

CURRICULUM

Master of Music, Musician and Music Teacher

CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA, PIANO, GUITAR, CHURCH MUSIC, VOCAL STUDIES, AND CHOIR CONDUCTING

Aarhus

Effective as of 2019

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1 Introduction

The Music Teacher and Musician MMus degrees at the Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, include the following programmes, all of which are described in this curriculum: Classical Orchestra, Piano, Guitar, Church Music, Vocal Studies, and Choir Conducting.

The 2-year programmes give students the specialist knowledge, skills, and qualifications necessary to work as musicians and music teachers at the very highest level. In addition, the programmes focus on enabling students to use artistic entrepreneurship in practice and in theory.

The primary focus of the programmes is main instrument tuition as well as musical disciplines that build upon this main subject.

Students on music teacher programmes choose pedagogical electives for their programmes from the elective catalogue. By doing so, they can design their own programmes. Students on musician programmes also have great opportunities for specialisation through artistic and pedagogical electives.

Artistic entrepreneurship, which is concluded after the second semester, gives students relevant tools for conceptualising their artistic practice in order to make it market relevant and in order to create value for society.

The programmes conclude with a student-defined Master's project based on student interests and needs. The project constitutes the student's specialisation in his/her field.

The MMus degree may also be used as a background for further studies at soloist level.

The programme 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
- Artistic entrepreneurship: 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 programme are credited with ECTS points based on an assessment of the workload involved in the subjects.

In addition to classes, the Academy may give you the opportunity for the following:

- Orchestra projects and training opportunities in professional ensembles and orchestras
- Master classes with internationally recognised musicians
- Opera productions
- Chamber music in a rich and professionally demanding study environment
- and much more

2 Programme content, individual subjects, and examinations

Musician/Music teacher	1st sem	2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	Total
Main study area					
Main instrument	10	10	10	10	40
Ensemble*	5	5			10
Artistic entrepreneurship	5	5			10
Electives	10	10	10	5	35
Master's project			10	15	25
Total	30	30	30	30	120

* Ensemble includes the following:

- chamber music for orchestra instrumentalists, guitarists, pianists, and organ players
- ensemble singing and/or chamber music for singers
- ensemble conducting for choir conductors

2.1 Main study area

2.1.1 Main instrument

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses specialist knowledge of internationally recognised artistic and technical practice, repertoire, methods, and theory for musicians
- Has mastered artistic and 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
- 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 and unpredictable creative challenges in the development and realisation of his/her musicianship in a globalised world
- 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 focuses on instrument tuition on the student's main instrument as well as participation in orchestra and ensemble playing projects. Relevant main instrument repertoire is thus expanded in terms of quality and quantity, and in addition the student works towards increased mastery of his/her personal musical expression within various styles. Tuition supports a process with the objective that the student 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.

Tuition and work formats

One-to-one and/or class tuition

For orchestra instrument students, the following special regulations apply for orchestra projects:

Each orchestra project is credited with ECTS points. During each semester, the student is required to participate in orchestra projects corresponding to up to 3 ECTS. Projects are announced, and scores made available, at least two months in advance. Main subject area teachers appoint students for the projects following discussions with the students.

If the student earns more than 3 ECTS points per semester through orchestra project participation, the student can opt to use these extra points instead of taking an elective with the same ECTS points.

The attendance requirement for orchestra projects is 100%.

If orchestra school leadership gives the student permission to be absent from a class, the student is required to find a qualified substitute so that tuition, rehearsals, and concerts can be executed in a satisfactory manner. The substitute can be a fellow student, a student from another academy, or a trained musician. Substitutes must always be approved by the main study area teacher and orchestra school leadership, and all expenses in this regard are to be covered by the student. In case of illness, force majeure, or similar, this regulation is void.

Semesters

1st to 4th semester

Scope

40 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th semester: Examination

Examination content

The student performs a 45-minute concert programme consisting of works from the solo repertoire of the instrument in question. The programme must be handed in no later than 1 April.

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

Examination format

Practical test. Total duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade.

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

Additionally, for church musicians:

After the 4th semester: church music examination

Examination content

- Hymn playing: The student offers two hymns from the Danish hymnal (Den Danske Salmebog) with accompanying arrangements from an authorised Danish chorale work. A maximum of four verses are to be played. The exact number of verses is stated in the assignment. The chorale work arrangement must be used for at least one verse of each hymn, and the melody must be played in both hymns. At least one of the hymns must feature an accompaniment piece/alternative harmonisation. Both hymns must be introduced with a prelude created by the student.
- Transposition: One of the chorale works is transposed up or down by a half-tone or whole tone (maximum four accidentals). The transposition is performed as a chorale and must not be written down.

- Hymn sight reading: Two hymns are played as chorales (one manual and pedal). The performance is introduced with an improvised prelude, and the hymns are connected through improvised modulation.
- Improvisation: One improvisation, possibly in the form of a prelude at a church service or other church event, either based on a hymn melody offered (the external examiner offers 3 hymn melodies from various periods) or free-form in a key and time signature chosen by the external examiner.

Preparation:

Hymn playing: 24 hours

Transposition and improvisation: A total of 2 hours at an organ

All chorale arrangements are offered based on an authorised Danish chorale work. In the assignment, the chorale work used is stated. All assignments are chosen by the external examiner.

Examination format

Practical test. Duration including deliberation: 60 minutes

Marking and evaluation

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

2.1.2 Ensemble

The content of the Ensemble subject varies for different main subjects but with the same objectives and evaluation and examination regulations. The content is as follows:

- chamber music for orchestra instrumentalists, guitarists, pianists, and organ players
- ensemble singing and/or chamber music for singers
- ensemble conducting for choir conductors

Objective

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Has mastered artistic and technical skills and forms of expression in relation to the Ensemble subject
- Commands critical and analytical approaches to the Ensemble subject and its practice
- Is able to assess and choose among artistic forms of expression, create relevant solution models, and make informed artistic decisions
- Can independently commence and direct musical ensemble teaching and interdisciplinary cooperation in the musician and communicator roles

Content

The student receives tuition and supervision while working on the subject. The repertoire must be stylistically diverse. The student's ability to lead and participate in a listening and reactive fashion in ensemble playing situations is developed.

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition. At least two concerts by the end of the two semesters. The student participates as a musician/ensemble leader performing a programme of at least 25 minutes. Half of the programme must include works for more than two musicians. The concerts must be supervised by a teacher and 1-2 fellow students.

Students must hand in repertoire lists no later than 15 September and 1 February.

After the concerts, the students and the teacher convene in a dialogic and critical forum for reflecting on the concert.

Video and digital learning platforms may be used.

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester

Scope

10 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Marking 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 Artistic entrepreneurship

Objective

Upon completion of the course, 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
- 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 artistic profile and discuss vocational issues in relation to peers, audiences, and media
- Can commence and lead independently in various professional contexts, participate in cross-disciplinary artistic collaboration, and assume artistic citizenship
- Is able to independently assume responsibility for his/her own potential for creative development in a professional career context

Content

The student's work with artistic entrepreneurship is based on the student's own projects and practice. Tuition seeks to support this and may include the following:

- Self-management
- Individual research
- Development of ideas
- Self-management
- Project design and management
- Communication
- Financials
- Music and issues in society
- Business plan
- Sales
- Marketing
- Partnerships and cooperation with other music industry players
- Cross-disciplinary artistic collaboration
- Artistic citizenship

1st semester is concluded with an assignment. This can be either a short written assignment (3 to 5 pages) or an oral presentation during class.

2nd semester: examination assignment

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition, seminars, and individual guidance

Scope

10 ECTS

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester: examination

Examination format

Oral examination (25 minutes) based on the examination assignment. Scope: 8-10 pages excluding annexes

The examination assignment must provide a perspective on central issues pertaining to the subject with relevant literature (theory and/or method).

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

The assignment must be handed in by the date communicated by the Study Administration.

Total duration including deliberation: 40 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.3 Electives

Every year, the Academy offers a number of pedagogical and artistic electives of 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS. The ECTS workload is stated in the description of each elective.

A total of 35 ECTS is to be earned from electives.

- Music Teacher MMus students must choose pedagogical electives for at least 20 ECTS.
- Musician MMus students must choose artistic electives for at least 20 ECTS.

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

1st semester – 10 ECTS

2nd semester – 10 ECTS

3rd semester – 10 ECTS

4th semester – 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.

For Music Teacher MMus students, certain pedagogical electives are evaluated as follows (as indicated in the catalogue of electives):

Internal marking. Grade.

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

2.4 Master's project

Objective

Upon completion of the course, 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 methods in relation to the project
- Has acquired mastery of relevant methods, tools, and forms of expression within the chosen project area
- Is able to identify project relevant knowledge and evaluate, create, and choose from project-related solution models
- Can communicate and discuss project ideas and results achieved verbally and in writing
- Is able to manage complex and creative challenges in relation to project work
- Is able to find relevant cooperation partners and act critically and professionally in vocational and/or cross-disciplinary cooperation
- Is able to assume responsibility for his/her own learning needs and potential for development in relation to project work and draft and manage a realistic schedule

Content

The master's project builds upon (one or more of) the student's main study areas but may draw on cross-disciplinary approaches.

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

- 1) Work within one or more of the following areas
 - a) Composition/songwriting/arrangement
 - b) Professional artistic performance
 - c) Pedagogics/communication
 - d) Artistic entrepreneurship
- 2) Written assignment. Scope: 15-30 pages excluding annexes

The joint guidance classes for the master's project include tuition on assignment writing topics such as project formats, research methodology, interview technique, and literature searches. Tuition may be scheduled together with Artistic entrepreneurship.

Tuition and work formats

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

Individual project guidance is provided.

In addition, the Master's project is prepared and supported in joint guidance classes.

Important dates

1 April, 2nd semester

The student submits the following to the project coordinator: a preliminary title and a brief description of one or more project ideas, and a prioritised application for a project

supervisor.

Early September, 3rd semester

Introductory meeting with the project coordinator

The student is introduced to the scope, form, and opportunities of the master's project and is prepared for creating the project description.

Study groups of 3-6 students are set up.

The groups convene at least three times during the project period.

1 November, 3rd semester

The project description is submitted for approval with the project coordinator.

This first project description must include the following:

- Title
- Objective
- Motivation (personal and general)
- A description of the product (the content itself and the result of the project)
- A description of the process:
 - preparation (literature, music references, interviews, etc.)
 - elements of the project process (for example, rehearsals, recordings, work with composition/songwriting, cooperation partners, etc.)
- Schedule

1 February, 4th semester

In consultation with the project supervisor, the student creates a final project description on which the rest of the work, and the evaluation of the project, are based.

This project description is binding in relation to handing in the written project. The requirements of the descriptions are stated above.

15 April, 4th semester

The written assignment is handed in. Scope: 15-30 pages excluding annexes

The assignment is handed in along with all other relevant material that the board of examiners must be familiar with before the examination.

Semesters

3rd to 4th semester

Scope

25 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format

A: Presentation (30 minutes)

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

- A concert incorporating oral communication
- A teaching situation using a project-related approach
- A lecture/presentation of the project including documentation of the artistic/performative dimension in the form of a portfolio, CD/DVD recordings or similar

It is important that the presentation elaborates, or provides perspectives on, the content of the written assignment.

The repertoires of the examination concert and the artistic/performative dimension of the master's project may overlap.

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

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.