

# CHOIR DIRECTION

## OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The CNSMD of Lyon is a training facility for young artists seeking to prepare for a career in the referenced professions of music and dance. For music, the professions are comprised of four specialities: vocal or instrumental interpretation, the direction of vocal or instrumental ensembles, musical creation and musical culture.

Choir direction is a principal discipline of the second speciality. It takes its roots in the repertoires of western music to train its students:

- to the professions of direction: child or adult choirmaster, director of maîtrise
- to the professions of artistic education

The skills and knowledge targeted are:

- a solid mastery of techniques of direction: analysis, vocal technique and voice pedagogy, keyboards, writing, gesture, communication and work management
- a comprehensive musical culture.
- a capacity to define and carry out varied musical projects.
- a capacity to formulate critical evaluations in the context of performance, including in ones own artistic work.
- a capacity for work planning and a sense of responsibility, in order to meet clear commitments in a given, sometimes short, period of time.
- a capacity to conduct research and to communicate the results orally and in writing.
- a capacity to think about the place and evolution of music in the society
- and, more generally, the skills and knowledge mentioned in the frame of reference of professional activities and certification ("métiers instrumentistes-chanteurs", annexe de l'arrêté du 1er février 2008 relatif au DNSPM, publié au J.O. du 9 février 2008).

## ORGANISATION OF STUDIES

The curriculum of choir direction is organised in three cycles:

- a 1st cycle of three years leading to the awarding of the DNSPM, National Superior Diploma of Professional Musician (Bachelor), with two possible complementary courses.
  - one leading to the obtaining of the D.E.
  - one leading to the awarding of a bachelor by the Université Lyon 2.
- a 2nd cycle of two years leading to the obtaining of a diploma conferring the grade of Master.
- a 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle declined in two different forms:
  - a research and practice doctorate (3 years) in partnership with the doctoral school 3LA.
  - a 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle "artist diploma" (1-2 years) formalised by means of a contract with the CNSMD on an artistic project.

## FIRST CYCLE

It is composed of a training programme leading to the obtaining of the **National Superior Diploma of Professional Musician (DNSPM)**, as well as an optional course of training for the **State Diploma as music teacher**.

The full-time studies programmes are of six semesters for the obtaining of the DNSPM and for the obtaining of the DE, the first two semesters are shared. However, the overall organisation of the curriculum takes the student's profile into account, their skills and knowledge already or yet to be acquired their studies project, their objectives and their areas of interest. A validation of prior experience procedure (VAA) is implemented by the establishment, after which the curriculum is defined and followed in close collaboration with the teaching staff and the student.

The studies programmes are organised into teaching units, linked up according to the competences to be developed, leading to the obtaining of credit points (ECTS: European Credit Transfert System).

### **1 – Programme leading to the obtaining of the National Superior Diploma of Professional Musician (DNSPM)**

#### **Conditions of Admission**

Admission to the first cycle is by competitive examination.

Candidates must present an admissibility test and an admission test.

##### **1) The admissibility test includes:**

- a choir direction test with a professional ensemble (choir workshop): the candidates direct a well-known, short choir work, to which they have had access on inscription on the internet site of the CNSMD: total duration of the test: 10 minutes maximum.
- a fault detection test while listening to a choral work. Duration of the test: 15 minutes maximum.
- the execution of a vocal or instrumental piece, chosen by and at the level of the candidate. Maximum duration of the test: 10 minutes.

##### **2) The admission test includes:**

- a 4 hour isolation for the realisation of a writing test chosen by the candidate:
  - either the harmonisation of a choral
  - or the realisation of the transcription of a harmonised melody (voice and piano) for a mixed choir acapella (soprano, alto, tenor, bass).
- a choir direction test with a professional ensemble (choir workshop). The candidates work on and direct an original work or an extract after an isolation of one hour (the choir is in a situation of sight-reading). Duration :15 minutes.
- an interview with the jury, of a maximum duration of 15 minutes.

#### **Tuition**

The length of the full-time studies is of six semesters. All candidates admitted as students are committed to follow the curriculum of their discipline specified in the studies policy entirely. The curriculum includes the

study of disciplines grouped in teaching units which follow a yearly and half-yearly organisation and lead to the obtaining of credit points of which the number and the terms are defined for each discipline (see chart in appendix).

**UE 1: Principal discipline teaching unit**

- choir direction
- instrumental conducting initiation
- vocal ensemble

**UE 2: Associated knowledge and practices unit**

- individual vocal technique
- early music vocal practice
- complementary piano

**UE 3: Transversal studies unit**

Dominant and auxiliary disciplines followed within the framework of the transversal studies units (UE 3) of the DNSPM must imperatively be included in the cultural disciplines. One semester or more must be “art and civilization” or “music history”.

Cultural disciplines:

Artistic culture	Musical language studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- art and civilization</li> <li>- music history</li> <li>- ethnomusicology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- applied analysis</li> <li>- analysis of 20th and 21th centuries music</li> <li>- ars musica</li> <li>- writing</li> <li>- scientific basis of new techniques</li> </ul>

1<sup>st</sup> year

- initiation to analysis
- bodywork
- teaching awareness
- languages
- initiation to improvisation (workshops)
- auxiliary discipline (semester 2)

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year

- bodywork
- practical aspects of the profession (conferences)
- languages
- 2 dominant disciplines (dominant 1 and 2)
- 1 auxiliary discipline (among the above disciplines not chosen as dominant 1 and 2) only in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year

**UE 4: Optional studies unit**

Optional discipline to choose:

- all subjects taught in CNSMD except one-to-one courses from a main discipline
- courses provided by the CHEL(s)' partners of CNSMD (Collège des Hautes Etudes Lyon Sciences)
- for students preparing a DE: courses leading to the Music Teacher diploma followed during the UE4 semester

- for students registered in Bachelor (3<sup>rd</sup> year) in partnership with the University of Lyon 2: courses provided to the musicians

## **Conditions of awarding of the DNSPM**

The 1<sup>st</sup> cycle is attested by the National Superior Diploma for Professional Musicians (DNSPM) awarded to students who, within the conditions fixed by the studies policy, have obtained 180 credit points. The DNSPM is a diploma which is registered in the national repertory of professional certifications – level 2.

## **2 – Programme leading to the obtaining of the State Diploma option music, in articulation with the DNSPM programme**

### **Conditions of admission**

Candidates for the DE programme must have followed the first two semesters of the DNSPM programme at the CNSMDL and be up to date with this programme. They must also have passed an admission examination including a written document and an interview.

### **Tuition**

The DE programme, articulated with the DNSPM, is organised in four complementary semesters. The semesters 1 and 2 of the specific DE programme must necessarily follow each other. See the DE curriculum for more information.

### **Conditions of awarding of the DE**

The programme is attested by the State Teaching Diploma music option, awarded to students who, within the conditions fixed by the studies policy, have obtained 180 credit points. The DE is a diploma which is registered in the national repertory of professional certifications – level 2.

## **3 - Additional teaching leading to the obtaining of the bachelor in articulation with the DNSPM programme.**

### **Conditions of admission**

Candidates for the “arts, humanities, languages – music option” degree must have validated all the teaching units of their first two years of DNSPM.

### **Tuition**

The additional teaching of two disciplines to follow at the university (one by semester), chosen in a list which is updated annually. It is advisable to follow the lecture courses of Licence 2 as an auditor during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the DNSPM.

## **SECOND CYCLE**

Diploma conferring the grade of Master

### **Conditions of admission**

Students holding the DNSPM delivered by the CNSMD of Lyon are admitted directly into the second cycle, provided that they have validated a master's project with the teaching staff and that they have obtained a minimum of 12/20 in their continuous assessment marks in the principal discipline (in semesters 4 and 5) (cf. article 2 of the studies policy). Failing this, they are authorised to present the competitive examination.

Admission to the 2nd cycle is by competitive examination for candidates holding a DNSPM or a degree (bachelor) in the discipline concerned. The tests are not public. There is a first selection of candidates based on a personal file. The candidates received after this selection must then present an admission test before a jury, for which the terms are decided each year by the director.

The test of admission to the competitive examination includes:

- a choir direction test with a professional ensemble: the candidates work on and direct an original work or an extract after an isolation of one hour (the choir is in a situation of sight-reading). Duration: 25 minutes maximum.
- an interview with the jury, (duration 15 minutes) concerning their 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle research project.

### **Tuition**

The length of the full-time studies is of 2 years. All candidates admitted as a student is committed to follow the entire curriculum of their discipline specified in the studies policy. The curriculum includes the study of disciplines grouped in teaching units which follow a half-yearly organisation and lead to the obtaining of credit points of which the number and the terms are defined for each discipline (see charts in appendix).

#### **UE 1: Principal discipline teaching unit**

- choir direction

#### **UE 2: Teaching unit disciplines associated to the principal discipline**

- vocal ensemble
- instrumental conducting initiation
- complementary piano
- individual vocal technique
- an auxiliary discipline in 4 semesters to choose among the following cultural disciplines:
  - Applied analysis
  - 21th and 22th centuries analysis
  - writing
  - ethnomusicology
  - music history
  - art and civilization
  - ars musica
  - another discipline related to the research topic

The choice is made during the validation meeting of the research project

- thesis research

### **UE 3: Associated discipline teaching unit**

- practical aspects of the profession (conferences)
- languages
- applied methodology on a research subject

## **Conditions of awarding of the diploma**

The second cycle diploma conferring the grade of Master is awarded to students according to the conditions fixed by the studies policy. It confers 120 credit point (ECTS).

FIRST CYCLE  
NATIONAL SUPERIOR DIPLOMA OF PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN (DNSPM)

**Choir direction – DNSPM 1**

SEMESTER 1		Weekly hours	ECTS*
UE1	choir direction	2	13,5
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	3
	vocal ensemble	2	1
UE2	individual vocal technique	1	2
	early music vocal practice	1	0,5
	complementary piano	0,75	2
UE3	initiation to analysis	2	5
	bodywork	1	0,5
	teaching awareness	0,5	0,5
	languages	1,5	1,5
	improvisation workshop	0,5	0,5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12,75</b>	<b>30</b>

SEMESTER 2		Weekly hours	ECTS*
UE1	choir direction	2	11,5
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	3
	vocal ensemble	2	1
UE2	individual vocal technique	1	2
	early music vocal practice	1	0,5
	complementary piano	0,75	2
UE3	initiation to analysis	2	5
	bodywork	1	0,5
	teaching awareness	0,5	0,5
	languages	1,5	1,5
	improvisation workshop	0,5	0,5
	auxiliary discipline	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,75</b>	<b>30</b>



## Choir direction – DNSPM 2

SEMESTRE 3		Weekly hours	ECTS*
UE1	choir direction	2	7,5
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	0,5
	vocal ensemble	2	1
UE2	individual vocal technique	1	2
	early music vocal practice	1	0,5
	complementary piano	0,75	2
UE3	bodywork	1	0,5
	languages	1,5	1,5
	dominant discipline 1	2	5
	dominant discipline 2	2	5
	auxiliary discipline	2	2
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5
UE4	<b>To choose between :</b> Realization of a project, pedagogy, improvisation, 2 <sup>nd</sup> language, auxiliary discipline, courses in the framework of the CHELs, for students preparing a DE: a discipline of the DE followed during the semester.	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18,25</b>	<b>30</b>

SEMESTER 4		Weekly hours	ECTS*
UE1	choir direction	2	7,5
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	0,5
	vocal ensemble	2	1
UE2	individual vocal technique	1	2
	early music vocal practice	1	0,5
	complementary piano	0,75	2
UE3	bodywork	1	0,5
	languages	1,5	1,5
	dominant discipline 1	2	5
	dominant discipline 2	2	5
	auxiliary discipline	2	2
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5

<b>UE4</b>	<b>To choose between :</b>	2	2
	Realization of a project, pedagogy, improvisation, 2 <sup>nd</sup> language, auxiliary discipline, courses in the framework of the CHELs, for students preparing a DE: a discipline of the DE followed during the semester.		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18,25</b>	<b>30</b>

### Choir direction – DNSPM 3

<b>SEMESTER 5</b>		<b>Weekly hours</b>	<b>ECTS*</b>
<b>UE1</b>	choir direction	2	11
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	0,5
	vocal ensemble	2	1
<b>UE2</b>	individual vocal technique	1	2
	early music vocal practice	1	0,5
	complementary piano	0,75	2
<b>UE3</b>	bodywork	1	0,5
	dominant discipline 1	2	5
	dominant discipline 2	2	5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5
<b>UE4</b>	<b>To choose between :</b>	2	2
	Realization of a project, pedagogy, improvisation, 2 <sup>nd</sup> language, auxiliary discipline, courses in the framework of the CHELs, for students preparing a DE: a discipline of the DE followed during the semester.		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,75</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>SEMESTER 6</b>		<b>Weekly hours</b>	<b>ECTS*</b>
<b>UE1</b>	choir direction	2	9
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	0,5
	vocal ensemble	2	1
	1st cycle end final exam		2
<b>UE2</b>	individual vocal technique	1	2
	early music vocal practice	1	0,5
	complementary piano	0,75	2
<b>UE3</b>	bodywork	1	0,5
	dominant discipline 1	2	5
	dominant discipline 2	2	5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5

<b>UE4</b>	<b>To choose between :</b>	2	2
	Realization of a project, pedagogy, improvisation, 2 <sup>nd</sup> language, auxiliary discipline, courses in the framework of the CHELs, for students preparing a DE: a discipline of the DE followed during the semester.		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,75</b>	<b>30</b>

**SECOND CYCLE  
DIPLOMA CONFERRING THE GRADE OF MASTER**

**Choir direction – Master 1**

<b>SEMESTER 1</b>		<b>Weekly hours</b>	<b>ECTS*</b>
<b>UE1</b>	choir direction	2	11,5
<b>UE2</b>	vocal ensemble	2	1
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	1
	complementary piano	0,75	2
	individual vocal technique	2	2
	auxiliary discipline	2	5
	thesis research	2	5
<b>UE3</b>	applied methodology on a research subject	0,5	0,5
	practical aspect of the profession	0,5	0,5
	2 <sup>nd</sup> language	1	1,5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,25</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>SEMESTER 2</b>		<b>Weekly hours</b>	<b>ECTS*</b>
<b>UE1</b>	choir direction	2	11,5
<b>UE2</b>	vocal ensemble	2	1
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	1
	complementary piano	0,75	2
	individual vocal technique	2	2
	auxiliary discipline	2	5
	thesis research	2	5
<b>UE3</b>	applied methodology on a research subject	0,5	0,5

	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5
	2 <sup>nd</sup> language	1	1,5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,25</b>	<b>30</b>

## Choir direction – Master 2

SEMESTER 3		Weekly hours	ECTS*
<b>UE1</b>	choir direction	2	13,5
<b>UE2</b>	vocal ensemble	2	1
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	1
	complementary piano	0,75	2
	individual vocal technique	2	2
	auxiliary discipline	2	5
	thesis research	2	5
<b>UE3</b>	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,75</b>	<b>30</b>

SEMESTER 4		Weekly hours	ECTS*
<b>UE1</b>	choir direction	2	13,5
<b>UE2</b>	vocal ensemble	2	1
	instrumental conducting initiation	0,5	1
	complementary piano	0,75	2
	individual vocal technique	2	2
	auxiliary discipline	2	5
	thesis research	2	5
<b>UE3</b>	practical aspects of the profession	0,5	0,5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,75</b>	<b>30</b>

\*ECTS : European Crédit Transfer System /  
Système européen de transfert de crédits

## **CNSMD**

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