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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Programme Study Plan

### Bachelor Programme in Music

<b>Programme Code:</b>	HGMSK
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Bachelor Programme in Music (Konstnärlig kandidat musiker)
<b>Credits:</b>	180 ECTS credits
<b>Programme Approval:</b>	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 4 March 2020 and is valid from the autumn semester of 2020.
<b>Language of Instruction:</b>	Swedish or English
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Bachelor's
<b>Type of Qualifications:</b>	Fine, applied and performing arts
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	General admission requirements and satisfactory entrance test in accordance with the decision of the Swedish Council for Higher Education, UHR, C2020/117.

## **Introduction**

The Fine Arts/Music programme at Karlstad University is an artistic education designed for students who seek to acquire a solid foundation for a professional life as a musician in various musical constellations. The programme is characterised by a clear professional perspective at a very high artistic level. Students acquire broad as well as deep knowledge and develop enhanced artistic approaches of relevance to the demands of the musical profession.

Developing an independent identity as a musician requires very good knowledge of the main instrument, excellent artistic expression skills, and an open, critical and ethical approach to making music and playing with others and to cultural activities in general. Students are, on the one hand, encouraged to combine artistic rendition and personal expression with a critical perspective on music and music creation and, on the other, to combine artistic knowledge of music in the form of musical and technical skills with critical reflection on artistic approaches and artistic learning. The aim is to develop an artistic and practice-related ability to solve problems.

The aim of the programme is that students prepare for engaging in as well as challenging various artistic areas of activity. The preparation includes dealing with the current professional demands of the established music market and daring to reconsider given conceptions and developing innovative ideas regarding music and music making. Students thus prepare for a complex, responsible and changeable future professional life. Students also prepare for further artistic studies at Master level.

## **Aims and Learning Objectives**

### National objectives of first-cycle higher education

The national objectives of first-cycle education are stated in *The Higher Education Act* (1992:1434) as follows:

First-cycle courses and study programmes shall be based fundamentally on the knowledge acquired by pupils in national study programmes in the upper-secondary schools or its equivalent. The Government may, however, permit exceptions for courses and study programmes in the fine, applied or performing arts.

First-cycle courses and study programmes shall develop:

- the ability of students to make independent and critical assessments,
- the ability of students to identify, formulate and solve problems independently, and
- the preparedness of students to deal with changes in working life.

In addition to knowledge and skills in their field of study, students shall develop the ability to:

- gather and interpret information at a scholarly level,
- stay abreast of the development of knowledge, and
- communicate their knowledge to others, including those who lack specialist knowledge in the field.

### National objectives of the Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

The national objectives of the Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts are stated in the *Higher Education Ordinance* (1993:100) as follows:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the principal field (main field of study), including knowledge of the practical and theoretical foundation of the field, knowledge and experience of methods and processes in the field as well as specialised study within the field.

#### *Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to describe, analyse and interpret design, techniques and content 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 in the main field of study to create, realise and express his or her own ideas, identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems independently and to undertake artistic tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability to 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 independently in a professional capacity.
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#### *Judgement and approach*

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts 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 ongoing learning.

### **Independent project (degree project)**

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

### Profile and learning outcomes for the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Fine Arts/Music

Karlstad University's vision of challenging the established and exploring the unknown and of establishing close links with the private and public sectors permeate and correspond with the programme aims to explore and challenge various aspects of music and music making from an artistic perspective in close relation and with relevance to cultural activities in general. The programme profile comprises three forms of knowledge, each expressed in a learning outcome.

*Excellent technical and artistic musical skills*

Upon completion of the programme, students shall

- demonstrate the knowledge and ability required to reflect on and solve artistic rendition problems in order to perform at a very high musical and technical skills level as a professional musician in various cultural contexts.

*Interaction and cooperation within and between different cultural contexts*

Upon completion of the programme, students shall

- demonstrate the knowledge and ability required to interact, cooperate and negotiate at a very high musical level with different actors in a broad musical field as well as in many other cultural contexts.

*Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship*

Upon completion of the programme, students shall

- demonstrate the knowledge and ability required to create and perform music at a very high musical level, and, beyond given artistic frames, develop their own ideas and use them in actual music-making and in cooperation with other actors.

The learning outcomes are embodied and embedded in course content and teaching and learning approaches. Each course syllabus involves learning outcomes that are aligned with the forms of knowledge above.

**Programme structure**

The programme comprises 180 credits and leads to a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Major in Music. The programme builds on three areas of study involving main instrument, ensemble and musical knowledge. In addition, studies include an optional course and a mandatory independent degree project.

The design and approaches of the instruction provide the opportunities for students to engage in independent and active knowledge acquisition and critical reflection and to develop skills in solving artistic and performance-related problems, which all support students' preparedness for their future careers.

Instruction is in the form of individual tuition, lessons in groups, joint lessons and master classes (in which an expert teacher takes on a student at a time while other teachers and students watch and listen). The individual (one-to-one) tuition is on the instrument. Group lessons, joint lessons and master classes comprise hands-on musical demonstration and performance as well as lectures with analytical discussions of the functions and expressions of music. Group lessons are also used for musical knowledge and in the form of ensemble and orchestra performance. From the very beginning of the programme, there is an emphasis on students' instrument playing skills and reflections on their own artistic process and development in relation to their future career. Students also practise performing to an audience throughout the programme and there are many opportunities to do so internally and externally. The aim is also that students learn how to handle complex artistic issues and are involved and partake in ongoing local research and development projects as well as projects in other programmes within and beyond the department and the university.

Examination formats vary and are adapted to the learning outcomes of each course. Assessment is mainly performance-based, but is also based on individual written assignments and seminar reflections and discussions. Students also practise assessing each other's performances and submissions.

### **Content**

The three areas of study, main instrument, ensemble and musical knowledge, each comprises several courses as listed below. Note that programme courses may have different titles and be offered in another order than stated.

#### *Main Instrument, 97.5 ECTS cr*

The main instrument study area is treated throughout the programme. It comprises the courses Main Instrument I-VI. The first course is 22.5 ECTS cr. while the remaining five is 15 ECTS cr. Students acquire knowledge and understanding of the instrument repertoire, style and praxis in different epochs, as well as develop specific instrumental and musical performance skills and their ability to reflect on artistic approach, learning and their own and others' professional development. Course progression entails extending and broadening the repertoire, attaining skills to perform at a very high musical level, and improving the reflective and evaluative ability to encompass not only their own learning and music-making but also that of others in several artistic contexts. The main instrument area comprises the following components:

- instrument technical knowledge,
- practice techniques and sight-reading (a prima vista play),
- repertoire knowledge, rehearsing and interpreting chosen repertoire
- solo play and interplay with accompanist
- reflection on and assessment of music making, musical expression and learning,
- individual tuition, joint lessons and master classes, and
- audition training and concert activities

#### *Ensemble, 37.5 ECTS cr*

Ensemble studies take place in the first five semesters. The study area comprises the courses Ensemble I-V, each comprising 7.5 ECTS cr. Students study musical interplay and develop their knowledge of style, form and notation in different musical contexts. Skills and the ability to play and communicate with other actors are practised in various ensemble settings. As in the main instrument studies, students also develop their ability to reflect on artistic approach, learning and their professional development and that of others. Progression lies in students' improved ability to independently play, interact with and reflect on ensemble play at a very high musical level. The area includes the following components:

- ensemble rehearsal techniques,
- chamber music and orchestra
- concert activities, and
- juxtaposition of music styles and ensemble, orchestra and other contexts of musical interaction.

#### *Musical knowledge, 22.5 ECTS cr*

Musical knowledge is studied in semesters 2, 3 and 4. The area includes the courses Musical knowledge I-III, each of 7.5 ECTS cr. and require students to give an account

of and discuss Western music traditions in terms of technique, style, form and theory and apply the knowledge in playing and reflect on and argue for the value of linking ear-training and theory exercises to their own playing in various musical contexts. Integrating theoretical and practical components leads to knowledge of different musical domains, thus strengthening their identity as musicians, which involves communicating musically, orally and in writing with different actors. Professional identity is also strengthened through the study of the terms and conditions of the music sector and how to deal with them. Course progression involves the broadening and enhancing of various music traditions and praxis as well as of skills in and understanding of the use of music theory and ear-training. Musical knowledge courses comprises the following components:

- music history with a focus on Western classical music
- the role and function of music in society
- aural skills, rhythm, and the theory of harmony
- instrument knowledge and instrumentation
- functional piano training
- using digital tools
- the terms and conditions of the music sector

*Independent project, 15 ECTS cr*

The independent project aims for students to acquire basic knowledge of artistic research and development. The project must be relevant to the future profession. Students are expected to formulate, plan and carry out an independent music project at a high musical level and orally and in writing describe, present and critically reflect on their own artistic process. The project is completed and reported in a musical form as well as orally and in writing. The project is discussed in seminar.

*Optional course, 7.5 ECTS cr*

Students have the opportunity to enhance or broaden an area relevant to the future profession.

Programme Overview

The table below lists the areas of study and their courses per semester. MI stands for Main Instrument; E stands for Ensemble; MK stands for Musical Knowledge, IP stands for Independent Project; and O stands for Optional course. The abbreviations in Swedish are in parentheses, if different.

Semester 1 First-cycle 30 ECTS cr	
MI (H)	Main Instrument, 22.5 ECTS cr
E	Ensemble I, 7.5 ECTS cr
Semester 2 First-cycle 30 ECTS cr	
MI (H)	Main Instrument II, 15 ECTS cr
E	Ensemble II, 7.5 ECTS cr
MK (M)	Musical Knowledge I, 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 3 First-cycle 30 ECTS cr	
MI (H)	Main Instrument III, 15 ECTS cr
E	Ensemble III, 7.5 ECTS cr
MK (M)	Musical Knowledge II, 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 4 First-cycle 30 ECTS cr	
MI (H)	Main Instrument IV, 15 ECTS cr,
E	Ensemble IV, 7.5 ECTS cr
MK (M)	Musical Knowledge III, 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 5 First-cycle 30 ECTS cr	
MI (H)	Main Instrument V, 15 ECTS cr
E	Ensemble V, 7.5 ECTS cr
IP (S)	Independent Project, part 1, 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 6 First-cycle 30 ECTS cr	
MI (H)	Main Instrument VI, 15 ECTS cr
O (V)	Optional course, 7.5 ECTS cr
IP (S)	Independent Project, part 2, 7.5 ECTS cr

The three courses listed in the respective semester run parallel.

In the third academic year, students may wish to take the Independent Project course during two semesters to gain a longer planning and completion process as shown above. If, on the other hand, the whole Independent Project is conducted in semester 6, the Optional course is moved to semester 5.

### **Degree title**

Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts  
Major: Music

### **Transfer of Credits**

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 sections 6-8 students have the right to transfer credits from other universities upon approval.

**Additional Information**

Mandatory components are indicated in the course syllabi, as are the specific requirements for admission to each course.

A requirement for the award of a Higher Education Diploma is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 7.5 ECTS cr in the main field of study.

Local regulations for the Bachelor and Master level at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

Previous versions of this programme plan were approved:

10 Dec. 2015, reg.no HS 2015/461, effective from the autumn semester of 2016