

course beginning: autumn autumn

subject catalogue S23 K24

course code KOX030

name of course

Theoretical Knowledge of Orchestral Instruments

specification

for Composition, Musicology, Electronic Music, OD specialty, elective for others at BA or MA level

academic instructor

R.E.Maimets

prerequisite course

no of terms

1

contact hr/total

38.0

hr/term

38.0

hr/week

2.0

ECTS/total

3.00

Lect

30.0

Grp

8.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

E

term

1

ECTS

3.00

aim of the subject

The lectures cover symphony orchestra and wind ensemble instruments, techniques of playing the instruments as well as their history. The students hear live instruments played in the seminars.

content

History, construction and technical possibilities (range, dynamics, etc.) of musical instruments and their functions. Use of instruments in solo works and larger ensembles. Contemporary (or “extended”) use of instruments. Structure of a symphony orchestra.

learning outcomes

Students are required to know the instruments in a contemporary symphony orchestra and their potential.

assessment

Components of a differentiated assessment: essay and a written test.

1. Students are required to write an essay in a freely chosen form about a group of instruments (e.g. string instruments, woodwind instruments, etc.) or an individual instrument. They may also choose a group of four to five different instruments. In agreement with the teacher they may also write about instruments not used in a symphony orchestra (e.g. folk music instruments, contemporary electronic instruments, electric guitar, various percussions, etc.). The length of the essay is not set.

2. The written test includes questions about the material covered in the lectures and consists of three parts (five questions in each):

- General knowledge about musical instruments (range, dynamic potential, notation, etc.);
- Transposition of a simple musical theme (in C) for various instruments (such as clarinet in Bb, alto flute in G, alto saxophone in Eb, etc.);
- Spotting mistakes in notation examples (covers the range of instruments, dynamics, notation, etc.). This part is a multiple-choice test.

All three parts of the test will be graded separately (total of three grades).

assessment criteria

The grade “Sufficient” (E) is awarded to students who have given a correct answer to only one out of the five questions in each part of the test.

The grade “Satisfactory” (D) is awarded to students who have given a correct answer to two out of the five questions in each part of the test.

The grade “Good” (C) is awarded to students who have given a correct answer to three out of the five questions in each part of the test.

The grade “Very Good” (B) is awarded to students who have given a correct answer to four out of the five questions in

each part of the test.

The grade “Excellent” (A) is awarded to students who have given a correct answer to all five questions in each part of the test.

In the case of the essay, the student’s personal relationship to the topic is valued more than a paper summarizing previously written texts on the subject. Original and interesting presentation of the subject is appreciated most.

The total score will be calculated as the average of the three parts of the test and the essay.

course reading material

Alfred Blatter "Orchestration/Instrumentation"

Samuel Adler "The Study of Instrumentation"

Don Sebesky "The Contemporary Arranger"

author of course description

Tõnu Kõrvits