



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

CURRICULUM

Master of Music (MMus) programme

MUSIC THEORY

Aarhus

Effective as of 2024

Content

1 Introduction	3
2.1 Main Study Area	5
2.1.1 Music Theory	5
2.1.2 Music Theory Pedagogy.....	7
2.1.3 Music Historiography	10
2.2 Artistic Entrepreneurship.....	12
2.3 Electives	14
2.4 Master's Project.....	15

1 Introduction

The Master's in Music Theory is a two-year programme where the students acquire specialised knowledge, skills, and competencies to operate as music teachers at a high level. The programme also aims to enable students to apply artistic entrepreneurship in both theory and practice.

The programme primarily focuses on music theory as the main study area, including individual skills, pedagogical and communicative abilities, and related disciplines. The content in the main study area encompasses music theory and music theory pedagogy across all four semesters, as well as music historiography in the second semester.

Artistic entrepreneurship, completed by the end of the second semester, provides students with the necessary tools to manage their artistic and pedagogical qualities through, for instance, self-management and entrepreneurial skills.

The programme concludes with a Master's project, which is defined by the student according to their interests and needs, serving as a specialisation within their area.

The subjects in the programme are divided into the following areas:

- **Main Study Area:** Covers individual skills, music theory pedagogy, and music historiography.
- **Electives Courses:** Courses and projects that either support performing, creating, or pedagogical activities.
- **Artistic Entrepreneurship:** Provides the student with the relevant tools to manage professional qualities through, for instance, self-management and entrepreneurial skills.
- **Master's Project:** In addition to the project development and associated guidance, courses are taught to prepare the student for the final project work.

2 Programme Content, Individual Subjects, and Examinations

	1 st sem.	2 nd sem.	3 rd sem.	4 th sem.	In total
Main Study Area					
<i>Music Theory</i>	10	10	10	10	40
<i>Music Theory Pedagogy</i>	5	5	5	5	20
<i>Music Historiography</i>		5			5
Artistic Entrepreneurship	5	5			10
Electives	10	5	5		20
Mater's Project			10	15	25
In total	30	30	30	30	120

2.1 Main Study Area

2.1.1 Music Theory

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Possesses specialised knowledge of internationally recognised academic literature, methods, and theories.
- Possesses specialised knowledge of theoretical, compositional, and artistic aspects.
- Is able to understand and reflect on practice and method choices in music theory teaching and related literature.
- Is able to independently manage personal learning needs, opportunities for specialisation, and creative development potentials, as well as structure time and effort accordingly.
- Is able to act in complex and unpredictable creative challenges in pedagogical processes and as a reflection partner in artistic development work.
- Is able to communicate and discuss professional and music-related issues with both specialists and non-specialists.
- Is able to independently initiate music theory projects and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Is able to act professionally with respect to responsibility and ethics.

Content

The content of the course is based on Western European classical and contemporary music. The course includes guidance on music theory topics chosen by the student in consultation with the teacher, as well as topics selected solely by the teacher. Students also participate in music theory seminars.

Tuition and work formats

One-on-one tuition, seminars, individual guidance, and class tuition across cohorts when possible.

Semesters

1st – 4th semester

Scope

40 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th semester: Examination

Examination content

The examination consists of two written assignments and an oral examination.

The two written assignments must include:

1. A written assignment on a music theory topic chosen by the student in consultation with the teacher (8-10 pages). The assignment should consist of an original insight into the field of music theory, such as a critical overview of a specific corner of music theory literature, innovative analyses of a musical repertoire, presentation of new analytical approaches, or development of own music theories, etc. The Assignment must include reflections on the cognitive processes related to music theory and analysis. The target audience is colleagues trained in music theory at a music academy level.

And

2. Either a research-like article (8-10 pages) or educational material for schools, high schools, evening school, music school, pre- music academy school, musicology at university level, music theory as second or main subject at a music academy, etc. (8-10 pages or 25-35 minutes of audio/video content) or public communication materials such as concert introductions, programme notes, blogs, podcasts, promotional materials, or articles in professional papers (8-10 pages or 25-35 minutes of audio/video content).

The written assignments must be submitted on a date set by the Study Administration.

The oral examination includes a presentation by the student on the written assignments, followed by a discussion on the presentation and the submitted assignments.

Examination format

Written assignment and oral examination.

Scope of the first written assignment: 8-10 pages (or 25-36 minutes of audio/video)

Scope of the second written assignment: 8-10 pages (or 25-36 minutes of audio/video)

Duration of the presentation: 30 minutes. Followed by 30 minutes of discussion and 20 minutes of deliberation and feedback.

Duration including deliberation and feedback: 80 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

External examination. Grade. The assessment must reflect to which extent the learning objectives are met.

2.1.2 Music Theory Pedagogy

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Is able to adapt teaching of music theory topics to the level of individual students or groups.
- Is able to reflect on practice and method choices in relation to their own pedagogical practice as well as teaching and communication.
- Is able to develop a progressively structured pedagogical programme.
- Is able to communicate music theory issues verbally and in writing to pupils as well as non-specialists.
- Is able to recognise and address pedagogical challenges in a creative, investigative, and analytical way.
- Is able to identify own learning needs and creative development potentials in the pedagogical field and effectively manage time and resources in preparing teaching courses.
- Is able to act professionally concerning responsibility and ethics.
- Has acquired specialised knowledge of international literature and theory.

Content

The course involves working with teaching and communication. The student is introduced to different pedagogical materials, teaching strategies, and types of communication. The course includes smaller teaching practices on the 2nd and 4th semester.

1st semester:

Course with focus on pedagogical issues, teaching materials, and observation-based teaching practice.

2nd semester:

The student concludes two teaching practices: a one-on-one teaching practice, and a group-based teaching practice (min. 3 pupils), each consisting of at least 5 lessons. The student defines the content and tailor it to the pupils' levels. The level of the teaching practice must be intermediate or advanced (e.g., pre-academy programmes, academy level, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to find suitable pupils and teaching locations.

3rd semester:

Introduction to communication. The course focuses on theoretical literature on music communication and examples of text- and video-based communication, particularly of music theory topics. The student will receive individual guidance and complete smaller tasks, creating communication materials such as podcasts, vodcasts, blogs, newspaper articles, interviews and/or social media content.

4th semester:

The student concludes a practice course on a topic by their own choice focusing on areas such as music journalism/communication (e.g. magazine, newspaper, radio station, podcast, or lectures) artistic management (e.g. festivals, concert organiser,

ensemble) or similar. The practice course is defined by the student in collaboration with the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to find a suitable practice course.

Tuition and work formats

One-on-one tuition, or class tuition across cohorts when appropriate, as well as practice courses.

Semesters

1st – 4th semester

Scope

20 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After 2nd semester: Examination

Examination content

Submission of a pedagogical report (3-5 pages). The report is submitted on a date set by the Study Administration. The report must include:

- Introduction/foreword.
- Objectives.
- Description of the solo student and group, as well as the framework of the courses.
- Description of teaching topics and methods.
- Evaluation of the teaching courses.
- Appendices (e.g. methods, exercises, repertoire lists, sheet music, etc.)

The report forms the basis of the examination.

The examinations involve two 30-minute teaching demonstrations: one with the solo student and one with the group. The topic for the demonstrations is defined by the student in collaboration with the teacher. A short break is held between the two demonstrations. The demonstrations are followed by a discussion about the teaching demonstrations.

Examination format

Written assignment, teaching demonstrations, and discussion.

Scope of the written assignment: 3-5 pages.

Duration of the teaching demonstrations: 30 minutes for each demonstration including a 10-minute break. Followed by a 30 minute discussion. Deliberation and feedback 20 minutes.

Total duration including deliberation and feedback: 120 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

Internal examination. Grade. The assessment must reflect to which extent the learning objectives are met.

After the 4th semester. Examination

Examination content

Submission of a report (3-5 pages) on the concluded practice course. The report is submitted on a date set by the Study Administration. The report must include:

- Introduction/foreword.
- Description of the practice course.
- Description of the product.
- Reflection on the product and evaluation of the practice course.
- The product attached as an appendix.

The product can be made during the practice course and can be in the form of, for instance, an article, a concert introduction, a short report on the conclusion of a concert or similar.

The oral examination is a 30-minute discussion with the professor and censor.

Examination format

Product, written assignment and discussion.

Scope of the written report: 3-5 pages (excl. product)

Duration of the discussion: 30 minutes. Followed by 30 minutes of deliberation and feedback.

Total duration including deliberation and feedback: 60 minutes.

Marking and evaluation

Internal examination. Grade. The assessment must reflect to which extent the learning objectives are met.

2.1.3 Music Historiography

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student:

- Understands how music history is written and the methods employed.
- Understands how dominant technologies, ideologies, and power hierarchies can influence the writing of music history.
- Is familiar with methods used to address missing or fragmented historical sources.
- Is able to explain the differences between objective and statistical knowledge versus subjected, ideological, and aesthetic knowledge, and how these differences impact the understanding of music history.
- Is able to discuss how music history is distinct from, yet intertwined with, broader cultural history, and how broader cultural history contexts influence the music history.
- Has acquired knowledge of historical developments in music theory.

Content

The course introduces the student to the ways music history (including music theories) is conducted, communicated and prioritised. There will be discussions on the methods, theories, and practices of the writing of music history, including how technologies, power hierarchies and ideological trends affect the interpretation and understanding of, for instance, music theory development. The course may also cover the introduction to statistical methods, cultural historical approaches, and music theory pedagogy in a historical context.

Tuition and work formats

One-on-one and/or class tuition.

Semesters

2nd semester

Scope

5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester: Examination

Examination content

Written assignments. The title and topic of the assignment are defined by the teacher in collaboration with the student. The assignment must be submitted on a date set by the Study Administration.

Examination format

Written assignment.

Scope: 5-7 pages excl. appendices.

Marking and evaluation

Internal examination. Grade. The assessment must reflect to which extent the learning objectives are met.

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.
- 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.

The 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 - 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 amount of ECTS is stated in the description of each elective. A total of 20 ECTS is to be earned from electives.

MMus Music Theory has a free choice between pedagogical and artistic electives.

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 – 5 ECTS

3rd semester – 5 ECTS

Evaluation and examination regulations

Evaluation and examination regulations are specified in the individual descriptions of the elective courses.

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 with integrity and professionalism 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

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 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.

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.