

Specialization course in Baroque performance, from Monteverdi to Mozart

This course is open to singers and instrumentalists wishing to improve or specialize in performing 17th and 18th-century repertoire.

The course is open to students of Bachelor or Master-level proficiency in Baroque or Classical historically-informed performance. The aim of the course is to further hone these skills or to focus on a specific aspect - a style, period, genre, or project, such as preparing for auditions or teaching.

Rules for admission

Preliminary selection of applicants based on applications* and covering letters.

Then entrance test, subject to available places:

- two works from the period in two different styles - total duration: 15 to 20 minutes. (An accompanist can be provided; applicants may also bring their chamber music partners);
- a sight-reading test;
- an interview with the jury.

The applicant may audition with a partner or partners of their own choice.

**Applications must include a list of diplomas obtained in both musical studies and general or higher education, as well as copies of certificates.*

Duration of studies

Between 2 and 4 semesters to obtain the diploma (18 hours of lessons on average per semester*)

It is possible to attend only for 1 semester: a certificate will be delivered.

Exceptionally, leave of absence may be granted for 1 semester.

**Semester 1: October to February; Semester 2: March to June*

Teacher: Martin Gester

Admission requirements

Having completed a voice or instrument course, Baroque or otherwise (see general admission requirements for specialization courses).

Course content

Specific approach to 17th and 18th-century repertoire taking into account the context of historical practice, theatrical declamation, dance, and the comparative study of oral tradition. Repertoire studied, either broad or focused on a specific field, to be chosen by the student in agreement with the teacher. Elements of the course include tempo/movement, sprezzatura, tempo rubato, vacillar del canto, as well as instrumental transcription/adaptation, ornamentation and cadenzas.

For singers and continuo players in particular, study of different styles of sung declamation, from parlar cantando to arias and recitativo secco, with close attention to the text. For all students, an in-depth look at the relationship between freedom and rigour, in order to apprehend the shifting notion of 'freedom' in various styles and genres.

Classes

Students may apply singly, but at least part of tuition will be given in chamber formation (of 2 or more, with fellow students or external partners). Sessions may be irregular, but will be of at least 4 hours per month.

Diploma

The diploma will be awarded following an examination scheduled during an examination session. The exam will consist of a concert performance not exceeding 30 minutes of at least 2 works in different styles. The candidate must inform the Conservatoire of their chosen repertoire at least 3 weeks prior to the exam date.

The jury will be composed of the Director of the Conservatoire or his deputy, as well as two invited members (conductors, choral directors, composers, opera house directors, etc.) of whom at least one is a specialist of Baroque music.

Marks will be awarded to each candidate individually, but students are responsible for their choice of partners.

Fees

Information on fees can be found on the Conservatoire website.

Fees are updated every year in July.

Non-payment of enrolment fees can lead to exclusion from the Conservatoire. If you have any problem, please contact us.