

Study Guide

Music practice

Academic year
2024-2025

**Koninklijk Conservatorium
Antwerpen**

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1. Preface

Music Practice is a process-oriented course unit, that offers students an educational learning process in repertoire and the performance practice of “playing and singing together” in the broadest sense. After five levels of Music Practice students have the necessary tools, knowledge and experience to be able to function as fully-fledged musicians in professional orchestras, ensembles and choirs (for the voice section).

In addition, students can broaden their knowledge and skills in terms of repertoire and performance practice in a broader context through master classes, lecture recitals, study trips and project-related initiatives.

Further in this guide you will find an overview of what "music practice" means for the different instrument groups or disciplines. After that we listed in which ensemble your instrument has to/could participate and the required level (also for the students from the Master in Music & Education). Further we illustrate the Masterclasses and Lecture Recitals. Finally, you can find all the information about the evaluation procedure and possible exemptions.

For the detailed planning and content of the different ensembles, masterclasses and projects of Music Practice in 2024-2025, we refer to the course ‘Musiceerpraktijk / Music practice’ on Digitap <https://learning.ap.be>.

In addition to the basic Music Practice package, students may also participate in 1 or 2 additional projects for an additional 3 or 6 credits, respectively, in the form of the elective ‘extended music practice’. Extended music practice can only be included in your program with written permission from the Production Leader Music.

Rehearsals for the ensembles and orchestras are mainly scheduled on a weekly basis at a fixed time in the timetable. Some projects may be organized as a short, intensive project because of the specific content of the project. Because of this it is possible that classes and rehearsals coincide. The rehearsals and concerts of the projects always have priority over all other activities (also see 6. Evaluation – Evaluation norms). The student him/herself is responsible to notify the involved teachers of his/her absence on time. He/she can refer to the rehearsal schedules and lists of participants on Digitap.

2. Organigram

Production manager:

Bart Geysels – bart.geysels@ap.be, 03 800 01 65

Stage manager:

Kris Denissen – kris.denissen@ap.be, 03 800 01 68

Arne Torfs – arne.torfs@ap.be - 03 244 18 06

Production assistant & Masterclasses:

Verena Rizzo – verena.rizzo@ap.be

Head Music Department:

Inge Simoens – contact through Yannicke Belis

Administration Music:

Yannicke Belis – yannicke.belis@ap.be, 03 244 18 01

Responsible member of the Music Artistic Staff:

Koen Kessels - koen.kessels@ap.be

Teacher responsible per ensemble in 2024-2025:

Brass Ensemble: Jan Smets

Chamber Choir: Luc Anthonis

Choir: Marleen De Boo

Ensemble XXI: Pieter Matthyssens & Frank Agsteribbe

Guitar Ensemble: Nico Couck

Marimba Ensemble: Ludwig Albert

Music practice piano & key instruments: Stephanie Proot

Opera & opera scenes: alternating teachers & guest teachers

Percussion Ensemble: Koen Wilmaers

Saxophone Ensemble: Pieter Pellens

String Ensemble: Francis Reusens, Justus Grimm & external teachers

Symphony Orchestra: alternating teachers & guest teachers

Symphonic Wind Band: Steven Verhaert

3. Content

String Ensembles, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Marimba Ensemble, Guitar

Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble: A bundled or weekly practical session in which the basic skills of playing in a group are taught and the basic repertoire for ensemble is studied. This group work is supplemented with class projects with a thematic approach. The series of classes may result in a presentation or concert.

Sectional rehearsals for orchestral projects (per instrument or instrument group):

A bundled practical session in which students are prepared intensively to perform in the string/wind/percussion group of a professional orchestra. The latter means that the students receive specific training in the orchestral and are coached by teachers and external experts from the field.

Symphony Orchestra & Symphonic Wind Band:

The skills and know-how mentioned above in terms of playing with an ensemble are applied to a fully-fledged orchestra; the conductors are experts from the teaching staff of the RCA, a master student conducting and/or someone external. The productions usually lead to a presentation for an external audience.

Choir:

A weekly practical class during 1 semester in which the basic skills of singing together will be taught. Besides the a cappella choral literature, students study a major work for orchestra and choir every two/three years. This way instrumentalists can get additional vocal experience in the mixed vocal/instrumental orchestral repertoire.

Chamber Choir:

A weekly practical lesson on fixed dates during which the students of the voice department make music in a group. Other students can participate if they pass an audition. The chamber choir studies choral literature from different style periods. Chamber choir is part of the course Music Practice 1 to 4 for vocal students. Students Voice 5 and PG can participate in the chamber choir as part of Music Practice.

Baroque Ensemble, Oratorium projects, Ensemble XXI:

As from Level 3, students receive a thorough introduction to the baroque or contemporary stylistics. In respectively the Baroque Ensemble and the Ensemble XXI, students study the relevant repertoire, and the specific playing techniques associated with it.

The study of this specific performance practice is complementary to the regular instrument lessons. The conducting is in the hands of stylistic experts from the RCA teaching staff, possibly reinforced by external coaches.

The section coordinators and main course teachers instrument/voice assign students to the ensembles in consultation with the production team.

4. Setting per instrument group for 2024-2025

1. Specialization Music – Music Practice

Keyboard / plucked instruments / composition

Guitar	Choir	level 1-2
	Study trip instrument	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Ensemble XXI (if required by the instrumentation)	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Guitar ensemble – Plucked instruments ensemble	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Harp	Choir	level 1-2
	Plucked instruments ensemble	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic Wind Band (if required by the instrumentation)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic projects	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Ensemble XXI (if required by the instrumentation)	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Accordion	Choir	level 1-2
	Ensemble XXI (if required by the instrumentation)	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic orchestra (if required by the instrumentation)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Piano	Choir	level 1-2
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	'Portrait of a composer' concert + masterclass	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG (not obligatory for collab. pianists)
	Cooperation concert Peter Benoit Fonds	Level 3-5, transition, prep year, PG
	Plichtwerkproject with composition class	Level 4-5, transition, prep year, PG
	Accompaniment (chamber)choir	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic Wind Band (if required by the instrumentation)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic projects (if required by the instrumentation)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Ensemble XXI (if required by the instrumentation)	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Liedstudio (if not as a separate course in the study program)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Liedstudio	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Accompaniment piano concerto fellow student(s)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Harpsichord	Choir	level 1-2
	Oratorium project	level 1-5, transition, perp year, PG
	Study trip instrument	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Ensemble XXI (if required by the instrumentation)	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Organ	Choir	level 1-2
	Oratorium project (if required by the instrumentation)	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Study trip instrument	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic projects (if required by the instrumentation)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Composition	Choir	level 1-2
	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1
	Participate in an existing project or paper	Level 1-3

Strings

Basic skills ensemble	String ensemble by Francis Reusens	level 1-2
	String ensemble led by Diana Ketler	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Masterclasses	Masterclasses and lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Making music in a large group	Choir	level 1-2
	Symphonic projects	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic Wind Band (if required by the instrumentation)	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Specific applications (as of Bachelor 3)	<i>Program with one of the following specializations:</i>	
	- project i.c.w. whipp	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	- Ensemble XXI	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Wind players

Basic skills ensemble	Brass ensemble, woodwind ensemble or saxophone ensemble	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Masterclasses	Masterclasses, lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Study trips	Study trip instrument	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Making music in a large group	Choir	level 1-2
	Symphonic projects	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic Wind Band	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Specific applications (as of Bachelor 3)	<i>Program with one of the following specializations:</i>	
	- project i.c.w. whipp	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	- Ensemble XXI	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Percussion / Marimba

Basic skills ensemble	Percussion-ensemble	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Marimba-ensemble	level 4-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Masterclasses & lecture recitals	Masterclasses, lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Study trips	Study trip instrument	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Playing in a large group	Choir	level 1-2
	Brass ensemble	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic Wind Band	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Symphonic projects	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Specific applications (as of Bachelor 3)	<i>Program with one of the following specializations:</i>	
	- project i.c.w. whipp	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	- Ensemble XXI	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Voice

Choir, opera & music theatre	Chamber choir	level 1-4, transition, prep. year
	Opera (after audition)	level 2-5, transition, prep year, PG
	Opera scenes (after audition)	level 4-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Making music in a (large) group	Ensemble XXI	level 3-5, transition, prep. year, PG
	Composition project vocal department	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG
Masterclasses & stages	Masterclasses & lecture recitals	level 1-5, transition, prep. year, PG

Master Choral Conducting

Choir	Chamber choir or conductors choir	level 4-5
	Choir outside school	level 4-5

Master Hafabra conducting

Making music in a large group	Symphonic Wind Band	level 4-5
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Master Orchestra conducting

Making music in a large group	Orchestra & ensemble projects	level 4-5
Masterclass & stages	Masterclasses & (listen) stages	level 4-5

2. Music Practice in the specialization Master in Music & Education

Group Musicianship for the students of Master in Music & Education will be a combination of both music practice and chamber music. The Master in Music & Education is a Dutch study program. For more information, see the Vademecum Musiceerpraktijk (Dutch).

Music Practice in the Educational Master of Music is part of the course “Groepsmusiceren”.

Groepsmusiceren includes two components namely Music Practice and Chamber Music. The student must pass both parts in order to pass the course. For info on the Chamber Music section, consult the Chamber Music Study Guide.

There is no 2nd examination opportunity for the Music Practice section. Consequently, if you receive an insufficient score for Music Practice during the 1st examination period, it is not possible to pass the course of Groepsmusiceren.

Group music content by instrument group:

Accordion

- 1 chamber music group (program 25 min)
- masterclass (if foreseen)
- no separate project music practice

Guitar

- 1 chamber music group (program 25 min, this can be replaced entirely or partially by a guitar ensemble project)
- masterclass (if foreseen)

Harpsichord

- 1 chamber music group (program 15 min, this may be replaced in whole or in part by an ensemble or oratorio project)
- masterclass (if foreseen)

Organ

- 1 chamber music group (program 15 min, this can be replaced by an ensemble project)
- organ trip
- masterclass (if foreseen)

Piano

- 1 chamber music group (program 25 min, this can be partially replaced by an ensemble project) or song class

Orchestra instrument

- 1 chamber music group (program 15 min)
- Masterclass (if foreseen)
- 1 orchestra or ensemble project

5. Masterclasses

Throughout the academic year masterclass are organized by the conservatoire and deSingel. The masterclasses are open to all students. The main course teacher decides which students can actively participate. All other students are obliged to attend the masterclass as a listener. Students must notify the teachers(s) of the course(s) which they will miss because of a masterclass themselves. Exceptions are rehearsals and other activities of the conservatoire which can't take place without their presence. In this case students have to notify the coordinating teacher of the masterclass and they will be excused from (part of) the masterclass.

Masterclasses are coordinated by Bart Geysels. Masterclasses organized by the conservatoire are admission free. All information about the masterclasses will be posted on Digitap (instrument section pages).

6. Evaluation

Evaluation forms:

- Internal evaluations of process-oriented skills and attitudes are made by the teacher(s) during the rehearsals and classroom activities.
- The final results, which the student demonstrates with his/her collective at a concert or performance or during a class activity, are graded by the teacher or the conductor in charge under the heading 'skills test'.

Evaluation standards:

- The student achieves the required competences and shows that s/he functions in a group with insight, knowledge of style and artistic personality.
- All students must participate in the activities, ensembles and projects for which they have been selected and keep themselves completely and unconditionally free throughout the entire duration of the activity. For an orchestra or music theatre production that includes all rehearsals and all concerts and/or performances. Unauthorized absence during a rehearsal, concert or other activity of the music practice course unit will always result in a zero for that component (process test + skills test).

The annual exam consists of the following components:

- Permanent evaluation: 50% of the points
- Skills test: 50% of the points

2nd examination period:

- No second examination period will be organized for music practice

7. Exemptions for the course unit Music Practice

Application for exemption from the entire course unit in the study contract:

<https://www.ap-arts.be/en/node/575>

Application to change places for an official project:

- Application at latest 2 weeks after the first communication from Production about the project
- Who to apply to? Address the artistic board music through the production manager
- Conditions:
 - Complete an application form (see Digitap)
 - The student provides proof of the reason for his/her unavailability
 - The applicant him/herself suggests a student who can be a substitute for the entire project; the replacement must be approved by the music production manager.

Application for absence from a rehearsal for an official project:

- Application at latest 2 weeks before the start of the project
- Who to apply to? Address the artistic board music through the production manager
- Conditions: Complete an application form (see Digitap)
- The following activities do NOT qualify, so an application regarding them will definitely not be accepted:
 - Educational activities or lessons at other educational institutions
 - Individual activities
- The following activities may possibly qualify, an application form can be filled in for them:
 - Internships and/or concerts with subsidized ensembles, choirs and orchestras
 - Auditions
 - Exams at another educational institution