

WRITING AND COMPOSITION

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 and instrumental interpretation, the direction of vocal and instrumental ensembles, musical creation and musical culture.

The writing and composition curriculum belongs to the third speciality. It is rooted in the tradition of classical western music, in order to be open to the world and to today's music, without an exclusive spirit, allowing the students to choose their influences freely, to be able to attune them in a personal synthesis.

The CNSMDL training prepares its students for:

- the professions of musical creation: composition, arrangement (transcription, reduction) and orchestration.
- the professions of artistic education (see music teaching training)

The skills and knowledge targeted are:

- a solid mastery of techniques of writing and composition, for voice and instruments (solo, ensemble, choir and orchestra);
- a solid mastery of techniques of orchestration and transcription;
- a capacity to compose for image;
- a mastery of musical computing (score editors, digital audio workstations);
- a comprehensive musical culture.
- a facility for piano playing and voice (the practice of another instrument is strongly advised)
- a basic training in choir and orchestra direction;
- a capacity to define and carry out creative musical projects, to test them in rehearsal and performance with musicians, in concert and/or studio;
- a capacity to formulate critical evaluations in the field of musical creation, 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 reflect on the place and the 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 corresponding to each of these disciplines 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 3rd cycle declined in two different forms:
 - a research and practice doctorate (3 years) in partnership with the doctoral school 3LA.
 - a 3rd cycle “artist diploma” (1-2 years) formalised by means of a contract with the CNSMD on an artistic project.

1. First Cycle

The first cycle concentrates on the fundamental principles of the discipline: a solid mastery of techniques of writing and composition, for voice and instruments (solo, ensemble, choir and orchestra). The main teaching activities are in the form of individual and collective classes.

At the same time, a musical illustration training is provided (on Sibelius and Logic Pro), allowing the student to learn about composition for image, and to produce scores and demo tapes of a professional quality; as well as an initiation to direction which aims at putting the students in a working situation with the musicians to be able to direct a rehearsal, a studio recording or a concert.

Thanks to the multiple forces present at the CNSMD, the student will take advantage of classes in keyboard skills (reading and reduction of scores, transposition, improvisation, initiation to basso continuo and to keyboard harmony) and musical culture (ethnomusicology, ars musica – middle ages, renaissance, baroque – analysis, initiation to teaching, etc).

Finally, in the framework of collective classes in the principal discipline, the students will be introduced to a practice of research and reflection, particularly on the different historical techniques of writing and composition and on the current implications of their transmission.

2. Second Cycle

The second cycle allows to further develop the fundamental principles of techniques of writing and composition acquired in the first cycle. It is engaged in a dynamic of professional insertion expecting the students to approach concert organisers, choirs and orchestras, different variable geometry ensembles, sponsors and media. The student is encouraged to participate in national and international composition competitions.

The public examination at the end of the second cycle allows the student to produce a concert of about one hour, demonstrating all the skills that he has acquired during his studies.

At the same time, for two years, the student will develop personal research, accompanied by a referent teacher, which will lead to the writing of a research thesis and its defence before a jury of specialists.

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 and 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 between 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 a competitive examination. The candidates must present an admissibility test and an admissions test.

Tuition

See charts in appendix.

Conditions of awarding of the DNSPM

The 1st 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 obtention 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.

U.E.1 – Artistic training

This teaching unit regroups an essential part of the artistic training contained in the U.E. 1, 2 and 3 of your DNSPM programme. It also includes an axis “artistic practices to discover”.

U.E.2 – Teachers training

- education sciences
- methodology
- investigation, practical workshop in a conservatoire
- didactic seminar
- implementation of a pedagogical project

U.E.3 - Knowledge of the professional environment

- knowledge of the professional context
- practical aspects of the musician's profession
- knowledge of the specialised artistic education network
- implementation of a professional file

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 obtention 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 at the CNSMD.

Tuition

The additional teaching is composed 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 2nd year of the DNSPM.

SECOND CYCLE

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.

This test is followed by an interview between the candidate and the jury concerning their 2nd cycle research project.

Tuition

The length of the full-time studies is of four semesters. The curriculum includes the study of disciplines grouped in teaching units. These 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 chart in appendix).

Conditions of awarding of the MASTER

The 2nd cycle is attested by the 2nd cycle diploma conferring grade of Master awarded to students in the conditions fixed by the articles of the studies policy. This diploma is registered in the national repertory of professional certifications – level 1 (nomenclature of 1969) and 7 (nomenclature Europe). It corresponds to the acquisition of 120 ECTS.

FIRST CYCLE

National Superior Diploma of Professional Musician (DNSPM)

Writing and composition – DNSPM 1

SEMESTER 1		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	10
	orchestration	5
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	musical illustration	6
	keyboard skills	2
UE3	auxiliary discipline	2
	choral singing	1,5
	Improvisation workshops	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

SEMESTER 2		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	10
	orchestration	5
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	musical illustration	6
	keyboard skills	2
UE3	auxiliary discipline	2
	choral singing	1,5
	improvisation workshops	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

Writing and composition– DNSPM 2

SEMESTER 3		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	10
	orchestration	5
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	musical illustration	6
	keyboard skills	2
UE3	auxiliary discipline	2
	Languages I	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

SEMESTER 4		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	10
	orchestration	5
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	musical illustration	6
	keyboard skills	2
UE3	auxiliary discipline	2
	Languages I	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

Writing and composition– DNSPM 3

SEMESTER 5		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	10
	orchestration	5
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	musical illustration	6
	keyboard skills	2
UE3	auxiliary discipline	2
	Languages I	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

SEMESTER 6		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	7
	orchestration	2
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
	end of cycle exam	6
UE2	musical illustration	6
	keyboard skills	2
UE3	auxiliary discipline	2
	Languages I	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

SECOND CYCLE

Diploma conferring the grade of master

Writing and composition – Master 1

SEMESTER 1		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	12,5
	orchestration	7
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	Masters research thesis	5
	methodology applied to the research subject	0,5
UE3	Languages II	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

SEMESTER 2		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	12,5
	orchestration	7
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	Masters research thesis	5
	methodology applied to the research subject	0,5
UE3	Languages II	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

Writing and composition – Master 2

SEMESTER 3		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	13
	orchestration	7
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
UE2	Masters research thesis	5
UE3	Languages II	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

SEMESTER 4		ECTS*
UE1	writing and composition	8
	orchestration	2
	workshops, seminars, master-classes	1
	end of 2 nd cycle exam	10
UE2	Masters research thesis	5
UE3	Languages II	1,5
	practical aspects of the profession	0,5
UE4	optional discipline	2
TOTAL		30

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ECTS : European Crédit Transfer System