

Master of Advanced Studies "Advanced Vocal Ensemble Studies"

Module Performance and Repertoire 4: Courses' assessments

Performance

Repertoire

Context

Master Qualification

Time	At the end of the Module Performance and Repertoire 3
Organisation	Students' administration in agreement with the Programmes' teaching staff and the students

1. Registration

The dates for the final examinations and concert are organised by the Programme Manager in consultation with the Secretarial Office and the Programme's teaching faculty, and published at the same time as the organisation of the teaching blocks. In general, colloquium, directing examinations and final concert take place during the last two teaching weeks.

2. Examination Requirements

1. *Recital*

¹ The programme for the final recital is designed collectively by all students in one cycle, in consultation with the Programme's teaching faculty.

² The programme may draw on the personal projects of individual students, although this is not a requirement.

³ The programme may also include compositions already performed publicly in other presentations throughout the course, although the majority of the programme should include material not previously presented in public.

⁴ The level of technical difficulty of the programme should be commensurate with the professional standards expected from graduates of the second cycle.

⁵ The final recital should last approximately 90 minutes including an interval of 15 minutes.

⁶ The final recital is public.

2. *Personal Project*

¹ The Personal Project is intended to demonstrate skills – in editing, analysis, interpretation or contextualisation – necessary for directing an Early Music vocal ensemble.

² It can take the form of either (a) an edition or (b) an essay.

³ The subject matter and scope of the Personal Project is discussed with the Programme's teaching faculty within the first six teaching weeks; there will also be opportunities to discuss the individual project in plenary sessions of the course.

⁴ The orientation of the project will, in general, correspond to the particular skills, experience, and educational background of the individual students.

⁵ Advice during the preparation and writing of the Personal Project can be given by the Programme's teaching faculty; supplementary supervision can be arranged, if necessary, in consultation with the Programme Manager.

⁶ The Personal Project should be written in English; one copy should be handed in to the Secretarial Office and a pdf copy should be sent to scb.hsm@fhnw, both four weeks before the final concert. Late submission can lead to the loss of one whole mark.

3. Direction

- ¹ In accordance with the aims of developing the 'inner director', each student will take responsibility for a short rehearsal which should, as far as possible, reflect a standard working session of a vocal ensemble.
- ² The composition of each ensemble for the direction examinations will be organised in advance within the year group itself and in consultation with the Programme's teaching faculty.
- ³ Each student is free to choose: (a) a piece of 15th-19th century polyphony without accompaniment to be worked on, and (b) the particular goal of the rehearsal (e.g. reading through a new piece, working on a piece known by the group, exploring expressive and technical means, focusing on text and rhetoric, incorporating aspects of historical performance practice, experimenting with scenic or semi-staged presentation, etc.).
- ⁴ The piece can either be unknown to the vocal ensemble or can be taken from the repertoires explored during the course. It may also form part of the final recital, although this is not a requirement.
- ⁵ Each student can decide to direct the rehearsal from within or outside the vocal ensemble.
- ⁶ The duration of the direction examination is 20 minutes.

4. Learning Report

- ¹ The purpose of the short Learning Report is to demonstrate a critical self-awareness in relation to personal development and individual learning processes as a vocal ensemble singer during the course.
- ² It should set out a brief description of professional experience in vocal ensembles to date before addressing personal development during the course (including, where appropriate, specific challenges, setbacks or progress) and indicate the ways in which skills learnt may inform future professional work.
- ³ It may include reflection on aspects such as vocal technique, the inner director, the intersubjective dynamics of working in vocal ensembles, performance situations, repertoires, and historical performance practice.
- ⁴ The Learning Report should be written in English and three copies should be handed in to the Secretarial Office four weeks before the final concert (max length 5 A4 sides).

5. Colloquium

- ¹ The Colloquium provides the opportunity for the Examination Committee to meet each student individually and discuss aspects of the Personal Project and the Learning Report.
- ² The duration of the Colloquium is 15 minutes and will take place before the final recital.

3. Examination Committee

- ¹ The Examination Committee consists of:
 - Chair: the Programme Manager, a member of the Institute's senior management team or a member of the SCB teaching faculty delegated by the Head of Institute
 - An external expert
 - The Programme's teaching faculty

4. Marking

1. General

- ¹ Marking occurs on a 6 point grading scale where 6.0 represents the highest grading and 1.0 the lowest.
- ² All members of the Examination Committee are able to give marks for all sections of the examination.

2. Recital

- ¹ Specific criteria for evaluating the performance derive from the learning goals.
- ² A significant deviation above or below the 90-minute duration of the final recital can be reflected in the final mark.

3. Personal Project

- ¹ The following criteria will be taken into consideration when evaluating the Personal Project:
 - Topic and Text: originality, pertinence and scope of the subject matter, the organisation of contents in a relevant and structured manner
 - Execution and Form: the formal execution of the thesis, length, layout of the text, correct citations and captions, editorial policy for musical scores, secondary literature used, bibliography

4. Direction

¹ The following criteria will be taken into consideration when evaluating the direction examination:

- Clarity of rehearsal plan and objectives
- Clarity of communication
- Ability to respond to problems as they arise
- Awareness of performance energy within the ensemble and its consequences for direction.

5. Learning Report and Colloquium

¹ The following criteria will be taken into consideration when evaluating the Learning Report:

- Ability of critical self-awareness in describing personal development
- Ability to identify individual strengths and weaknesses
- Ability to reflect on problems and solutions in learning processes
- Clarity in communication.

5. Re-taking Examinations

¹ It is not possible for logistical reasons to re-take the final recital; all other parts of the examinations may be re-taken once in the case of an initial fail.

² In the case of illness for the final recital, it will be necessary to produce a doctor's certificate before the recital itself. The Examination Committee will then decide on recommendation of the Programme Manager and the Programme's teaching faculty whether a final mark for performance can be given based on previous public performances during the course as a whole.

³ In the case of re-taking examinations, no guarantee can be given concerning further teaching or supervision.

9. Feedback

¹ There will be an opportunity for a short oral feedback following the final deliberations of the Examination Committee within 24 hours of the final recital.

² The results of the examinations will also be communicated to the individual students in written form.

10. Examination Fee

There is no separate fee for the final examinations.

11. Further provisions

Please refer to the «Weiterbildungsordnung der Hochschule für Musik» for any other provision.