a relevant manner
- Understands and is able to reflect on relevant terms and concepts of music theory, and to apply them in practice in encounters with colleagues, musicians, and audiences
- Understands and is able to reflect on relevant terms and concepts regarding experiencing, interpreting, and communicating music
- Possesses knowledge of interpretation processes, composition techniques, and ideological and aesthetic ideas

Content

Developing the student's ability to communicate artistic and musical ideas based on the student's general knowledge of music theory. The student is introduced to various concepts of music theory, and their potential and possibilities regarding encounters with colleagues, musicians, and audiences is considered.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, student presentations, written exercises, analysis assignments, and studying technical literature

Semesters

4th semester

Scope

5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

Written assignment of 8-10 pages. The subject is selected in consultation with the teacher.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Pass/fail. The assessment must reflect to what extent the objectives have been achieved.

2.3 General studies

2.3.1 Music theory

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Is familiar with, and is able to use, general concepts of music theory in an artistic practice
- Is able to communicate knowledge of music theory verbally to peers and non-specialists
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs in the music theory field
- Has acquired elementary knowledge of the specialised terminology used within acoustics, psychoacoustics, perception, tuning, scales, melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, and form
- Can navigate a score
- Can use notation software
- Has acquired elementary knowledge of instruments and instrumentation
- Has acquired elementary knowledge of sound and video editing
- Can create an arrangement

Content

The subject is divided into three modules with the following content:

Module 1: tuning, scales, tonality, harmony and melody, and reading notes and chords
The module is concluded with a 45-minute written examination.

Module 2: acoustics, psychoacoustics, perception, score reading, instrumentation analysis, instrumentation methods, and reading notes and chords
The module is concluded with a 45-minute written examination.

Module 3: software-based notation, example creation, arrangement, elementary knowledge of forms, and elementary sound and video editing

Tuition and work formats

Student presentations, lectures, and exercises in large groups

Semesters

1st semester

Scope

5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination after module 3 on arrangement

The student hands in an arrangement with video comments (video in a compressed format such as .mp4; arrangement as a computer file). In the video, the student must explain the intentions and issues involved in creating the arrangement. The video must have a duration of 5-15 minutes. The assignment is handed out one week in advance.

Marking and evaluation

Arrangement after module 3: Internal marking. Pass/fail.

Test after module 1: certificate

Test after module 2: certificate

The assessment must reflect whether the objectives have been achieved at a level corresponding to a Pass.

2.3.2 Music history and music analysis

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Is able to search for and acquire relevant information and theories
- Is able to communicate knowledge of music history and music analysis in writing and verbally to peers and non-specialists
- Is able to analyse music
- Can identify characteristics of music history, including characteristics of composition and style
- Is able to account for various aesthetic approaches to music
- Can employ different listening strategies
- Is able to identify and handle challenges in the field of music history in an investigative and analytical manner
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs in the fields of music history and music analysis
- Can draw on knowledge of music history and music analysis in his/her own musical practice

Content

The subject is divided into six modules with the following content:

Module 1: early Baroque, high Baroque, and late Baroque

Module 2: Viennese Classicism

Module 3: early Romanticism, high Romanticism, and late Romanticism

Module 4: Impressionism, Expressionism, Neo-Classicism, Dodecaphony, Serialism, Maximalism, Fluxus/happening, Minimalism, New Simplicity, and Conceptualism

Module 5: Micropolyphony, Sonorism, Polystylism, Spectral Music, "Musique Concrète Instrumentale", Performance & Multimedia, Realism

Module 6: examination preparations and guidance

Tuition and work formats

Flipped classroom, student presentations, lectures, and exercises in larger groups

For modules 1-3 and 4-5 respectively, the teacher selects a full listening curriculum lasting approx. 4 hours per module. The reduced listening curriculum corresponds to 2-3 hours per module.

No later than 1 December, the curriculum list for modules 1-3 is handed out. The reduced curriculum is indicated on the list.

No later than 1 June, the curriculum list for modules 4-5 is handed out. The reduced curriculum is indicated on the list.

The student prepares for modules 1-3 and 4-5 by listening to the reduced curriculum (flipped classroom).

Assignments

- At the beginning of module 1, the student completes a written assignment based on the reduced listening curriculum for modules 1-3. In the paper, the student must provide information such as composer, title, genre, stylistic period, and composition year for 10 music examples from early Baroque to late Romanticism. The duration of the assignment is 20 minutes.

- At the beginning of module 4, the student completes a written assignment based on the reduced listening curriculum for modules 4-5. In the paper, the student must provide information such as composer, title, genre, stylistic period, and composition year for 10 music examples from Impressionism to today. The duration of the assignment is 20 minutes.

If the student did not receive a certificate for the assignment at the beginning of module 1, the student must complete a new assignment as follows by the end of module 3:

The student must provide information such as composer, title, genre, stylistic period, and composition year for 15 music examples from the complete listening curriculum.

Duration: 30 minutes

Please note: This assignment does not need to be completed if student attendance is satisfactory, and the assignment at the start of module 1 is approved.

If the student did not receive a certificate for the assignment at the start of module 4, the student must complete a new assignment as follows by the end of module 5:

The student must provide information such as composer, title, genre, stylistic period, and composition year for 15 music examples from the complete listening curriculum.

Duration: 30 minutes

Please note: This assignment does not need to be completed if student attendance is satisfactory, and the assignment at the start of module 4 is approved.

Semesters

2nd to 3rd semester

Scope

10 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination on oral concert introductions after module 3

An oral concert introduction for a work selected by the Academy from one of the three periods covered during module 1-3. The presentation must include an introduction to the music historical characteristics and aesthetic value of the work, and it must provide examples of the unique characteristics of the music. The assignment is handed out one week in advance. At the start of the examination, the student hands out a written outline. Examination: 30 minutes

Total duration including deliberation: 45 minutes

Written group examination on analysis after module 6

A written analysis of a work provided by the Academy from the 20th or 21st century, including historical positioning of the work and a recommended listening strategy. The scope of the analysis must be 4-5 pages per student, and it must include at least 5 sound and score examples. Up to 50% of the assignment can be replaced with video material (1 minute corresponds to 1/3 page). The assignment must be individualised by student in such a way that an individual evaluation of the performance of each student is possible.

The assignment is handed as a link to a web site.

Marking and evaluation

Examination on oral concert introductions after module 3: Internal marking. Grade.

Written group examination on analysis after module 6: Internal marking. Grade.

Listening curriculum, module 1-2: certificate

Listening curriculum, module 4-5: certificate

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

The diploma will include the average grade from the two graded assignments.

2.4 Artistic entrepreneurship

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses elementary knowledge of the music industry and culture in a modern, globalised world
- Understands and is able to reflect on artistic practice and the relations between the music industry and various players in the cultural sphere
- Is able to create programmes and communicate with a view to employment in music
- Is able to appraise challenges and issues in relation to his/her own career
- Is able to work in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner in relation to the music industry and culture in a globalised world
- Is able to act with integrity in various professional contexts and participate in relevant cross-disciplinary cooperation

Content

Tuition on the individual semesters may include the following:

- Self-management
- Critical reflection
- Networking
- Internal communication, e.g. dialogical communication
- External communication, e.g. press releases, social media, and elevator speeches
- Planning and execution of training courses
- Development of ideas
- Project management
- Fund raising
- Planning and execution of a joint class project

A number of seminars are scheduled for the 5th semester. The objective is for each student to define his/her bachelor project.

Assignments

The 3rd and 4th semesters are concluded with a written or oral presentation of projects. This can be either a short written assignment (2 to 4 pages) or an oral presentation during class. The assignments are defined by the teacher at the beginning of the semester.

Scope

15 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition and seminars

Semesters

3rd to 5th semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format

Oral examination (20 minutes) based on the examination assignment. The assignment must be handed in by the date communicated by the Study Administration.

Scope of the examination assignment: 5-7 pages or corresponding video material/accessible portfolio content.

As a minimum, the examination assignment must cover 2-3 themes from the core areas of the subject with relevant literature (theory and/or method).

During the oral examination, the student relates theory to his/her own practice and uses this as a starting point for a reflection on his/her professional and personal development.

Total duration including deliberation: 30 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.5 Electives

Every year, the Academy offers a number of electives within the study areas described in the curriculum. The main focus is on the main study area and the pedagogical area. Out of the total of 35 ECTS to be earned from electives on the BMus programme, at least 15 ECTS must be related to the main study area, and at least 15 ECTS must be related to the pedagogical area.

Content and objectives

The content and related objectives of the electives are stated in the descriptions of each elective.

Tuition and work formats

Electives are primarily executed as class tuition. Where relevant, however, other options are possible; this will be stated in the description of each elective.

Semesters and scope

2nd semester – 5 ECTS

4th semester – 10 ECTS

5th semester – 15 ECTS

6th semester – 5 ECTS

Electives can correspond to 5 or 10 ECTS. This will be stated in the description of each elective.

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.

Special regulations apply if the student chooses Ear training on the 4th semester.

2.6 Bachelor project

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of practice, methods, and theory within the chosen project area
- Is able to reflect on his/her practice and choice of methods in relation to the project
- Is able to use relevant methods, tools, and forms of expression within the chosen project area
- Is able to independently identify and acquire knowledge that is both project-relevant and generally acknowledged
- Is able to communicate project idea and results orally and in writing
- Is able to work on a project basis in a creative, investigative, and analytical manner
- Is able to find relevant cooperation partners and act professionally in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation

Content

The bachelor project takes one main area as its starting point but may include other, cross-disciplinary approaches.

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

- 1) One or more of the following subject themes:
 - a) Composition
 - b) Professional artistic performance
 - c) Pedagogy
 - d) Artistic entrepreneurship
- 2) Communication of the above
- 3) A written reflection. Scope: 10-20 pages excluding annexes

Item 1) may for example take the form of a composition, concert, artistic intervention, performance, installation, recording, tuition course, or innovative work with various formats.

Item 2) may for example take the form of a detailed oral presentation at the final examination, or an independently created presentation using digital media.

Tuition and work formats

Guidance in individual project work as well as study group work

- At the beginning of the 5th semester, a description of the intended bachelor project (including the title and idea of the project as well as the name of the desired supervisor) must be submitted by the student for approval by the head of studies.

- No later than 3 weeks hereafter, the student receives the provisionally approved project description.
- After provisional approval, project descriptions and work plans are presented and developed in study groups.
- By 1 February on the 6th semester, the student in cooperation with the supervisor drafts the final project description which is submitted to the project coordinator for final approval.
- The project coordinator sends the approved project description to the student and the supervisor no later than 15 February on the 6th semester.

The written part of the project including the project description must be handed in by 15 April.

Semesters

6th semester

Scope

10 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination content

After the 6th semester: examination

Presentation in accordance with the approved project description.

Examination format

a. Presentation (30 minutes) Depending on the nature of the project, the presentation may take the following forms:

- A concert with optional oral communication
- A teaching situation using a project-related approach
- A lecture/presentation of the project based on the chosen subject themes

b. Interview with the board of examiners (10 minutes)

c. Deliberation and preparation of statement (20 minutes)

Total duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade and a written statement.

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