
subject catalogue S23 K24

course code DGX401

name of course

Methods of Choral Work

specification

for Choral Conducting specialty, elective for others in BA or MA level

academic instructor

H.Jürgenson, K.Tanner, L.W.van der Ree

prerequisite course

no of terms

4

contact hr/total

120.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

2.0

ECTS/total

12.00

Lect

30.0

Grp

0.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

A

A

A

A

term

1

2

3

4

ECTS

3.00

3.00

3.00

3.00

aim of the subject

This course aims to provide the student with skills necessary for work with choirs. It includes lessons on the choir as an instrument, the specifics of the voice, analysing and reading scores and strategies for working with choirs.

From III semester:

This course introduces and explores the administrative side of choral work: budgeting, financing, legislation, contracts, concert management etc.

IV semester:

We look at how European choral music was performed throughout the centuries, and how we can apply this to working with

choirs today. The goal is to get a better understanding of stylistic differences between pieces of music of different periods, and to learn to make interpretative choices based on historical information.

content

Subjects of study include:

I and II semester:

- Elementary music theory
- Music terms
- Analysis of choral works
- Analysis of performance
- Vocal techniques
- Intonation
- Diction and articulation
- Methodology
- Choral work with children
- Choir as an organization
- Selecting repertoire
- Constructing the program, content and form of performances
- Transcription and pronunciation in different languages (Latin, Italian, German, English, Russian, French rules of pronunciation)
- Liturgical music, church performance
- Vocational ethics, vocational certification

III semester:

- Possible legal bodies for choirs (non-profit organisation, private limited company etc)

- Administrative work and management in choirs
- Choir's budget and financing possibilities
- Project applications
- Concert management and performance opportunities
- Authors' and performers' rights
- Contracts
- Useful legal acts for choral managers and conductors

IV semester:

- The role of music and of the composer in society, its function in an institution
- Aesthetics
- Size and set-up of the choir (how many signers, what voice types)
- Vocal technique, actual sound of the choir
- Tuning systems, pitch, symbolic meaning of accidentals and key signatures
- Tempo, tempo relations, interpretation of rhythmic notation
- Expressive devices, text setting, ornamentation, improvisation

learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student will:

I and II semester:

- Have acquired the knowledge, skills and techniques necessary for successful work with choirs
- Possesses knowledge on the related terminology
- Successfully lead a choral ensemble
- Plan the work and rehearsal of choirs while using varied methodological options
- Through versatile analysis of choral repertoire create interpretive audio-imagery
- Possess the skills to use well-founded and rational methods while teaching repertoire

III semester:

- Knows appropriate organisational forms for choirs' work
- Has skills to administrate choirs, organise choral events and concerts
- Knows how to build up choir's budget
- Has skills to make project applications and reports
- Has overview of Estonian and international performance opportunities (co-operation projects, festivals, competitions, concerts)
- Knows possible sources for financing choir's activities
- Has overview of authors' and performers' rights
- Knows commonly used contract forms and legal acts for choral management.

IV semester:

- Better understand the development of the performance practice of European choral music
- Find and work with historical sources
- Make interpretative and stylistic choices based on these sources
- Implement these choices in your work with choirs

assessment

Grading is on a pass/fail basis. In order to pass, the following is required:

- Written test of terminology (tempo, comprehension of notes and notation in scores, Maelzel metronome, etc).
- Oral test (types of choirs, vocal groups, compiling repertoire and performance programs, testing singers, etc.) and practical etudes (vocal work, choir intonation, tuning, specifics of pronunciation, pronunciation of Latin, etc.)
- Written practical exercises (concert and competition programming, transcription of foreign language text into score, practical pronunciation)

assessment criteria

I and III semester:

A positive result is produced by having substantive understanding and lack of knowledge gaps in related themes with all components of the written and oral test.

III semester:

Attendance (min 80 %) and completing a set of practical tasks and written homeworks which demonstrates the ability to realise the acquired new knowledge.

IV semester:

Grading is on a pass/fail basis. In order to pass, the following is required: attending at least 80% of the lessons, active participation (discussions, singing), presenting (in writing) an interpretation of a choral work of your choice.

course reading material

Reader provided at the start of the course + articles

author of course description

Ants Soots, Kaie Tanner, Lodewijk van der Ree