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CURRICULUM

Diploma in Innovative Choir Leading (60 ECTS)

Effective as of 2016

Content

1 Introduction	3
2 Course content, individual subjects, and examinations	4
2.1 Degree course structure.....	5
2.1.1 Module 1	5
2.1.2 Module 2	5
2.1.3 Module 3	6
2.2 Course descriptions.....	7
2.2.1 Innovative Choir Leading.....	7
2.2.2 Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice	10
2.2.3 Ear Training/Theory of Improvisation.....	11
2.2.4 Vocal Technique.....	12
2.2.5 Arrangement.....	13
2.2.6 Piano	14
2.2.7 Vocal Studies	15
2.3 Theoretical Pedagogy	17
2.4 Final Project	18

1 Introduction

Diploma in Innovative Choir Leading (D-RK). The programme gives the right to use the title: Diploma in Innovative Choir Leading.

D-RK focuses on leadership of vocal music. In addition, tuition covers a series of support subjects such as Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice, Ear Training, Piano, and Vocal Studies. All of these subjects contribute to providing the choir conductor with the necessary wide range of qualifications. Some of the subjects are concluded after the second and third semester so that the student may immerse himself or herself more fully on the fourth semester.

D-RK concludes with a student-defined final project which is based on student interests and needs and also constitutes their specialisation in the field.

Workload

D-RK is rated at 1 full study year, corresponding to 60 ECTS points.

Course objective

That the student promotes his personal and professional skills as a leader of vocal music at an elementary pedagogical and artistic level.

Degree course structure

D-RK consists of 2 course elements:

1. Main study area: 48 ECTS
2. Final Project: 12 ECTS

The course is organised as part-time study over 2 years.

The main study area is divided into 3 modules. Each module is concluded with an examination.

1. Module 1 (1st-2nd semester) is concluded with an annual test of Innovative Choir Leading and a Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice examination.
2. Module 2 (3rd semester) is concluded with an Arrangement examination.
3. Module 3 (4th semester) is concluded with 4 examinations: a pedagogical Innovative Choir Leading examination, Concert, Vocal Technique, and the Final Project.

Tuition and work formats

- Class tuition at Campus Aalborg: 3 sessions (of 3 days each) with physical attendance per semester.
- Training guidance via the internet based on video recordings of the student's own training class.

2 Course content, individual subjects, and examinations

ECTS chart	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	
	1st + 2nd sem	3rd sem	4th sem	TOTAL
Main study area:				
Innovative Choir Leading	8	6	6	20
Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice	4			4
Ear Training/Theory of Improvisation	2			2
Vocal Technique		2	3	5
Arrangement	2	3		5
Piano	2	1	1	4
Vocal Studies	2	1	1	4
Theoretical Pedagogy		2	2	4
Final Project		5	7	12
TOTAL	20	20	20	60

2.1 Degree course structure

2.1.1 Module 1

Focus on Innovative Choir Leading and Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice (student skills and teaching practice).

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester

Content

- Development of student skills in relation to Innovative Choir Leading
- Development of student skills in supporting subjects with an emphasis on Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice

Subjects

- Jazz/Pop/World Innovative Choir Leading
- Ear Training/Theory of Improvisation
- Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice
- Arrangement
- Piano
- Vocal Studies
- Theoretical Pedagogy

2.1.2 Module 2

Focus on Innovative Choir Leading and Arrangement.

Semesters

3rd semester

Content

- Completion of 3 arrangements for the student's own training class(es)
- Further development of student Innovative Choir Leading skills
- Initiation of Final Project

Subjects

- Innovative Choir Leading
- Vocal Technique
- Arrangement
- Piano
- Vocal Studies
- Theoretical Pedagogy

2.1.3 Module 3

Pedagogical and artistic skills and Final Project.

Semesters

4th semester

Content

- Development of own Innovative Choir Leading skills
- Development of own skills regarding creativity
- Preparation and execution of concert
- Completion of Final Project

Subjects

- Innovative Choir Leading
- Vocal Technique
- Piano
- Vocal Studies
- Theoretical Pedagogy

2.2 Course descriptions

2.2.1 Innovative Choir Leading

Semesters

1st to 4th semester

Objective

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Possesses personal and professional skills at an elementary pedagogical and artistic level based on traditional as well as contemporary forms of expression within vocal music.
- Can independently initiate and lead music in the field between vocal music and rhythm and coordination.
- Is able to work with musical and pedagogical 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 artistic practice as well as in relation to tuition and communication courses.
- Has mastered elementary tuition skills as well as musical and technical skills and forms of expression.
- Can commence and lead improvisations at an elementary pedagogical and artistic level.
- Is able to assess and choose among pedagogical methods and tools, create relevant solution models, and make informed and reflected decisions.
- Possesses elementary knowledge of artistic and technical practice as well as internationally recognised knowledge of relevant pedagogical, didactic, and psychological theories, concepts, and methods.
- Can use the skills acquired in the support subjects in relation to the creative, pedagogical, and artistic process.

Content

- Didactics and methodology for "The intelligent choir"
- Stylistically varied vocal music repertoire within jazz/pop/world
- Experimental forms of expression
- Microphone amplification
- Artistic conducting and communication
- Conducting technique

Scope

Choir Conducting: 20 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

The degree course includes a training course equally divided among the 3 modules. The student may act as singing artistic conductor in one of the modules. The training is organised jointly by the student, the teacher, and the training coordinator. Student tuition is organised as one on one and/or class tuition. The training course is continuously evaluated through video coaching by the student's teacher(s).

Evaluation and examination regulations

1) 1st year test with the student's own training class - video documentation

After the 2nd semester

Duration: 45 minutes

Discussion: 20 minutes

Oral account: 10 minutes

Content

Using video recording, the student documents a rehearsal with his/her own training class. The rehearsal must include the following elements in any order:

- Concert piece
- Improvisation
- 10-minute rhythmic coordination rehearsal
- New rehearsal

Recording requirements:

The rehearsal must be filmed from 2 different camera angles in HD quality. The videos may not be edited from several clips but must be one continuous recording from start to finish.

Camera 1: front view of the vocal ensemble (as the audience would see the choir)

Camera 2: side view of the conductor with entire body visible

The student is allowed to hand in one video edited to feature both angles.

Sheet music must be included as an annex (PDF).

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking: pass/fail

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

2a) Concert with the student's own training class in front of an audience - video documentation

After the 4th semester

Duration: 45 minutes

Recording requirements:

The concert must be filmed from 2 different camera angles in HD quality. The videos may not be edited from several clips but must be one continuous recording from start to finish.

Camera 1: front view of the vocal ensemble (as the audience would see the choir)

Camera 2: side view of the conductor with entire body visible

The student is allowed to hand in one video edited to feature both angles.

Extensive concert programme and sheet music must be included as an annex (PDF).

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking: pass/fail with a written statement

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

2b) Pedagogical Innovative Choir Leading examination

After the 4th semester

Tuition demonstration featuring the Academy practice choir including the following elements:

- Concert piece (may be in the form of a video recording)
- Improvisation
- Work on details of material already learned
- Learning of set assignment (set by the teacher one week prior to the exam)

Duration of tuition demonstration: 60 minutes

Interview: 10 minutes

Discussion: 20 minutes

Oral account: 10 minutes

No later than 2 weeks prior to the examination, the student hands in a written report at the studies office to be used during evaluation.

The report must fulfil the following requirements:

The report should contain at least 21,600 characters including spaces (equivalent to 9 normal pages). The number of characters must be stated on the title page.

The report must contain at least the following mandatory sections:

- Introduction/foreword
- Objective
- Description of the student's training class
- Reflection on course objectives
- Ideas, means, and methods and a description of the course
- Description of 2 lessons
- An evaluation of the course

- Annex (sheet music, repertoire list, methodology, exercises, etc.)

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade

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

2.2.2 Rhythm and Coordination Teaching Practice

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester

Objective

The student:

- Possesses elementary rhythmic skills within rhythm and coordination.
- Has acquired a basis for instructing and arranging rhythm and coordination courses for use in training situations where the discipline supplements vocal music.
- Has acquired knowledge of rhythm and coordination didactics and methods.
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and potential for development in the field.

Content

- Musical and bodily expression
- Sense of tempo, pulse, and subdivisions
- Polyrhythms and polymetrics
- Improvisation
- Leadership and communication
- Percussion technique
- Body percussion
- Arrangement – composition

Scope

4 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Using a stylistically varied repertoire, tuition covers musical forms of socialisation and the relevant bodily expressions, based on rhythm and coordination.

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 2nd semester

Examination format

One week prior to the examination, the student hands in an arrangement chosen for the examination. The arrangement must include all three elements: singing, playing, and movement. In addition, one A4 page describing how the arrangement can be related to vocal leadership is handed in.

Examination content

Fellow students participate at the examination. The student must play, sing, and demonstrate all parts which are then performed by fellow students. Electronic media may be used for the review.

Duration: 10 minutes

Discussion: 10 minutes

Oral account: 5 minutes

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking: grade

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

2.2.3 Ear Training/Theory of Improvisation

Semesters

1st to 2nd semester

Objective

The student:

- Develops his/her hearing, reading, and theoretical skills at an elementary level in relation to his/her work as a vocal leader.
- Acquires practical and theoretical knowledge of various forms of ear training and improvisation.

Content

- Notation
- Chord and scale theory
- Harmonic analysis
- Sight singing
- Score reading
- Rhythm reading
- Transcriptions and dictation
- Development of strategies for practising improvisation
- Polyrhythm

Scope

2 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

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.

2.2.4 Vocal Technique

Semesters

3rd to 4th semester

Objective

Upon completion of the subject, the student:

- Possesses elementary fact-based knowledge of voice physiology and functions when singing and speaking in the form of concrete awareness of his/her own voice and those of his/her pupils.
- Is able to reflect on practice and choice of methods in relation to his/her own artistic and pedagogical practice.
- Has acquired practical and theoretical knowledge of voice functions, including register functions, articulation/enunciation, phrasing, sound nuances, dynamics and vibrato regarding his/her work as a jazz/pop/world choir leader.

Content

- Anatomy and physiology
- Voice functions, malfunctions, and disorders
- Voice care, voice exercises, and warm-up exercises
- Phonetics in relation to foreign languages
- Acoustics of the singing voice
- Voice hygiene, malfunctions, and disorders related to voice use
- Methodical auditory voice analysis
- Knowledge of various relevant schools of singing

Scope

5 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination after the 4th semester

Examination content

Written test of subjects covered in tuition.

Examination format

Proctored written examination. Duration: 3 hours.

Marking and evaluation

Internal marking: grade

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

2.2.5 Arrangement

Semesters

1st to 3rd semester

Objective

Development of the student's theoretical, practical, and original skills as an arranger for large and small vocal ensembles.

Content

- Practical and theoretical knowledge of the various traditions and expressions of jazz/pop/world vocal music through the study of a versatile jazz/pop/world repertoire
- Preparation of vocal arrangements for use when teaching the student's own training classes

Scope

5 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

One on one and/or class tuition

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination after the 3rd semester

Examination content

3 arrangements are prepared. At least one must be a cappella.

Examination format

The student prepares 3 arrangements and prepares a video recording of at least two of the arrangements being performed live by his/her own training class(es).

Interview: 10 minutes

Discussion: 15 minutes

Oral account: 5 minutes

No later than 2 weeks before the examination, the student uploads the arrangements (in PDF and Sibelius MIDI file format) and the required video recordings for use during evaluation.

In addition, a written report is handed in at the studies office.

The report must fulfil the following requirements:

The report should contain at least 12,000 characters including spaces (equivalent to 5 normal pages). The number of characters must be stated on the title page.

The report must contain at least the following mandatory sections:

- Introduction/foreword
- Objective
- Description of the training class
- Description of the arrangement process
- Reflection on course objectives
- An evaluation of the course
- Annexes

Marking and evaluation

External marking. Grade

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

2.2.6 Piano

Semesters

1st to 4th semester

Objective

Upon completion of the elementary level subject, the student:

- Can use the piano as an accompanying instrument, for rehearsals, and when learning new repertoire.
- Possesses knowledge of relevant methods for acquiring and adapting new material.
- Possesses knowledge of relevant theory, chording, and technique.
- Possesses musical and technical skills that support working professionally as a vocal leader.
- Can express him/herself musically on the piano within a wide spectrum of jazz/pop/world styles.
- Can use the piano in practical teaching situations as well as for arrangement and theoretical purposes.
- Is able to identify his/her own learning needs and potential for creative development in the field.

Content

- Rhythmic coordination training and groove technique
- Accompanying the student's own singing after figuration
- Voicings in relation to different styles of jazz/pop/world music
- Rhythm section roles transferred to the piano
- Simplification and extension of piano roles
- Sight reading, including score and figuration playing
- Playing by ear
- Transposition
- Improvisation

Scope

4 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

One on one and/or class tuition

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th 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.

2.2.7 Vocal Studies

Semesters

1st to 4th semester

Objective

Upon completion of the elementary level subject, the student:

- Possesses knowledge of voice functions when speaking and singing.
- Is capable of using his/her speaking and singing voice appropriately.
- Possesses knowledge of relevant pedagogical concepts and methods in relation to working with large and small vocal ensembles.
- Possesses well-developed breathing and supporting technique.
- Commands intonation technique.
- Has acquired technical and artistic skills in the vocal studies field so that he/she may sing music in an adequate and relevant manner in rehearsal situations.

Content

- Raising awareness of register functions, sound variations and enunciation.
- Phrasing, sound variations, dynamics, vibrato, etc.
- Learning a song repertoire in e.g. jazz, rock, Latin, pop, folk songs, children's songs, etc.
- Microphone singing
- Singing without accompaniment

Scope

4 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

One on one and/or class tuition

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th 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.

2.3 Theoretical Pedagogy

Semesters

3rd to 4th semester

Objective

- Providing the student with elementary knowledge of specialised and internationally recognised knowledge of relevant pedagogical, didactic, and psychological theories, concepts, and methods.
- The student is able to independently argue and take responsibility for his/her own learning needs, specialisation options, and potential for creative development, and may structure his/her time and work efforts.

Content

Raising awareness about didactics and methodology, including themes such as communication, the teacher role, group lessons, learning styles, and supervision. Tuition takes the form of presentations, group work and analysis of e.g. video recordings of student tuition.

Scope

4 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

Class tuition

Evaluation and examination regulations

After the 4th 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.

2.4 Final Project

Semesters

3rd to 4th semester

Objective

Upon completion of the Final Project, the student at an elementary level:

- Possesses relevant 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 relevant knowledge in an independent and critical manner and evaluate, create, and choose from project related solution models.
- May communicate and discuss project ideas and results achieved verbally 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 draft and manage a realistic schedule.

Content

The Final Project is based on the main subject area but may include interdisciplinary angles.

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

- An artistic/performative dimension
- A communicative and/or pedagogical dimension
- A written reflection, including perspectives from the labour market/music business, and a reflection on the learning objectives

Scope

12 ECTS

Tuition and work formats

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

The student must be part of a study group consisting of fellow students.

Guidance: internal and possibly external guidance.

Important dates

Early October on the 2nd year of the programme: Initial meeting with the entire year and the Head of Studies. Establishment of study groups.

- 1 November: Project frame decided and supervisor(s) selected
- 1 February: Final problem formulation defined with supervisor and approved by Head of Studies
- 1 May: Final Project handed in

Evaluation and examination regulations

Examination format:

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/presentation of the project including documentation of the artistic/performative dimension in the form of a portfolio, audio/video recordings or similar

Interview with the board of examiners (10 minutes)

Discussion and preparation of statement (20 minutes)

Marking and evaluation:

External marking. Grade and a written statement

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