

## Parallel Session

**Musical Text Work II**  
**A vocal coloring book**

Through artistic experiments, testing of new artistic strategies and in dialogue between teachers and students, the *Musical Text Work*-project develops new ways to make interpretive decisions.

How do emotional impulses and musical parameters affect vocal qualities and timbres? Can you systematically utilize your knowledge and experience from the project's experiments to find, expand and develop your authentic and personal sound?

The project is rooted in the traditional practice of classical vocal music and is closely intertwined with the project leader's daily practice as a performer and teacher.

In focus groups with singers, the project works with exercises and improvisations built up in formats reminiscent of techniques from free improvisation's non-conclusion-oriented working methods. Through this, the aim is to stimulate the individual interpretive imagination and the interpretation of the textual material and a composition.

The *Musical Text Work* project has been running for several years and in the ongoing work with the project's mindset and initial questions, new patterns and possibilities have emerged through discussions and reflections on the practical experiments and experiences.

This presentation focuses on the project's work with singers and a description of the current development of a concrete method of working with the voice, the text and the music: *Voice – text – music – emotion: a vocal coloring book*

In this the experiences from the workshops and feedback from the students are translated into concrete descriptions of exercises.

A guide to developing virtuosity in working with variation of vocal qualities through training of curiosity, imagination and playfulness while experimenting with a wide variety of emotional and musical impulses and offsets.

The project is close to practice, and the ongoing involvement of the participants/students means that it is experienced as an integral part of the study.

The project originates from a particular point of interest from the project leader and it shows that it is very possible to integrate an artistic research project in the daily work with students. The presentation will offer reflections on ways to work AR into future curricula in order to diminish the distinction between artistic practice and AR.

## Parallel Session



**Helene Gjerris**  
**The Royal Danish Academy of Music (Copenhagen, Denmark)**  
**helene.gjerris@dkdm.dk**

Helene Gjerris has had a versatile career as an opera, Lied and oratorio singer with a strong emphasis on the interpretation of contemporary music, and was appointed Professor of Voice and head of vocal department at RDAM in 2016.

In her teaching, Helene is committed to supporting each student to develop a unique artistic profile and in trust-based co-operation in the development of the voice.

Helene's artistic development work and research includes:

*The vocal music of Per Nørgård* – research and analysis, concerts with students at RDAM and SDMK, recording of the CD *Songs from Evening Land*, 2009-2013

*Improving the performance of classical musicians through interdisciplinary exercises* – Helene Gjerris og Bent Nørgaard, Syddansk Musikkonservatorium 2012-2015

*Interpretation of graphic scores* – concert lectures at RDAM and SDMK, 2014-2015

*Musical Text Work* – investigating and challenging the traditional practice of studying and interpreting vocal music, RDAM 2018-2023