



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2023/1296

Bachelor Programme in Music

Programme Code:	HGMSK
Programme Title:	Bachelor Programme in Music Konstnärlig kandidat musiker
Credits:	180
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 7 December 2023 and is in effect as of the autumn semester of 2024.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish or English
Education Cycle:	First (Bachelor's level)
Degree Type:	Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts
Entry Requirements:	General eligibility as well as passing the entrance exam.

Introduction

The Bachelor Programme in Music at Karlstad University is a professional fine arts education aimed at students seeking a solid foundation for working as professional musicians in various artistic contexts. The programme is permeated by a clear professional perspective as well as a very high artistic level. Aspects of sustainable development and gender equality are also included. During the studies, students acquire both in-depth and broad knowledge, while also developing an expert artistic approach relevant to professional life and its many qualified tasks.

Developing into an independent musician requires a high degree of skill in the instrument of choice, the ability to express oneself artistically, as well as an open, experimental and ethical approach to music performance, cooperation, and the cultural sector at large. Hence, the programme combines artistic performance and individual expression with a critical perspective on performing and creating music, as well as artistic expertise in the form of musical knowledge and practical skill – including a critical perspective on artistic approaches and artistic learning.

In essence, the programme aims to develop the students' practice-focused artistic problem-solving abilities.

The intent is for the Bachelor Programme in Music to both interact with and challenge the wider community's various artistic activities and organisations. This includes preparing students for a professional life in a contemporary, established music industry. It also means instilling students with the confidence to challenge established ideas and develop innovative approaches to music creation and performance. Consequently, the programme aims to equip students with the tools to navigate a complex, innovative and ever-changing professional life. Graduates also have the option to continue their studies and pursue a master's degree in the fine arts.

Programme outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national outcomes for a degree, as well as the specific local outcomes.

National Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the principal field (music), 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 autonomously 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 autonomously in a professional capacity.

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 undertake ongoing development of his or her skills.

Independent project (degree project)

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

Profile and local outcomes for the Bachelor Programme in Music

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 degree programme. The aim is to, from an artistic perspective, explore and challenge aspects of music and music performance in relation to the cultural activities in the wider community. The programme's profile comprises three modes of knowledge, each expressed through a specific local outcome.

Excellent technical and artistic skills

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, the student shall

- demonstrate the knowledge and ability to – at a very high 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 various artistic contexts.

Interaction and cooperation within and between different artistic contexts.

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and ability to – at a very high musical level – interact, cooperate and negotiate with various actors, both within the wider music industry and in many other artistic contexts.

Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge about and the ability to – at a very high musical level – shape and perform music both within and outside of established artistic frameworks, as well as develop and carry out ideas in relation to practical music performance in collaboration with other actors.

The local outcomes of the programme are achieved both through course contents and the structure of instruction. Each individual course syllabus contains learning outcomes that relate to one or more of the local programme outcomes.

Programme structure

The programme comprises 180 credits and results in a Degree of Bachelor in Music in the main field of study Music. The programme consists of three larger sections comprising main instrument courses, ensemble courses and music knowledge courses. The programme also includes an independent degree project.

The structure and approach of the courses train students in critical thinking, solving artistic and performance-related problems, and to independently and actively search for knowledge. This provides a solid foundation for the students' future professional lives.

The programme is based around individual classes, group classes, and joint classes – often in the form of so called master classes (seminars with masters/skilled teachers and a student, with an audience comprising both other students and teachers). The individual classes comprise instrument practice with a teacher and a student. Group classes, joint classes and master classes take the form of both practical musical instruction and performances, as well as lectures with analytical discussions about the various functions and expressions of music. Group classes are also used in music knowledge courses, as well as ensemble and orchestra performance. Hence, from start to finish, the programme emphasises practicing technical abilities as well as reflections regarding students' individual artistic processes. Already at an early stage, students practice performing in front of an audience, and there are plenty of opportunities for public performances, both in-house and external concerts. The programme also aims to ensure that students can handle and understand complex artistic issues and ongoing research and development projects both within the programme and in other degree programmes, as well as both at the institution and at other institutions or universities.

The modes of examination are varied and adjusted in accordance with the individual courses' learning outcomes. Examinations often consist of musical presentations, but also individual written presentations as well as oral reflections and seminar discussions. Furthermore, students practice peer reviewing each other's projects.

Programme curriculum

The programme consists of three larger sections containing several courses each: main instrument, ensemble, and music knowledge. The degree programme comprises the following sections and courses. Note that titles and order of programme courses may vary from the list below.

Main Instrument, 90 credits

All semesters include studies in the chosen main instrument. This section comprises the courses Main instrument I-IV, worth 15 credits each. Main instrument studies provide students with knowledge and understanding of repertoire, style, and praxis from different eras.

Furthermore, students develop specific abilities related to their chosen instrument and artistic performance. Students also practice their ability to reflect on both their own and other's artistic approaches, learning and professional development. The progression in these courses entails broadening the repertoire, using fundamental technical musical abilities to develop the ability to perform at a very high musical level, and expanding the students' ability to assess and reflect on their own individual learning and musical performance, to also include other's learning and musical performance in various artistic contexts. Main instrument studies consist of:

- technical instrument knowledge,
- practice techniques and prima vista play,
- repertoire knowledge, rehearsing and interpreting a chosen repertoire,
- solo play and playing with an accompanist,
- reflection on and assessment of music performance, musical expressions and learning,
- individual classes, joint classes and master classes, and
- trial practice and concerts.

Ensemble, 37.5 credits

The ensemble studies are carried out throughout the first five semesters. This section comprises the courses Ensemble I-V, worth 7.5 credits each. Ensemble studies consist of musical interplay, where students develop their knowledge of style, form and notation from various musical contexts. The skills and abilities needed for performing and communicating with others are practiced through various forms of musical interplay. As in the main instrument courses, students also develop their ability to reflect on both their own and other's artistic approaches, learning and professional development. The progression in these courses entails drawing on fundamental skills in ensemble play to increase the ability to, independently and at a high musical level, play music, perform with others, and reflect. Ensemble studies consist of:

- ensemble practice techniques
- chamber music and orchestral music,
- concerts, and
- the intermingling of various musical styles and ensemble, orchestral and interplay contexts.

Music Knowledge, 30 credits

Music knowledge is studied throughout the first four semesters. This section comprises the courses Music knowledge I-IV, worth 7.5 credits each. Studies in musical knowledge require students to give an account of and discuss Western music traditions in terms of technique, style, form and theory as well as apply the knowledge in their music performance and reflect on and discuss the value of linking ear training and theory exercises to their own performance 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 industry and how to apply them. Progression in these courses entails broad and in-depth knowledge of various music traditions and praxis, as well as of skills and knowledge related to the practical application of music theory and aural skills. The courses in musical knowledge comprise 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 and composition,
- instrument knowledge and instrumentation,
- functional piano training,
- using digital tools, and

- the terms and conditions of the music industry.

Independent Project, 15 credits

The aim of the independent project is to develop the students' basic knowledge of artistic research and development work. The project should be relevant to the students' future professional lives. Students shall formulate, plan, and implement an independent project of a high musical level. The student must also, both orally and in writing, describe and critically reflect on their own artistic process. The project is carried out and presented both as a musical performance as well as oral and written presentations. The project is peer reviewed at a seminar.

Optional course, 7.5 credits

The programme also includes an optional course in which students are given the opportunity to specialise in a field relevant to their future professions. This could for example be instrument and ensemble courses, as well as courses in subject-specific teaching, ergonomics, music theory, composition, and music and sound production.

Semester structure

The programme's courses are structured as stated below: MI stands for Main Instrument, E is Ensemble, MK for Musical Knowledge, IP is Independent Project and O is Optional Course.

Year 1			
Semester 1 Bachelor's level, 30 credits		Semester 2 Bachelor's level, 30 credits	
MI	Main instrument I, 15 credits	MI	Main instrument II, 15 credits
E	Ensemble I, 7.5 credits	E	Ensemble II, 7.5 credits
MK	Musical knowledge I, 7.5 credits	MK	Musical knowledge II, 7.5 credits

YEAR 2			
Semester 3 Bachelor's level, 30 credits		Semester 4 Bachelor's level, 30 credits	
MI	Main instrument III, 15 credits	MI	Main instrument IV, 15 credits
E	Ensemble III, 7.5 credits	E	Ensemble IV, 7.5 credits
MK	Musical knowledge III, 7.5 credits	MK	Musical knowledge IV, 7.5 credits

YEAR 3			
Semester 5 Bachelor's level, 30 credits		Semester 6 Bachelor's level, 30 credits	
MI	Main instrument V, 15 credits	MI	Main instrument VI, 15 credits
E	Ensemble V, 7.5 credits	O	Optional course, 7.5 credits
IP	Independent project, 15 credits		
	<i>The course extends over two semesters, 7.5 credits per semester.</i>		

The stated Main instrument, Ensemble and music knowledge courses are taken in parallel throughout the respective semesters.

Title of Qualification

Upon programme completion, graduates are awarded a Degree of Bachelor in Music.

Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

Main field of study: Music

Konstnärlig kandidatexamen

Huvudområde: Musik

Credit transfer

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.

Additional Information

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

Attendance is mandatory at some programme components, as stipulated in the course syllabuses. Each syllabus also specifies the eligibility requirements for each course.

Previous versions of the programme syllabus have been approved:

2 March 2016, Reg.no HS 2015/461, valid from the autumn semester of 2015

2 March 2020, Reg.no HS 2020/199, valid from the autumn semester of 2015