

STUDY PLAN  
for the Master's Degree Programme  
Orchestra Academy  
  
under the framework of the training programme Orchestra Academy  
at the Anton Bruckner Private University Linz

Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität  
Hagenstraße 57  
A-4040 Linz

1. Name of the Degree Programme

Orchestra Academy

2. Degree Programme Objectives

(Students who have already completed a BA degree or have achieved adequate artistic performance will be given the opportunity to prepare themselves specifically for work in the orchestra and for the corresponding audition situations within the framework of a four-semester postgraduate training programme. Musicians who are already active in the orchestra will have the opportunity to refresh and deepen the knowledge they have acquired in their daily work, in order to either become more involved in their own orchestra or to prepare for an audition in another orchestra.

The master's programme "Orchestra Academy" is intended to provide the qualification for an independent, highly responsible artistic activity as an instrumentalist and to contribute to the development and exploration of the arts through critical examination of artistic and artistic-scientific issues.

In cooperation with renowned orchestras, primarily the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, students of the Orchestra Academy are provided with study workplaces within the framework of the orchestral work of the respective orchestras. Applications for admission to study positions in other orchestras are to be decided by the admission examination committee.

The goal of the MA programme "Orchestra Academy" is to musically support young musicians in the transitional stage between studies and first engagement, as well as to give orchestra musicians the opportunity for professional development. Young artists should be given the opportunity to get to know the daily routine of an orchestra and thus also the requirements that professional musicians have to meet. The young musicians are supported by the orchestra through a tutoring programme. Experienced colleagues act as tutors and provide advice and support to the students. Musicians who are already firmly engaged can reflect on the knowledge they have acquired in their daily work in the orchestra and consider new professional perspectives.

### 3. Degree Profile

- (1) The idea of the Orchestra Academy goes back to Herbert von Karajan, who in the early 1970s established the training of the Berlin Philharmonic's young orchestral talent within the framework of an institutionalized Orchestra Academy. For the first time, young musicians undergoing university training were given the opportunity to gain practical experience in a professional orchestra in a community of proven professional musicians. The young musicians gain valuable experience for their professional career in individual lessons and in the orchestra, learn the professional discipline of an orchestra and experience the everyday life of a professional concert. Talented students face the selection criteria of an audition for the Orchestra Academy. Students selected and accepted into the Academy undergo two years of training. An important part of this practical training consists of audition preparation. Musicians who are already permanently engaged acquire additional professional competencies in the course of their studies in order to either prepare themselves for a transfer to another orchestra by audition or to become more involved in their own orchestra through the competencies they have acquired, e.g. in the context of movement and voice rehearsals, in the context of music education programmes or at the level of orchestra management (orchestra council/works council or similar).
- (2) With the MA programme "Orchestra Academy" this idea was taken up by the ABPU and transformed into an independent MA programme. Not only the young students benefit from this training for their future, but also the Bruckner Orchestra Linz or the orchestras in which the students are active. In addition to instrumental skills and the required musicality at the highest level, a sound that fits the orchestra is also decisive for acceptance into the Bruckner Orchestra.

- (3) In this practical training, the course of studies "Orchestra Academy" promotes the professional competences especially of those students who aspire to a professional career in a professional orchestra or who are already engaged in it. The master's programme Orchestra Academy promotes artistic exchange with regional, national, European and non-European educational and cultural institutions.
- (4) The master's programme Orchestra Academy provides qualifications and impulses for the interpretation and reflection of traditional and contemporary music.
- (5) The programme sees itself as part of a network of artistic and academic study programmes that is to be constantly expanded beyond the strong existing relationships with the goal of more intensive international connections.
- (6) The master's programme Orchestra Academy is committed to the promotion of young talent and continuing education in the sense of lifelong learning, in addition to its university mission.
- (7) The programme is based on the fundamental ideas of the Bologna Process and strives for innovative study structures that are tailored to the requirements of the labor market and are constantly reviewed with regard to their topicality.
- (8) The Orchestra Academy programme ensures consistently high quality in study, teaching, artistic practice, and research.
- (9) The degree programme is embedded in an evaluation and quality management system that is in exchange with other quality assurance institutions.
- (10) The degree programme is committed to the principle of equal treatment in its social integration.

#### 4. Professional Fields

Priority professional fields for graduates of the "Orchestra Academy" programme are professional orchestras and ensembles.

#### 5. 5. key qualifications

- (1) Applicants for the Orchestra Academy must have excellent skills in the chosen central artistic subject. Expressiveness and an excellent general musical education are expected. Excellent general musical education, creativity, artistic expressiveness and an openly developed personality as well as flexibility, versatility and willingness to engage in intensive

artistic-scientific activities are indispensable prerequisites for a Master's degree programme "Orchestra Academy".

- (2) Admission to the Orchestra Academy of the Bruckner Orchestra is granted by means of a substitute audition held each semester or, in the case of musicians who are already permanently engaged, by means of a confirmation of work from the respective orchestra.

## 6. Admission requirements/conditions

(1) Prerequisites for admission to the "Orchestra Academy" degree programme are:

(a) a completed bachelor's or bachelor-equivalent degree programme

or

(b) proof of highest artistic maturity.

Admission is based on an entrance examination conducted by the orchestra in question, at which the academy position or fixed position is awarded.

An entrance examination committee of the ABPU checks whether the prerequisites (either a completed bachelor's degree/bachelor-equivalent degree or corresponding proof of highest artistic maturity "Life Experience") are given.

For foreign language candidates:

If proof of practical command of the German language at level B1 (of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - GER) cannot be provided at the time of the entrance examination, the candidate must submit a B1 certificate of proficiency in German no later than prior to the notification of continuation of studies for the third semester.

(2) Detailed implementation regulations on the respective current examination contents and modalities are issued by the Study Commission.

## 7. Duration and Scope of the Degree Programme

(1) The duration of the programme "Orchestra Academy" is 4 semesters.

(2) The master's programme is completed with the master's examination, which, in addition to the artistic part of the examination, also requires the submission of an academically oriented master's thesis.

(3) The Orchestra Academy can only be completed as face-to-face studies.

## 8. Courses

The courses of the master's programme Orchestra Academy are grouped into study areas and master's concentrations, from which at least one must be selected depending on the field of study. The areas of study and courses are tabulated. ABPU reserves the right to offer a more limited number of electives or specialization courses than specified in the curriculum if this appears to be justified. The decision on this is made by the deans of studies in consultation with the executive board.

Each student is free to take courses offered at the Anton Bruckner Private University as optional courses beyond the compulsory subjects. There is, however, no entitlement to admission to these courses; the allocation is made according to the possibilities.

## 9. Master's Examination

- (1) The master's programme is completed with the master's examination.
- (2) Admission to the Master's Examination can only be granted if all courses prescribed in the curriculum have been positively completed.
- (3) The Master's Examination is composed of the following examination sections:
  - a. Final internal artistic performance
  - b. Final public artistic performance
  - c. Master's thesis including a defense (for the different formats of the master's thesis see point 7.2., paragraph 5).
- (4) When registering for the Master's examination, the examination programme for the final artistic performance, signed by the teacher of the central artistic subject, must be submitted, indicating which works will be performed internally and publicly.  
The topic of the master's thesis and the names of the supervisor and the co-supervisor must be provided within a specified period of time.
- (5) The registration, submission and examination deadlines as well as any detailed implementation regulations are determined by the Study Commission.

### 9.1. Artistic Part of the Master's Examination

The detailed implementation regulations of the final artistic performance are determined by the individual institutes after approval by the study commission.

The composition of the examination board, as well as further details on the procedure and repeatability of the artistic part are specified in the study and examination regulations.

## 9.2. Master's Thesis

The master's thesis is to be written in the course "Master's Thesis Colloquium". The lecturer of this course is the supervisor or co-supervisor of the thesis. The supervisor or co-supervisor must be a Univ.Prof, or a ao.Univ.Prof with a habilitation in music pedagogy or musicology, or hold a doctorate.

- (1) The student agrees on the topic of his/her master's thesis with his/her supervisor and the co-supervisor.
- (2) The choice of topic as well as the choice of the supervisor and the co-supervisor must be approved by the Dean of Studies.
- (3) The written master's thesis is to be assessed by the supervisor and the co-supervisor. In the case of different assessments, the Dean of Studies will reach a uniform assessment.
- (4) An oral examination is conducted by a commission on the material of the written MA thesis.
- (5) A choice can be made between the following formats of the master's thesis:
  - a) scientific paper
  - b) lecture recital
  - c) CD or multimedia production
- (6) The master's thesis is generally to be written in German but can also be submitted in English if the supervisor and the co-supervisor agree. The provisions of the Copyright Act (Urheberrechtsgesetz idGF) must be observed. The oral examination of the Bachelor thesis can, with the consent of the supervisor and the co-supervisor, as well as the approval of the Dean of Studies, may also be conducted in the language in which the thesis is written.

## 9.3. Master's: Overall Assessment

Further details on grading can be found in the study and examination regulations.

## 10. Examination Regulations

The provisions of the study and examination regulations of Anton Bruckner Private University apply. The requirements specific to the course of study that go beyond this concern the admission examination and the master's examination.

The examination regulations can be found in the appendices.

#### 11. Conferring of the academic degree "Master of Arts" (MA)

- (1) The Dean of the university shall confer the academic degree "Master of Arts" on the graduates promptly after the positive assessment of all examinations and theses prescribed in the curriculum. This will occur no later than one month after the fulfillment of all requirements.
- (2) To support the international mobility of students, a Diploma Supplement will be attached to the award certificate.
- (3) Should the requirements for the academic degree "Master of Arts" be fulfilled more than once, this academic degree shall also be awarded more than once.

#### 12. Diploma Supplement

The Diploma Supplement is attached in the Examination Regulations.

#### 13. International Comparability of the Degree Programme

The "Orchestra Academy" programme is being offered for the first time in the German-speaking world at the ABPU as a master's programme. Orchestral academies, which support young musicians during their studies, are already offered by orchestras in the German-speaking world. In addition to the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, and the Bavarian State Orchestra, for example, also maintain academies for young musicians in order to give them the opportunity to gain practical experience in a professional orchestra in addition to their studies. The Orchestra Academy of the Bavarian State Orchestra was founded in 2002. The latter was also established in order to pass on the tradition of an orchestra to young musicians and in this way to keep the special sound and playing culture of the orchestra alive for future generations. The goal of the Orchestra Academy of the Bavarian State Opera is the acquisition of orchestral practice under professional conditions. None of the aforementioned orchestral academies, nor any other orchestral academy in the German-speaking world, offers this orchestral training as part of an MA programme.

#### 14. Persons responsible for the degree programme

Responsible for the programme are the Dean of Studies of the Artistic Study Area in conjunction with the Institute Directors of BBS, HOL and SAI.

#### 15. Staff

Regarding the artistic and academic staffing, cf. point 7.1.1 of the reaccreditation application and Annex 7.1, in Annex Volume 3.

#### 16. Research

The master's programme Orchestra Academy aims primarily at the development of an independent artistic personality. The elaboration of individual interpretative approaches by the students and their implementation in concert practice is in any case to be seen as a contribution to the development and opening up of the arts. Critical comparisons of interpretation and literary studies are integrated into the study programme. Workshops with internationally renowned artists are part of the ABPU's permanent offerings beyond the compulsory events anchored in the curriculum. These workshops convey not only artistic but also scholarly approaches to contemporary music interpretation and represent important contacts to the international concert scene in the encounter with the artistic personalities of the workshop lecturers.

The regular participation of teachers and students of the Orchestra Academy programme in inter-institutional projects ensures the desired openness of thinking in the sense of a networking of disciplines and institutes, and requires a high degree of reflective handling of artistic-scholarly materials, depending on the occasion and orientation of the project.

#### 17. Quality Assurance in the Programme of Study

Institute evaluations, general evaluations as well as evaluations of the courses take place in the study programme. Both students and faculty are surveyed in separate evaluations about the conditions of teaching and accessing the arts at ABPU. The study conditions in the relevant ABPU institute are part of a corresponding institute evaluation.

The scheduled semester-by-semester assessment of student success in the ZKFs is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the study and examination regulations.

#### 18. Number of places in the programme of study



The number of places is subject to fluctuations resulting from the qualifications of the students demonstrated in the entrance examination, as well as from the required allocation or the respective orientation according to the branches of study.

#### 19. Student Fees

The amount of tuition fees is set by the executive board after approval by the university council.

#### 20. Space and equipment

Regarding space and equipment, cf. vol. 3, annex 9.5 of the reaccreditation application.