



Curriculum, Master of Opera programme

120 ECTS credits

Adopted by the Academy Board (12 March 2013)

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PART 1

1.1. Programme Outline

Programme name	Master programme in Opera (<i>Masterstudium i opera</i>)
Programme code	MAOP
Qualification for	Master of Opera (<i>Master i opera</i>)
Duration	2 years – full-time study
ECTS credits	120
Medium of instruction	English

1.2. Brief Programme Description

Building on a Bachelor's degree in opera or equivalent qualification, the Master programme in Opera is a two-year full-time programme of higher education for opera singers. Upon completing their studies, students shall be able to perform as opera singers in temporary or permanent ensembles.

The theatrical aspect plays a key role in the education. The Master's programme emphasises productions and on-stage performance. The integration of the musical and theatrical aspects, as underpinned by the relevant methodology, is important in order to achieve the competence that is needed to perform as an opera singer at a high level.

The Oslo National Academy of the Arts collaborates with the Norwegian Opera & Ballet and the Norwegian Academy of Music to train opera singers, for example through joint projects.

The programme provides 120 ECTS credits. Completing the degree qualifies students to apply for admission to the artistic research programme and to relevant PhD programmes.

1.3. Admission Requirements

Admission takes place on the basis of formal education and admission tests. The programme requires the completion of a Bachelor-level education (180 ECTS credits). Such an education must include specialisation of at least 80 ECTS credits in music or other courses of relevance to the discipline of opera. Applicants must have at least 20 ECTS credits in stage-related or performative courses. A basic knowledge of Italian is required.

In exceptional cases, the Academy may approve other documented qualifications that are either completely or partially equivalent to the educations mentioned above.

Applicants are ranked according to the results of the admission tests. Students who are admitted to the programme must demonstrate an outstanding talent for the art of musical drama.

Applicants must document proficiency in English.

1.4. Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the programme, students shall

- be able to perform opera art at a high level and with their own personal musical, vocal and theatrical expression
- be able to independently rehearse and analyse parts in a production
- master a wide range of methodological and stylistic expressions and be able to use these expressions at a professional level
- have solid insight into opera as an art form, including the various musical and theatrical styles
- be cognisant of vocal physiology and health
- be able to initiate and participate actively in professional discourses on opera and help rethink and develop the discipline
- be able to initiate, plan and carry out their own artistic projects, and also establish and manage their own artistic enterprise

- show good collaborative skills and be a flexible, receptive and active contributor in work processes/ensemble work

1.5. Structure and Progression

All the courses in the curriculum support and develop the professional skills the students need in their professional careers and that are described above in *Learning Outcomes*.

The stage productions are an overarching course that draws on the skills from the other areas. Opera is a complex art form, and it is natural that the courses will overlap one another. As a result, the content of the course curricula is partially learned during, and integrated into, the production work.

ECTS credits are used to describe the scope of the studies/ work required to take the various courses. 60 ECTS credits correspond to a year of full-time study. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of work by the student. The actual hours of work include educator-led teaching, lectures, written assignments, seminars, independent work and exam work. Some courses may rely heavily on educator-led teaching, while other courses mainly emphasise the student's independent work.

1.5.1. Course Structure

Overview of all the courses, with ECTS credits:

Course code	Course name	ECTS credits per year	
		Year 1	Year 2
OP521	Vocal Training 1	10	
OP502	Coaching 1	10	
OP523	Physical and Mental Training 1	10	
OP524	Acting	10	
OP505	Stage Work and Productions 1	15	
OP526	Language	5	
OP541	Vocal Training 2		10
OP542	Coaching 2		5
OP543	Physical and Mental Training 2		5
OP545	Stage Work and Productions 2		5
OP550	Independent Master Project		35
TOTAL		60	60

1.5.2. Exchange

Students at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts have the opportunity to participate in an exchange programme at another institution of higher education during their studies. At the Master of Opera programme, the exchange period must accommodate the stage production plans and be agreed upon with the supervisor and approved by the dean.

Updated information on the Academy's exchange programme agreements is available at www.khio.no.

1.6. Teaching and Learning Methods

The opera education is based on knowledge from artistic practice, research and experience and is taught through a mix of educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work.

The instruction takes place in groups and individually. The programme requires that students take responsibility for, and reflect on, their own learning. At the same time, emphasis is placed on the individual student's responsibility for the group's progression and for understanding opera as a collective art form. Projects, demonstrations and performances are instrumental to the programme. At least once during the programme, students are given the opportunity to work with an orchestra. Students normally go on an annual field trip abroad.

Many of the courses are process-oriented and are predicated on student attendance, so that all instruction is mandatory.

The programme's general coursework requirements are

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Further information on coursework requirements are stated in the individual course descriptions.

Upon the dean's approval, students are allowed to undertake extracurricular obligations in fields concerning their studies.

The program is adapted for students who only master English so that all courses and all academic choices can be completed without the student mastering Norwegian.

Students are themselves responsible for both familiarising themselves with and following the provisions and rules that apply to the programme. Provisions on absence and leave have been laid down in the regulations concerning studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (*Forskrift om studiene ved Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo*).

1.7. Assessment

The coursework requirements must be approved in order for students to receive their final course assessment.

Supervision and assessment represent a continuous process related to the programme's goals and content. The programme's ongoing assessment is based on teacher assessments and the students' active participation in the instruction, their reflection on their own development and the completion of the coursework requirements in each course.

In addition to the ongoing assessment, a course may conclude with a written exam, an assessment of the artistic result of a showing or a practical demonstration related to the course's learning outcomes.

The assessment takes place in a dialogue between the student, the teacher and the dean. The Master's project is assessed by at least three examiners, of whom at least one is external.

See the individual course descriptions for further information on the assessment forms.

All the courses must be passed for a student to be allowed to take the final exam. All the courses in the programme must be passed for the student to achieve the degree of Master of Opera.

The programme uses a pass/fail grading system.

Further provisions on assessment and exams have been laid down in the regulations concerning studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts.

1.8. Quality Assurance

The Oslo National Academy of the Arts has systems for assuring and enhancing the quality of all parts of the education. Students are important contributors to this work, for example by participating in student evaluations and the annual learning environment survey.

PART 2

2.1. Course Descriptions, Year 1

2.1.1. Vocal Training 1

Sang 1

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP521
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 1
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Vocal Training 1 course covers vocal technique, rehearsing, textual work, interpretation and development of a personal expression. Along with the Coaching 1 course, the Vocal Training 1 course lays the musical and vocal foundation for the students' careers as opera singers.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall be able to

- sing with musical and stylistic assurance
- perform a vocal role with a deliberate, personal and independent expression

Teaching and Learning Methods

The leaning methods in the Vocal Training 1 course include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is primarily individual. Some of the lessons are spent on going through a repertoire with the vocal instructor and accompanist. Each vocal instructor collaborates with the director and musical leader in regard to the students' rehearsing of roles for the Academy of Opera's stage productions. The instruction may also include joint interpretation lessons with several students.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is assessed on an ongoing basis. This ongoing assessment is based on supervision, teacher assessments and the students' own reflection on their development in relation to the course's goals. In addition to the ongoing assessment, each student shall hold a final demonstration/presentation.

The educator will carry out the ongoing assessment and the assessment of the demonstrations/presentations. The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.1.2. Coaching 1

Musikalsk innstudering 1

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP502
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 1
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Coaching 1 course focuses on the individual student's repertoire area within the different styles. A key component in the course is the rehearsal of the repertoire used for the Academy of Opera's productions, seminars and masterclasses. Students may also work musically on ensembles and on a concert repertoire.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- have knowledge about various rehearsing methods and be able to use them
- be able to recognise the various musical styles and make sound stylistic choices
- have a good understanding of musical collaboration

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction takes place individually and in groups. The course includes interpretation lessons, masterclasses and seminar with internal and external teachers.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment. Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.1.3. Physical and Mental Training

Fysisk og mental trening

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP523
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 1
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Physical and Mental Training 1 course aims to hone the students' skills in using their body in a deliberate and functionally correct way. This involves the students growing their awareness of correct posture, breathing, balance, coordination and regulation of tension, as well as their ability to use this know-how independently and actively in stage performances.

The course includes coordination training, dance, physiology, mental training and performance improvement.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- master the relevant methods of using their body in a deliberate and effective manner
- be able to participate in creative processes and master the methods of improving performance

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching methods are educator-led teaching, independent training, experience-based experimentation and self-reflection. The instruction is primarily group-based.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.1.4. Acting

Skuespillerteknikk

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP524
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 1
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Acting course shall provide students with acting tools they can use when working on a musical drama. The course focuses on

- acting techniques
- character development
- textual work

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be able to analyse and embody various characters
- be familiar with and able to employ various acting techniques

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching methods are a combination of practical acting exercises, analysis and reflection. The instruction is group-based.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.1.5. Stage Work and Productions 1

Scenisk arbeid og produksjoner 1

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	15
Course code	OP505
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 1
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Stage Work and Productions course is central to the programme. The course shall give the students experience with practical work on stage. This work shall span a range of stylistic eras and show a certain breadth in regard to musical, vocal and theatrical styles. The choice of repertoire is adapted to the current group of opera students and is overseen by a team consisting of the theatrical and musical coordinators.

A key element of the work is that the students, under the instructor's supervision and tutelage, must develop their own personal interpretation and be able to take on a role and perform this role in a wider, overall context.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- display independence when working on analysing characters on the basis of texts and music
- be able to demonstrate musical and theatrical skills in a stage production
- be able to relate to all the elements that are involved in a stage production

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching methods are educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is group-based, with a focus on the individual student's development.

The productions are either separate projects for the Master's students or projects carried out across several programmes at the Academy of Opera. The productions are adapted so that all the Master's students are given at least one major part during the programme.

Performative practice at the Norwegian Opera & Ballet or participation in another relevant professional enterprise may be approved as part of the course.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.1.6. Language

Språk

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	5
Course code	OP526
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 1
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The course covers German and French, as well as other relevant opera languages when required. Students are also introduced to the international phonetic alphabet.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- have a basic knowledge of German and French grammar and structure
- be able to sing in foreign languages with the correct pronunciation
- master the international phonetic alphabet

Teaching and Learning Methods

The instruction is class-based.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.2. Course Descriptions, Year 2

2.2.1. Vocal Training 2

Sang 2

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP541
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 2
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Vocal Training 2 course covers vocal technique, rehearsing, textual work, interpretation and development of a personal expression. Along with the Coaching 2 course, the Vocal Training 2 course lays the musical and vocal foundation for the students' careers as opera singers.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- have the requisite technique and stamina to carry out assignments within musical drama
- sing with musical and stylistic assurance
- perform a vocal role with a deliberate, personal and independent expression

Teaching and Learning Methods

The learning methods in the Vocal Training 2 course are educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is primarily individual.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.2.2. Coaching 2

Musikalsk innstudering 2

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	5
Course code	OP542
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 2
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Coaching 2 course focuses on the individual student's repertoire area within the different styles. A key component in the course is the rehearsal of the repertoire used for the Academy of Opera's productions, seminars and masterclasses. Students will also work musically on ensembles from seminal works of musical drama, as well as on a concert repertoire.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- have knowledge about various styles and performance practices
- have rehearsed and mastered a larger selection of relevant repertoire within their vocal category
- be able to independently rehearse larger roles

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction takes place individually and in groups.

The course includes interpretation lessons, masterclasses and seminar with internal and external teachers.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.2.3. Physical and Mental Training and Career Preparation

Fysisk/mental og bransjeforberedende trening

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	5
Course code	OP543
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 2
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The Physical and Mental Training 2 course aims to hone the students' skills in using their body in a deliberate and functionally correct way. This involves the students growing their awareness of correct posture, breathing, balance, coordination and regulation of tension, as well as their ability to use this know-how independently and actively in stage performances. The course aims to give the students competence in managing and developing a professional career as an opera singer.

The course includes coordination training, dance, mental training, performance improvement and knowledge of the professional field.

The course is a continuation of OP523 (Physical and Mental Training 1).

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- show skill in mastering the body as a tool of theatrical expression
- be able to use methods of mental presence on stage
- be able to take independent initiatives and participate actively in creative processes

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching methods are educator-led teaching, independent training, experience-based experimentation and self-reflection. The instruction is primarily group-based.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students are assessed in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.2.4. Stage Work and Productions 2

Scenisk arbeid og produksjoner 2

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	5
Course code	OP545
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 2
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

The course aims to give students experience with practical work on stage. This is accomplished through various stage-related projects that are carried out in addition to the graduation production that is part of the Independent Master Project course.

The Stage Work and Productions 2 course is integrated into all of the other courses, so that the productions are entirely essential to the programme. The productions shall encompass various stylistic eras and show a certain breadth in regard to musical, vocal and theatrical styles. The choice of repertoire is adapted to the current group of opera students. The productions are led by a team consisting of the theatrical and musical coordinators.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be able to embody a larger role and portray this role in a musically and theatrically credible manner on stage
- demonstrate vocal and theatrical vitality in a varied repertoire
- be able to initiate and develop a simple stage production
- display good collaborative skills and an understanding of their own role in the production as a whole

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching methods are educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is group-based, with a focus on the individual student's development.

The productions are either separate projects solely for the Master's students or projects carried out across several programmes at the Academy of Opera. The productions are adapted so that all the Master's students are given at least one major part during the programme.

Performative practice at the Norwegian Opera & Ballet or participation in another relevant professional enterprise may be approved as part of the course.

During the Stage Work and Productions 2 course, students shall rehearse and perform a part in a complete opera production.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is assessed on an ongoing basis. This ongoing assessment is based on supervision, teacher assessments and the students' own reflection on their development in relation to the course's goals. The ongoing assessment is done by the given instructor.

In addition to the ongoing assessment, each student shall hold a final demonstration. During this demonstration, the student's performance of the role is assessed by an external examiner and the given teacher.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

2.2.5. Independent Master Project

Masterarbeit

Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	35
Course code	OP550
Level	Master
Course delivery	Year 2
Prerequisites	Admission to the Master of Opera programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	Master of Opera

Brief Course Description

During the Independent Master Project, students shall

- rehearse and perform a part in a production, culminating in the performance of this part in a full on-stage format accompanied by an orchestra
- independently rehearse a role of their own choosing, or create a project of their own and finalise it with a public performance
- engage in a written reflection, with each student choosing the topic of their text on the basis of their assigned role or self-defined project

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- demonstrate vocal and musical abilities at a high level
- demonstrate extensive knowledge of the style of the chosen work
- relate deliberately and clearly to all the components in a complete opera staging
- be able to formulate, document and present artistic problems and demonstrate critical reflection and artistic integrity
- be able to work as an independent opera artist in larger works

Teaching and Learning Methods

Coursework will consist of independent work and supervision. Educator-led teaching may also take place. The learning methods primarily be independent artistic work, project work, written assignments and independent study.

Each student will have a supervisor for their Master's project. Students are responsible for their own progression during the project and must themselves set up regular meetings with their supervisor, and submit material to him or her, so that the planned progression is maintained.

Coursework requirements:

- submit an independent artistic work
- submit a written reflection assignment
- mandatory presence and active participation

Assessment

The coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is supervised and assessed on an ongoing basis. The assessment is based on the course's goals and on how the achievement of these goals is manifested in the Master's project.

The Master's project is assessed by three examiners, of whom at least one is external. Both the artistic work and the reflection assignment must be passed in order for the student to pass the course.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.