General Syllabus for Third Cycle Studies in Music leading to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts

1. Programme details
Programme and specialisation: Third cycle studies in Music
Code: KOKOMUS1
Credits: 240
Cycle: Third
Degree title in English: Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Music
Degree title in Swedish: Konstnärlig doktorsexamen i musik
Syllabus approved by the Board of the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts 31 May 2017. The programme is offered at the Malmö Academy of Music.

2. Subject description
Music as a research subject involves research in and development of artistic creation and the formation of knowledge in the area of music. Among the subjects studied are different forms of artistic practice in music, such as interpretation, improvisation, composition, music production and other professional contexts for the creation of music. The research projects are to be based in and emerge out of the musical practice and activities of the individual doctoral student, which means that research projects in music can be conducted by performers, improvisers, composers, producers and other professional practitioners in music. The aim of artistic research is to explore in depth, creatively challenge and critically highlight traditional forms of musical creation and practice from the perspective of active music practitioners and through innovative and often experimental projects.

3. Objectives and outcomes of the programme
The objective of the third cycle programme in music is to train students to become independent and critical researchers equipped with broad subject knowledge, methodological skills and the ability to independently conduct research projects. A further objective is to provide students with a broad scholarly training, enabling them to assume professional roles in which research in the arts is of value. The focus of the programme is on independent artistic work.

The activities are to be conducted in forms that enable each and every student to develop in accordance with their personal circumstances and unaffected by irrelevant considerations of gender, ethnic or social background, religion or other belief, sexual orientation or disability. The Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts has a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of discrimination.

Third cycle studies in music lead to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts or, as an intermediate exit point, a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts (see section 8).
For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Music the third-cycle student shall

Knowledge and understanding
• demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in his or her artistic field, and
• demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills
• demonstrate creative capacity in the field of music
• demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well the ability to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
• demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames
• demonstrate through a documented artistic research project the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research
• demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings with artistic legitimacy and well-supported arguments in speech and writing and in dialogue with the music community, academic disciplines and society in general
• demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
• demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

Judgement and approach
• demonstrate intellectual autonomy, artistic integrity and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
• demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Specific outcomes
In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, the following outcomes apply to the third cycle programme in music at Lund University.

For a degree of Doctor in the Fine Arts specialising in Music, the research student shall be able to
• develop research within his or her musical practice
• contribute to an expanded field of knowledge in the subject, and
• contribute to artistic development in the field and to development of education in artistic research in music.

A degree of Doctor is awarded after the third-cycle student has completed a study programme of 240 credits including a defended and passed artistic research project comprising at least 180 credits.

4. Programme design
Third-cycle studies comprise 240 credits or four years of full-time study. The programme can also be pursued as part-time studies (at least 50 per cent) or a maximum of eight years of study. The student also has the right to complete a licentiate (120 credits) as a stage in his or her third-cycle studies, but is not obliged to do so unless he or she has been admitted to studies leading to a licentiate only. The language of instruction is Swedish and English.

4. 1 Programme structure
The programme comprises 240 credits divided into a course component of 60 credits and a documented research project of 180 credits. It is structured as semesters of 30 credits for full-time studies. Teaching is in the form of seminars and courses, and individual and group supervision. There are compulsory seminars based on individual projects and issues of artistic processes and elective seminars focused on specific themes. Certain
study components can involve activities such as independent study of individually selected reading, workshops or artistic practice.

For a degree of Doctor of the Fine Arts, the students must have passed all assessed components of the programme and the artistic project.

4.2 Supervision
At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student, both of whom are to be responsible for the programme of study and artistic project in accordance with an allocation of duties decided by the Faculty Board. The principal supervisor is to be affiliated with the department employing the student and have the qualifications of an associate professor. The assistant supervisor should have an expertise that complements that of the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral student, is responsible for specifying the role and duties of the supervisor, and for maintaining a dialogue about the studies and artistic project between the doctoral student, principal supervisor and assistant supervisor. The doctoral student is entitled to supervision to an extent deemed necessary for a programme of 240 credits (four years of full-time study). Supervision can take place individually or in groups. The maximum allocation of hours for four years of supervision is 340 for principal supervisors (5 per cent of total working hours for four years) and 204 for assistant supervisors (3 per cent).

The supervision provided is to assist the student in defining a field of study and to support the progress of the artistic work. The supervisors are appointed by the Faculty Board. The doctoral student is entitled to change supervisor if a sufficiently qualified candidate is available at the department. A change of supervisor has to be approved by the Faculty Board (see the regulations on supervision of third cycle students).

4.3 Individual study plan
The department is responsible for making sure that, at the start of the programme, the doctoral student and principal supervisor together draw up an individual study plan for the duration of the programme. It is to be approved by the Faculty Board and revised annually or when specific changes call for revisions. The individual study plan is to state the structure of the individual student’s programme of study and the duties and responsibilities of the supervisors.

The research student must register for study at the start of each semester and indicate his or her planned degree of activity during the semester in consultation with the principal supervisor. It is the responsibility of the student to apply for leave prior to academic years in which the programme is not pursued full-time.

4.4 Courses and seminars
The research student is to participate in and contribute to the courses and seminars included in the third-cycle programme in music. This component amounts to 60 credits and includes courses, seminars and other activities at the home department or other higher education institutions.

The foundation courses of the programme comprise 30 credits. They are to be included in the individual student’s programme of study in accordance with an agreement with the principal supervisor and can for example cover:

- *Introductory Course I and Introductory Course II* comprise 2 x 7.5 credits and aim to provide an overview of the rights and obligations of doctoral students, and specialised knowledge of artistic research in music from a historical and cultural perspective
- *Method Development in Artistic Research in Music* is a method course of 7.5 credits intended to provide an overview of methods and methodology in artistic research
- *Academic Writing in Artistic Research in Music* is a seminar series of 7.5 credits intended to provide an overview of texts and the use of text in artistic research
The remaining 30 credits are to be used for individually selected courses and other components of study. The aim of the elective components should be to enable specialised and in-depth reflection on and communication of the artistic process. The selection of elective components and the number of credits are to be determined by the doctoral student and principal supervisor in consultation and described in the individual study plan.

Throughout the programme of study and as an integral part of the studies, the doctoral student shall participate in seminars on research and the projects of fellow students at the department. Individual doctoral students are to have the opportunity to regularly present work in progress, project plans and specific research issues at joint seminars. Each doctoral student is to present work in progress at a minimum of three public seminars (when 25, 50 and 75 per cent of the project has been completed) in which the work is reviewed by an external reviewer.

The course and seminar component must be assessed by a professor or lecturer with the qualifications of an associate professor. The professor/programme director in music is to be the examiner of all assessed components. Additional examiners may be appointed by the Faculty Board. The credits to be transferred for courses at other institutions are determined by the examiner. The individual study plan is to indicate the courses to be taken by the student and to be included in the degree. The grades awarded for all assessed components on the programme are Pass or Fail.

4.5 Documented artistic research project of 180 credits
The documented artistic research project of 180 credits is the most important component of the third-cycle programme. It is to be based on an independent project of artistic research. The subject and focus is to be determined in consultation with the principal supervisor. It is the responsibility of the principal supervisor to ensure that it will be possible to complete the project within the applicable timeframe and conditions.

The artistic research project is to focus on a specific artistic practice and be held together by a central idea. The artistic practice is to be combined with a perspective of reflection. The research process is to be continually followed up in consultation with the supervisors. The audio components of the project are to be documented in a suitable form such as recitals and/or recordings that are to be documented and made available in a library/archive.

The documented artistic research project is to be publicly defended. The grades awarded are Pass or Fail and these are determined by an examining committee (see section 7 below).

4.6 Departmental duties
The doctoral student may engage in departmental duties amounting to a maximum of 20 per cent of the total time for studies. The programme of study will be extended by the number of hours devoted to departmental duties by the individual student.

5. Admission requirements

5.1 General admission requirements
A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes in music if he or she:
• has been awarded a degree of at least 240 credits in performance, church music or composition at a music academy or the equivalent,
• has had the plan and aim of a proposed project assessed and approved by an admissions board, and
• has completed an independent artistic project that is of a nature that enables an assessment of his or her suitability for the programme.
5.2 Specific admission requirements
The candidate must be artistically prominent and well established in the field of music and have international contacts. Artistic research in music is international in character. Proficiency in English is therefore a requirement for successfully completing the programme.

5.3 Credit transfer
A student who has successfully completed certain second-cycle courses or study programmes is entitled to transfer the credits awarded to the third-cycle programme, provided that the examiner assesses the previous education to be suitable for credit transfer.

A doctoral student who has successfully completed parts of a third-cycle programme at another higher education institution in Sweden is entitled to transfer the credits awarded to the third-cycle programme at Lund University. Studies at a higher education institution abroad may also be available for credit transfer. The extent to which credits for previous education may be transferred is determined by the examiner.

Credit transfer is assessed individually and subject to an application from the student.

6. Admission and selection
Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a degree of Doctor in the Fine Arts, in which a degree of Licentiate after two years of study may be a stage. Students can also be admitted to two years of study leading to a degree of Licentiate. The admission to third-cycle studies is conducted in accordance with the Lund University regulations for admission to third-cycle studies.


The Faculty aims to admit research students once a year, following a call for applications at a date determined by the Faculty Board. A student admitted to a programme for a degree of Licentiate must submit a new application to pursue the programme for a degree of Doctor.

6.1 Admission
The Faculty Board is to appoint an admissions board. Pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance, only applicants simultaneously appointed to a doctoral studentship and considered to have funding guaranteed during the entire period of study may be admitted to a third-cycle programme leading to a degree of Doctor in the Fine Arts. However, provided that the applicant meets the other admission requirements, the Faculty Board may admit an applicant who has some other form of funding for his or her studies if it considers that the funding can be guaranteed during the entire period of study and that the applicant can devote enough time to his or her studies to enable their completion within four years in the case of full-time studies. In such a case, a funding plan detailing the financial situation of the student throughout the period of study is to be attached to the application.

6.2 Selection
The applicant is to attach a research project plan to the application. The plan is to include a description of the project and a rough outline of its execution. The basic criterion for selection among applicants is their qualifications at the time of application. A shortlisted number of applicants will be called to interviews. When necessary, the admissions board may request additional documentation.

The selection criteria are

• the applicant’s suitability for artistic research and ability to profit from research studies
• the artistic quality of the project and its feasibility in relation to the timeframe (i.e. a period of four years of full-time study)
• the quality of the project plan in terms of relevance, originality, research issues, links and relevance to the general area of knowledge and proposed methods, and
• the department’s desired specialisation and access to supervisors

The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not give the applicant priority over other applicants.

7. Public defence
The documented artistic research project is to be reviewed and defended publicly. Before the project can be presented at a public defence, it must be approved by the programme director/director of studies. The public defence is to be led by a chair and include an external reviewer with the qualifications of an associate professor. The chair and reviewer are to be appointed specially for each defence by the Faculty Board. The documented components of the artistic research project are to be made available to the public at least three weeks in advance of the public defence. The defence normally consists of a public discussion of the artistic and reflecting parts of the project. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, the student must have completed all the assessed programme components prior to the defence.

The grades awarded for the artistic research project are Pass or Fail. For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the student must have passed all the assessed components of the programme and the documented artistic research project.

The grade for the artistic research project is determined by an examining committee, which is appointed by the Faculty Board and is to have at least three members with the qualifications of an associate professor. Normally, one member is to be from the home department, one from another discipline at the home university and one from the discipline of music at another university. A supervisor of the doctoral student may not be a member of the examining committee. The external reviewer has the right to be present at the meeting of the examining committee and participate in the discussion but not in the decision. This also applies to the supervisors.

8. Degree of Licentiate – a stage of research studies
Students admitted to the third-cycle programme in music may include a midway stage after four semesters of study for full-time students. Students who pass the stage will be awarded a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts, on application.

8.1 Aim
The aim of the stage is to provide students with training in research that will enable them to assume societal roles in which research in the arts is of value. The aim is achieved through providing the student with subject knowledge, methodological skills and the ability to independently conduct a research project.

For a degree of Licentiate, the third-cycle student shall

Knowledge and understanding
• demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the research field, including up-to-date specialised knowledge in his or her artistic field, as well as demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills
• demonstrate creative capacity in the field of music
• demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake an artistic research project and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge and evaluate this work
• demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the music community, academic disciplines and society in general, and
• demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work, and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach
• demonstrate the ability to make assessments of research ethics in their own research,
• demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
• demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her artistic development.

Specific outcomes
In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, the following outcomes apply to the third cycle programme in music at Lund University.

For a degree of Licentiate in the Fine Arts specialising in Music, the research student shall be able to

• develop research within his or her musical practice
• contribute to an expanded field of knowledge in the subject, and
• contribute to artistic development in the field and to development of education in artistic research in music.

8.2 Structure and contents
The stage includes courses, seminars and a documented artistic research project. The teaching is in the form of seminars and courses, and individual and group supervision. The contents are the same as those for the two first years of the programme leading to the degree of Doctor.

As part of the stage, the student is to complete a documented artistic research project. The focus of the project should be determined early and planned so that it can be completed within the two first years of full-time study. When the Licentiate is a stage in the programme leading to a degree of Doctor, the project should be planned in such a way that major parts can be integrated in the doctoral project.

8.3 Assessment
The grades awarded for the artistic research project are Pass or Fail. For a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts, the student must have passed all the assessed components of the programme and the documented artistic research project.

The documented artistic research project is to be reviewed and defended at a public seminar. The grade for the artistic research project is determined by an examining committee appointed by the Faculty Board.

8.4 Miscellaneous
The stage/degree of Licentiate is not compulsory and the student is not required to decide on admission whether he or she will try to obtain a Licentiate degree or not. Consequently, students who do not explicitly wish to take only a Licentiate are advised to plan their studies so as to obtain a degree of Doctor only, as this will not adversely affect their opportunities to include the midway stage later on.

9. Further information
Information on admission and application deadlines is available from the Faculty Office.