Course syllabus: Method development in artistic research

1. **Identification**

   - Course code: KOMU002
   - Education level: Third cycle course
   - Credits: 7,5
   - Approved by FUN 2015-11-18
   - Valid from 2013-03-13
   - Institution: Malmö Academy of Music, Lund University

   The course is one of the foundation courses (in total 30 credits) in the General Syllabus for Third Cycle Study of Music, leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Music. The course can be taken by PhD candidates.

2. **Course description, aims and learning outcomes**

   The course aims at exploring, questioning and discussing central questions concerning methods in artistic research, such as:
   
   - Can the artistic process be both object and method?
   - How can qualitative research methods be used in artistic research?
   - What is the function of experimentation in artistic research?
   - What kinds of knowledge are produced in the artistic research process and how can they be communicated?
   - What is the relevance of the concepts of validity, reliability and generalizability in artistic research?

   **Learning outcomes**

   After completed course the students should be able to:
   
   - demonstrate a fundamental understanding concerning research terminology.
   - demonstrate knowledge about the general aims and functions of method in artistic research.
   - demonstrate the ability to formulate relevant research questions.
   - articulate a working research method for their own projects or for a part of their projects in text as well as in an oral/practice based presentation.

3. **Course content**

   The course provides an orientation and understanding of research methods in artistic research. Methodological tools from qualitative research are explored as means for positioning oneself within the research process while retaining the possibility to adopt several different analytical
perspectives and allowing for a certain distancing in relation to one’s practice. For example, action research, phenomenology and auto-ethnography are closely related methods since, in artistic research, the subjective development, as well as elaborating one’s own practice and the art field are central to the research outcome. Methods need to be constantly evaluated, developed and adapted to the changing requirements of the artistic research projects with their specific conditions. Already the process of formulating and producing research questions is a way to develop method. When artistic methods are used in research projects they become part of the overall research methodology and may contribute to expanding/developing the conventional formats for conducting research. This means that there is a field of tension and interaction between artistic methods and methods for artistic research. The methods chosen for artistic research thus influence and affect the artistic methods and the artistic outcome.

4. Course formats and examination
The course will be carried out in the form of lectures, seminars and discussions as well as in working groups. The course format is built on the principle that the method and design of every artistic research project needs to evolve from the artistic practice and questions that emerge from it. For a detailed schedule, see enclosed time plan. Learning outcomes will be assessed through a process description (documented in text or otherwise) that describes (i) an overview of the methods discussed in the course, related to the individual project, (ii) the relationship between the artistic method and the research method in the doctoral students’ current project or subproject as related to the course literature and material, and (ii) the specific function and expected outcome of the research method.

5. Language
The course will be conducted in English.

6. Grading system
In assessment either Fail (U) or Pass (G) is used. A Pass means that the student has reached the learning outcomes described above.

7. Resources and literature
See enclosed list of resources.

8. Course evaluation
Course evaluation is carried out after the examination and relates to the relationship between learning outcomes and results from the course assignments.