

course beginning: spring spring

subject catalogue S23 K24

course code MTX830

name of course

Journey Into the Text

specification

elective for BA, MA and Doctoral program

academic instructor

E.Jöks

prerequisite course

no of terms

1

contact hr/total

30.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

0.0

ECTS/total

3.00

Lect

0.0

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

Learn to understand the role of the text in vocal music and find ways to highlight the text and its narrative, both substantively and technically.

content

The first vocal repertoire of the Western written musical culture was the medieval sacred Latin monody, popularly known as the Gregorian chant. This repertoire laid the foundation for the Western professional musical culture and also set the ideal standard for the confluence of text and music. Text and music were so directly related that in certain genres the distinction between them was almost impossible. It could be called the era of "marriage" of text and music. With the formation of polyphony, a "quarrel" arose between text and music, which by the end of the 12th century culminated in a

"divorce". In organum and medieval motet, the text was no longer an organic part of the vocal composition, but rather fulfilled the role of a technical tool for conveying a musical narrative and a compositional effect. From the beginning of the Ars nova movement, the text "began to look" for a way back into the organic whole of a vocal composition. Each subsequent era of music history has tried to rethink the role of the text in (vocal) music. It has been more or less successful, and the text and music have again become quite close in the repertoire of some eras, but the "marriage" of text and music created by medieval Latin monody has not been restored.

It is a theoretical-practical subject, during which various methods are studied in the search of the lost "marriage" of text and music in those parts of the vocal music repertoire that the students participating in the course use in their studies and creative activities. For this purpose, a set of methods and exercises introduced by Eerik Jõks, based on the study and performance of medieval Latin chant and the composition, performance and teaching of contemporary Estonian, Finnish and English monodic vocal music, is used.

learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student:

(1) be able to look at the text of a vocal music composition with a "fresh" look, appreciating the role of it in the organic whole of the vocal musical work, (2) know the range of methods by which the text and its narrative can be better highlighted both substantively and technically.

assessment

Pass/fail exam that is composed of: (1) 50% class attendance, (2) 50% a set of practical tasks, which demonstrates ability to realise the acquired new knowledge.

assessment criteria

A student will pass if he/she (1) has attended at least 75% of lectures, (2) has completed a set of practical tasks, which demonstrates ability to realise the acquired new knowledge.

course reading material

This is a totally new and innovative approach. At the moment there is no English literature for that available.

E.Jöks