



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2022/1118

Master's Programme in Music

Programme Code:	HAMSK
Programme Title:	Master's Programme in Music Konstnärlig master musiker
Credits:	120
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 8 December 2022, and applies as of the autumn semester of 2023.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish or English
Education Cycle:	Second
Degree Type:	Degree of Master of Fine Arts
Entry requirements	Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts of 180 higher education credits or equivalent qualifications, as well as passing the entrance exam. Upper secondary school level English 6 or B.

Introduction

The Master's Programme in Music is aimed at students seeking a professional and solid foundation for future careers as professional musicians in various artistic contexts. The programme is designed around a professional perspective with a basis in a high artistic level. The programme provides students with both specialised and broad artistic expertise and skills related to musical performance, as well as an in-depth approach to methods, processes and artistic issues that are relevant in both professional situations and for continued artistic and academic studies at doctoral level.

Developing into an independent musician requires a high degree of skill in the instrument of choice, the ability to express oneself artistically, and an open, experimental and ethical approach to music performance, cooperation and the cultural sector in the wider community. Hence, the programme combines the performance and individual expression of the artistic area, a critical perspective on performing and creating music, as well as artistic expertise in the form of musical and practical skill – including a critical perspective on artistic approaches and artistic learning. Hence, the programme aims to develop a practice-focused artistic problem-solving ability.

The aim is for the Master's Programme in Music to both interact with and challenge the wider community's various artistic activities and organisations. This includes educating professional

musicians with advanced and specialised expertise, which in turn gives them the ability to develop and specialise further within the student's chosen field. At the same time, students will be provided with many opportunities to – with an advanced, artistic, expressive and considered approach – develop into independent, professional, innovative and musically compelling musicians who are well-prepared for their future professional careers.

Programme Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Master's Degree as well as the specific local programme requirements.

National outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits), the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in areas of the field as well as specialised insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate familiarity with methods and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and situations in the field.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits), the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to formulate new issues autonomously and creatively and contribute to the formation of knowledge, solve more advanced problems, develop new forms of personal expression as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the main field of study,
- demonstrate the ability to create and execute his or her own ideas with his or her own personal expression, to identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems autonomously and also to plan and undertake advanced artistic tasks using appropriate methods within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability both nationally and internationally to clearly present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits), the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues,
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 30 credits in the main field of study. The degree project may comprise less than 30 credits, however no less than 15 credits, if the student has already completed an independent project in the second cycle for at least 15 credits in the main field of study or the equivalent from a programme of study outside Sweden.

Profile and local outcomes

Karlstad University's local profile is to challenge the norm and explore the unknown, as well as to establish a close dialogue with both the private and public sectors. This approach permeates the aim of the programme – where various artistic perspectives are used to explore and challenge different aspects of music as well as creating and performing music. Relevance is maintained through close relations with the cultural sector in the wider community. The profile comprises three modes of knowledge, each expressed through a specific programme outcome.

Excellent technical and artistic skills

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits), the student shall

- demonstrate the knowledge and ability to – at an advanced musical and technical level – reflect on, analyse, solve and complete any artistic issues and tasks required to work independently and professionally as a musician in artistic contexts.

Interaction and cooperation within and between different artistic contexts.

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits), the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and ability to – at an advanced musical level – independently interact, cooperate and negotiate with various actors, both within the wider music industry and in other contexts.

Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits), the student shall

- demonstrate the knowledge and ability to independently – at an advanced musical level – create and perform music within and without specific artistic frameworks, as well as develop innovative ideas and put them into practice.

The programme also includes perspectives on equality and sustainable development, realised through a fair distribution of assignments and an equal treatment regardless of gender, ethnicity, etc.

Furthermore, the contents of the courses are designed to be relevant and valid in relation to the students' future professional lives.

Programme Structure

The programme comprises 120 credits and results in a Degree of Master in Music in the main field of study Musical Performance. The programme consists of three larger sections: main instrument courses, ensemble courses and courses focused on preparing for professional life and for research. The programme also includes an independent degree project. The following courses are included in the programme:

- Main Instrument I-IV, 60 credits
- Ensemble I-III, 15 credits
- Vocational and research preparation courses, 15 credits
- Independent project, 30 credits

The structure and approach of the courses train students to independently and actively search for knowledge. The programme also trains the students in advanced music performance and critical analysis. Students' are also provided with the tools needed to solve artistic and performance-related issues. All this provides a solid foundation for the students' future professional lives.

Courses contain individual classes, group classes and joint classes, often in the form of so-called master classes with internationally renowned lecturers. The individual classes consist of one teacher and one student practicing the student's chosen instrument, while group classes may include several teachers and students. Joint classes and master classes take the form of both lectures and practical musical instructions and performances, which also contain reflections and discussions regarding the various functions of music. Hence, students practicing their technical abilities and reflecting on their own artistic processes and development are at the core of the programme from start to finish.

Throughout the programme, students will also be given the opportunity to participate in and arrange their own concerts both on and off campus, in order to prepare for the profession of being a freelance musician.

Assessment and examinations are varied and designed in accordance with the intended learning outcomes of the different courses. Examinations often consist of musical performances, as well as oral presentations and seminar discussions. For courses aimed at preparing students for future professions or research, the research plan and the written part of the independent degree project, examinations also come in the form of independent written projects focusing on artistic issues. In the assessment of the independent degree projects, students' also assess and comment on each other's projects.

Programme Curriculum

Main Instrument, 60 credits

All semesters contain studies in the chosen main instrument. This section comprises the courses Main Instrument I-IV and each course is worth 15 credits. Through main instrument studies, skills related to instrumental and musical performance are integrated with exploration and a critical perspective on artistic methods and processes, reflections on artistic approaches, learning and professional development, as well as knowledge about and an understanding of the role of the musician in the wider community. Studies in the chosen main instrument include both a broad perspective and specialisation, with the opportunity of further specialisation in semester three and four. Examples of specialisations are early music, a specific composer or a certain kind of ensemble. These interconnected aspects form the basis for the students' future professions. Main instrument studies consist of:

- development of instrument-specific technical and artistic skills
- learning, rehearsing and interpreting a chosen repertoire
- exploring and critically analysing artistic methods and processes
- reflection on and assessment of music performance, musical expressions and learning
- acquiring broad and specialised expertise within the main field of study
- development of skills in musical accompaniment (only for piano students)
- rehearsing, collaboration and solo play with accompaniment
- individual and joint classes, as well as master classes for visiting lecturers
- concerts
- trial practice

Ensemble, 15 credits

The ensemble studies are carried out throughout the first three semesters. This section comprises the courses Ensemble I-III Each course is worth 5 credits. Ensemble studies consists of musical interplay, where knowledge of style, form and notation from various musical contexts are integrated with the skills and abilities needed for performing music and communicating with other participants in different situations of musical interplay. The courses also cover reflections on artistic approaches, learning and professional development. Ensemble studies consist of:

- learning, rehearsing and interpreting a chosen repertoire in collaboration with other musicians
- identifying issues related to method and performance in ensemble situations, as well as finding solutions to said issues
- reflecting on musical approaches
- reflection on and assessment of ensemble-related music performance, musical expressions and learning
- chamber music and orchestral music
- concerts
- interactions between different styles of music, forms of ensembles and artistic fields

Vocational and research preparation courses, 15 credits

Vocational and research preparation courses are taken the first two semesters. This section comprises the courses Entrepreneurship and Scenic Preparation and Artistic Research Preparation. Both courses are worth 7.5 credits. The courses focus on aspects that prepare students for the challenges of their future professional careers, which will often consist of working as freelancers and entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship includes presentations and discussions related to the labour market, running a business and the role of the musician in the cultural sector, as well as legislation and regulations relevant for professional musicians. Scenic preparation includes methods for managing stress, nervousness and concentration difficulties when performing on stage, including reflecting on and implementing this knowledge into the students' own performances. The integration of theoretical knowledge and practical activities results in skills and expertise in various musical areas, which reinforces the students' identities as musicians and ability to communicate with various actors in the cultural sector, regardless if said communication is conveyed through music, speech or in writing. The course Artistic Research Preparation prepares students' for the independent degree project, as well as reinforces their professional identities through studying artistic methods, processes and perspectives on research and development. The vocational and research preparation courses consist of:

- the role of the musician – labour market and entrepreneurship

- the terms of the music industry – regulations, marketing and contracts
- methods for preparation and management of demanding situations in relation to stage performances
- artistic methods, processes and perspectives
- research and development

Independent degree project, 30 credits

The independent degree project runs throughout the last three semesters. The course comprises 30 credits and the aim is for students to refine their musical expertise and develop familiarity with artistic research and development. The project should be relevant for the students' future professional careers as musicians, as well as prepare for doctoral studies. The degree project is an integrated part of the programme, by providing the opportunity for students to plan and complete an artistic and explorative project at a high level. In both speech and in writing, students reflect on complex artistic issues, methods and processes, and engage with both previous and ongoing research and development projects. The projects are based on issues and research questions related to the students' own musical artistry. The independent degree project consists of:

- an explorative, artistic project
- analyses and discussions regarding artistic methods, processes and issues related to music performance
- musical performances and oral presentations
- examination seminars

Title of Qualification

Upon programme completion, graduates are awarded a Degree of Master of Fine Arts in the main field of study Musical Performance

Degree of Master of Fine Arts

Main field of study: Musical Performance

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits)

Huvudområde: Musikalisk gestaltning

Transfer of credits

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

Further information

The local regulations for first and second cycle education at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Semester structure

The programme's courses are structured as stated below:

Course structure - Master's Programme in Music				
Courses	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Main instrument	Main instrument I, 15 hp	Main instrument II, 15 hp	Main instrument III, 15 hp	Main instrument IV, 15 hp
Ensemble	Ensemble I, 5 hp	Ensemble II, 5 hp	Ensemble III, 5 hp	
Entrepreneurship and scenic preparation	Entrepreneurship and scenic preparation 6 hp	Entrepreneurship and scenic preparation continuation 1,5 hp		
Artistic research preparation	Artistic research preparation course I, 4 hp	Artistic research preparation course II, 3,5 hp		
Independent work		Independent work part 1, 5 hp	Independent work part 2, 10 hp	Independent work part 3, 15 hp

Courses in main instrument and ensemble both run throughout the first three semesters. The vocational and research preparation courses are concentrated to the first two semesters. The independent degree project of 30 credits starts in the second semester and then proceeds throughout the third and fourth semesters in order to provide more time for planning and completion. The degree project is conducted in conjunction with courses in the chosen main instrument.