

International Masterclass and Competition for Choral Conductors



From May 31st to June 4th, 2023, the International Masterclass for Choral Conductors will take place at the Bavarian Music Academy Marktoberdorf, for the second time with a conducting competition. It will be led by Prof. Georg Grün (Germany) and Gary Graden (Sweden). Interested choral conductors apply until February 28th, 2023.

Target group

The Masterclass is addressed to experienced choral conductors, who would like to improve their knowledge and skills on a high standard, with the help of distinguished experts. They should have studied conducting or already have reached the end of their studies.

Application

Interested candidates must submit the application form on the website www.kammerchorwettbewerb.org by February 28th, 2023. CV and video of their conducting will please be sent via WeTransfer, Drop Box or similar to office@modfestivals.org.

The artistic director of the competition, Prof. Jürgen Budday, and the director of the Masterclass, Prof. Georg Grün, will decide on the selection.

Participants will be informed by the end of March. Afterwards, the travel and the stay will be organised together with the team of the International Chamber Choir Competition.

Procedure

20 persons will be invited to Marktoberdorf for conducting auditions. They will arrive at the Bavarian Music Academy Marktoberdorf on May 31st at around 12 noon.

After a first lunch together, they will have to audition, and it will be decided who may participate actively and who passively in the Masterclass.

Active participants:

The 10 active participants will take part in two „main choir rehearsals“ each day (11:00-13:00 and 16:00-18:00). These are divided so that one rehearsal is led by Gary Graden and one by Prof. Georg Grün.

In these two hours, 3-5 people (the first two days) or 2-3 (the second two days) are allowed to conduct.

They also attend the preparations for the rehearsals and the lectures in the evening.

Passive participants:

The 10 passive participants watch the rehearsals from the background and analyse them with the leader who is not running the rehearsal.

They take part in the lectures in the evening, too.

On June 2nd, a second audition takes place, after which 4-6 persons may continue to participate actively and 14-16 persons passively in the masterclass.

The remaining active participants may conduct at the Masterclass final concert on June 4th, 2023.

Afterwards, the winners will receive a prize.

After breakfast on June 5th, all the participants will leave.

Choir

A choir participating in the 18th International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf will serve as the studio choir.

Contents

- Conducting techniques
- Vocal training
- Vocal and register coaching. Working on a specific choral sound
- Intensive training with the musical pieces, which will have been prepared before the seminar
- Familiarisation of choral scores
- Contact to other choir directors on an international level
- Presentation of what has been learned and selection of the winner of the competition at the final concert

Leadership team

Prof. Georg Grün:

Georg Grün can count himself among the internationally demanded choral conductors and choral sound specialists. He founded the KammerChor Saarbrücken in 1990 and is still its artistic director. From 2000 to 2013, Georg Grün held a professorship for choral conducting at the Musikhochschule Mannheim, with whose newly founded chamber choir he also won numerous international prizes. In 2012 he followed a second call and moved to the Hochschule für Musik Saar as professor, at the same time taking over the direction of the BachChor Saarbrücken. Georg Grün travels the world as a guest conductor, guest professor, adjudicator and lecturer of international master classes for choral conducting. He has been a mentor of the Conductors' Forum at the German Music Council since 2010 and was jury chairman of the Markt-oberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition from 2015-2019. He is increasingly involved in improvisation (piano/organ) and performance and is also active as a composer and arranger.

Gary Graden:

Gary Graden was born in the USA and studied at Clark University, the Hartt School of Music, the Aspen Summer Music Festival, and with Eric Ericson at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. He is a former member and tenor soloist with the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir.

Gary Graden is presently the director of choral music in the Stockholm cathedral and S:t Jacobs Church in Stockholm. With the S:t Jacobs Chamber Choir he has won grand prizes and first prizes in many of Europe's most prestigious competitions, including the European Grand Prix.

He participated in a range of national and international festivals and is in demand as conductor, teacher and adjudicator throughout the world. His work as conductor and singer is documented on many CD and radio recordings. Gary Graden was elected Sweden's Choral Conductor of the Year in 2005, in 2009 he and his choir were awarded the Guidoneum Award from the Fondazione Guido D'Arezzo in Italy.

Assistance: Hyunju Kwon, South Korea

The South Korean conductor Hyunju Kwon recently won the 5th German Choral Conducting Prize of the German Music Council in collaboration with the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin and also received the Audience Award.

After completing her Bachelor's and Master's studies in choral and orchestral conducting in Seoul, Karlsruhe and Mannheim, she is currently deepening her skills as part of her concert exam under Prof. Georg Grün in Saarbrücken.

Kwon has worked with both amateur and professional choirs, including the Chamber Choirs of Stuttgart and Saarbrücken. For the latter, she has been serving as musical assistant since October 2021.

She has also worked as a conductor with professional orchestras, including the Philharmonie Baden-Baden and the Stuttgart Philharmonic.

Kwon celebrated international success as winner of the Fosco Corti International Competition for Choral Conductors 2021 in Turin, Italy, and the International Choral Conductors Competition 2022 in Preveza, Greece.

Jury

- Gary Graden
- Prof. Georg Grün
- Prof. Jürgen Budday (Artistic Director of the International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf)
- Hyunju Kwon (Assistance of the leadership team)
- A representative of the studio choir

Language

The Masterclass will be held in German and in English.

Prizes

3rd prize: Participation in the Summerschool of the Musikhochschule Saarbrücken 2023

2nd prize: Hospitation Zürcher Sing-Akademie (enquired)

1st prize: Hospitation and assistance Masterclass ICCS 2025

Costs

Masterclass:

Active participants: 350 €

Active participants reduced*: 250 €

Passive participants: 150 €

Passive participants reduced*: 100 €

* reduced are: Students with valid proof of attendance

Board, lodging and scores: 253 €

Repertoire/Scores

A reader with all scores will be sent to all participants after registration. It should be brought to the masterclass in printed or digital form.

Event location and accommodation

Accommodation is in shared rooms at the Bavarian Music Academy Marktoberdorf. Single rooms are available at an extra charge in a nearby hotel or, if available, at the Bavarian Music Academy Marktoberdorf.

Kurfürstenstraße 19

87616 Marktoberdorf

Germany

<https://www.modakademie.de/english-information/>

Arrival/Departure

Arrival and departure are independent and at own expense.

Combi-offer International Masterclass and International Chamber Choir Competition

From May 26th to May 31st, the 18th International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf will take place. In this renowned competition, choirs from around the world will compete in front of an international jury. Concerts and other events will complement the festival. The participation in the Masterclass can be booked in combination with a visit of the International Chamber Choir Competition.

Costs and services Combi-offer

5 days (during the competition) incl. accommodation in a shared room (2 beds or more) with breakfast, lunch together with the singers at the festival tent, festival pass (entry to all events):

250 € accommodation and board

110 € festival pass / 85 € reduced (students with ID)

20 € transport costs (transport to all concerts in the local area)

(only available in combination with the Masterclass)

Event organiser

MODfestivals e.V. / International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf in cooperation with:

Goethe Institut

Bayerische Musikakademie Marktoberdorf

