

course beginning: spring spring

subject catalogue S23 K24

course code MTX711

name of course

Hymnology

specification

elective

academic instructor

E.Jöks

prerequisite course

no of terms

1

contact hr/total

30.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

2.0

ECTS/total

3.00

Lect

30.0

Grp

0.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

A

term

1

ECTS

3.00

aim of the subject

The aim of the course is to build a connection between the medieval ecclesiastical chant and contemporary professional musical culture that would stimulate practical musical thinking. To achieve the goal the course will give an overview of the emergence of the written Western ecclesiastical chant in the 9.–10. Centuries and explain the main features of its formation through the second millennium, inc. the rise of protestant hymn that considerably influenced European musical culture.

The spring of European professional musical culture is in the medieval Western ecclesiastical chant because this genre gave birth to a phenomenon that is so characteristic to the professional musical culture – ability to write down musical information and reproduce it later as sounding music.

The subject is not narrowly designed for those who are particularly interested in Church music. Following the course helps

the future professional musicians to learn and appreciate the spring of the Western art music – notated chant and understand how it has influenced the core of our musical thinking.

content

- (1) The concept of hymnology, its meaning, role and location of this subject in the discourse of science and scholarship;
- (2) specification of paleography and semiology and introduction of the earliest musical manuscripts of Western ecclesiastical chant;
- (3) taxonomy or classification of ecclesiastical chant – what are the types, genres and performance styles of ecclesiastical chant;
- (4) hymnological research – how to study ecclesiastical chant;
- (5) application of medieval ecclesiastical chant in contemporary vernacular (church) singing.

learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student should:

- (1) understand in general the emergence of the written Western ecclesiastical chant in the 9.–10. Centuries and the main features of its formation through the second millennium;
- (2) be able to associate the genesis of the European written musical culture with his/her musical activities and comprehend the role of ecclesiastical chant in it;
- (3) realise basic terms in ecclesiastical chant, for example hymnology, paleography, semiology;
- (4) should the fundamentals of classification of ecclesiastical chant;
- (5) be able to devise and basically execute a study of a piece from the repertoire of ecclesiastical chant.

assessment

Non-differentiated assessment.

assessment criteria

To pass the subject successfully the student should execute a short written study of a piece from the repertoire of ecclesiastical chant or write an essay “The role of the Western ecclesiastical chant in my career as a musician.”

course reading material

Cardine, Eugène, Godehard Joppich, and Rupert Fischer 1982. Gregorian semiology. Sable-sur-Sarthe: Solesmes.

Apel, Willi 1958. Gregorian chant. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Hiley, David 1993. Western plainchant: a handbook. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Hiley, David 2009. Gregorian chant. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

author of course description

Eerik Jõks