

Santorini Masterclasses

July 2026

organized by
Christos Marantos



greeting

'Santorini masterclasses' aims to provide high quality music courses from recognized professionals in an international framework. The island of Santorini with its unique landscape will inspire the young musicians and reward them with unique experiences. I hope to see you there.

Warm regards,

Christos Marantos
pianist/founder and artistic director
of Santorini Masterclasses



Location

The masterclass will take place in Gyzi Megaron, a special, historic venue that offers the right setting for all the planned activities. The Gyzi Megaron, as well as the dormitory and the newly renovated rooms of the guest house of the Lazarists belong to the Catholic Diocese of Santorini. Owing to the unique spirituality of the place, tourists are not allowed to stay there (the trust of the Catholic bishop in Christos Marantos makes such an invitation and accommodation possible). The whole complex is located in Fira, the capital of the island.

masterclass overview / 14-20 July

Solmization and Counterpoint

An exploration and embodiment of Renaissance Musica Practica on the island of Santorini, at the heart of the Aegean. Through intensive daily sessions, solmization and improvised counterpoint techniques will be practised in exercises, on plainchant melodies, and on renaissance repertoire.

This intensive masterclass offers an opportunity for highly skilled singers to develop and refine historical skills, thus deepening their understanding of the repertoire of the Renaissance.

Each day will start with historical solmization exercises and practice with the guidonian hand, working up to structured and free counterpoint exercises, during the morning session.

For the more advanced counterpoint exercises, the participants will also work autonomously in smaller groups and in pairs, providing the opportunity for individual practice and feedback.

The **afternoon session**, after a short mensural notation theory-and-practice or sightreading session, will be mostly devoted to rehearsal for the performances at the conclusion of the workshop.

All masterclass sessions will take place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, that belongs to the Catholic Diocese of Santorini.

At the conclusion of the workshop, an ensemble or ensembles of the participants will sing a concert at the Gyzi Megaron, presenting a mix of plainchant, written polyphony, counterpoint improvisation techniques, as well as "solfaing", performing textless (or texted) music on solmization syllables.

tutor

Iason Marmaras



Iason Marmaras is a keyboardist, singer, and conductor, specializing in historically informed performance.

He is the musical director of the Schola Cantorum Sancti Pauli, with which he organizes seminars and courses in Renaissance music theory and practice. In addition, with the various ensembles of the Schola—Cappella & Cantores Sancti Pauli and The Clerkes Extraordinaire—he organizes a monthly Renaissance Evensong in Athens, as well as concerts in Greece and abroad.

As a harpsichordist, he is a member of the APOLLON Ensemble and a regular collaborator of Leonidas Kavakos, as well as a member of the Scroll Ensemble. He has performed with the Huelgas Ensemble, Cappella Pratensis, La Risonanza, Camerata Salzburg, Latinitas Nostra, Ex Silentio, and Armonia Atenea, among others.

His discography includes J. S. Bach's Violin Concertos with Leonidas Kavakos and the APOLLON Ensemble for Sony Classical, the role of the Sorceress in H. Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with La Risonanza for Challenge Classics, and improvisations on the historical Antegnati organ at Mantua in Lodovico Viadana's Sacri Conventus for Passacaille.

In 2018, he won first prize at the Berliner Bach Wettbewerb, and in 2019 he was awarded first prize at the First International Basso Continuo and Partimento Competition.

He studied harpsichord and early music singing at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, as well as historical music theory and composition at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. Iason is Senior Lecturer for historical improvisation, basso continuo and vocal ensemble at the Early Music Institute of the mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna.

more information: www.scholacantorum.gr

additional information

- **COURSE COSTS € 570***
*including the course Solmization and Counterpoint, the registration fee and 6 days accommodation. All prices include taxes.
- **PARTICIPANT PROFILE:**
The workshop is aimed at singers with considerable experience singing early baroque and renaissance music: advanced Bachelor and Master students and young professionals, as well as professional singers who want to expand their palette of historical skills.
- **THE COURSE INCLUDES:**
 - Eight three-hour sessions (twice daily) of Solmization and Counterpoint
 - Presentation of the work at the adjoining Gyzi Megaron

Course Schedule:

- July 14th : arrival and introduction session
- July 15th - 18th : two sessions daily
- July 19th : evening Concert
- July 20th : departure

EXTRAS:

- coaching in Renaissance or Baroque solo or ensemble repertoire upon request, at additional cost.
- The parallel Piano Masterclass by Christos Marantos offers the opportunity to attend advanced ear training sessions in small groups, offered by the mdw Senior Lecturer Katharina Blassnigg, at additional cost.

<Language: English/German/ Greek>

- **ACCOMMODATION**
The accommodation is located at the Gyzi Megaron. For more information see the photos and website of the Megaron.

Address: Gyzi Megaron, 25is Martiou 405, Thira- Santorini 847 00, Greece

application information

- APPLICATION STEPS

1. The application deadline is on the 1st of May 2026 (limited places available)
2. To apply please send an e-mail to Iason Marmaras (monosandal@gmail.com), with the subject Santorini 2026, attaching a short CV and a video of you singing a piece from the 15th, 16th, or 17th century. (In case of an ensemble piece, please provide an indication of the voice you are singing.)
3. Participants will be informed as to the acceptance of their application by the 15th of May at the latest.
4. Upon acceptance, a non-refundable registration fee of € 120 will be payable by bank transfer. After that, information about travel will be sent to each participant.
5. The remaining 450 € of the fee will have to be paid by 30th of June 2026.

- FURTHER INFORMATION

- We recommend that all participants have their own travel and health insurance.
- The travel expenses and the food are not included in the course fee.
- If the courses is cancelled by the organizers, the complete fee will be refunded (incl. accommodation and additional offers).

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masterclass overview / 17-23 July

piano

The piano masterclass aims to expand the participants' musical skills and deal with questions of interpretation. By developing solutions to concrete technical difficulties, the understanding of the complexity of the piano literature becomes clearer. By being able to perceive the complexity as a sign of quality, the young musicians will gain more enjoyment from playing the piano.

In addition, the participants will have the possibility to visit the piano lessons of other participants and be exposed to the 'team teaching' method, developed by Christos Marantos. During the aforementioned method, one student takes over the role of the teacher. This change of roles, through the guidance of the teacher, aims to promote the independent thinking of the participants.

In addition to the piano lessons, there will be ear-training lessons with the composer and university lecturer Katharina Blassnigg. The ear-training course includes solfeggio exercises (with voice) and dictations (played on the piano and with recordings). In these courses rhythmic, melodic and harmonic hearing, as well as hearing timbres, will be trained. Upon participants' request, individual lessons in composition or historical composition techniques can be provided with additional costs.

At the end of the course, all students will participate in a competition and perform at the final concert. The masterclass will be held in English, German and Greek language.

tutors



Christos Marantos

Christos Marantos graduated with distinction from the Conservatory 'Ellinikon Odeon', and he holds a Bachelors and Masters degree in instrumental pedagogy from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. Christos is a piano performer focusing on both classical and contemporary music. As a soloist, he has played in various international concerts on important stages such as the Musikverein in Vienna and in 2021 he was renounced "Bösendorfer Artist". Christos Marantos has given several world premieres of works by Austrian and Greek composers such as Herbert Lauer mann and Rene Staar, as well as Anestis Logothetis in "Wien Modern 2021". As a piano duo with Harald Ossberger (2006-2019), they have performed across Europe and Asia and in 2011 they recorded a CD of Schumann's works on the Gramola label. Several composers wrote piano works dedicated to this Piano Duo.

Furthermore, Christos teaches piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and in the Johann Sebastian Bach Music School-Diakonie Österreich since 2009, where he has developed a method for 'team teaching'. Christos Marantos is regularly invited to give master classes at various educational institutions, such as the University of Music Dance and Theatre Anton Bruckner Linz, the Academy of Arts Aswara Kuala Lumpur, the Music College of Mahidol University in Thailand, and in China. Finally, Christos is an artist with high humanitarian concerns. He has curated several artistic events on current problematics of the society, such as ViennAthens (Film Archiv Austria 2019), a cultural project which connects two European capitals.

Katharina Blassnigg

Katharina Blassnigg studied music theory and composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, she also completed her diploma studies and music education studies for concert harp at the Klagenfurt State Conservatory and her instrumental and music education studies for singing and folk music at the Innsbruck State Conservatory. In addition to several scholarships, she has received composition grants from the Austrian Federal Chancellery, the Social & Cultural Institutions (SKE) of austro mechna and the City of Innsbruck, as well as a scholarship from the State Institute for Music Research Berlin for a three-month research stay.

She is a senior lecturer at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna for the subjects aural training for sound engineers as well as for composers, conductors and music theorists, for applied composition and aural training for instrumental students, for the preparatory course for composition and for the basso continuo practice course for harp. Compositions have so far been performed in Vienna (i.a. 2016 at the Arnold Schönberg Center Wien with the ensemble Wiener Collage) and Tyrol (regular cooperation with the Kammerorchester InnStrumenti). Public performances with harp and singing since the age of 7 in Austria and abroad (Germany, Switzerland, Italy, England, Belgium, Brazil); Performance with harp at the Festival International des Cordes Pincées at Rabat, Marocco (2002).

additional information

- **COURSE COSTS € 720***
*including piano courses, ear training and 6 days accommodation. All prices include taxes
- **COURSES PER CATEGORY:**
 - **OBLIGATORY COURSES:**
 - /PIANO >>
 - Piano course - individual lessons - 3 times 60 minutes
 - Piano class observation - small groups - 3 times 60 minutes
(In the last hour there may be team teaching for 30 minutes (optional))
<Language: English/German/ Greek>
 - /EAR TRAINING >>
 - group of 4 participants - 3 times 60 minutes
<Language: English>
 - **OPTIONAL COURSES:**
 - /COMPOSITION LESSONS - individual or group lessons >> additional costs
 - /CREATIVE ENSEMBLE - group lessons >> additional costs
- **PIANO COMPETITION**
The final concert will be a piano competition. The tutors will be the jurors for this competition.
- **ACCOMMODATION**
The accommodation is located at the Gyzi Megaro. For more information see the photos and website of the Megaron.

Address: Gyzi Megaron, 25is Martiou 405, Thira- Santorini 847 00, Greece

application information

• APPLICATION STEPS

1. The application deadline is on the 1st of June 2026 (limited number of participants!)
2. To apply please send an e-mail to Christos Marantos (christosmarantos@gmail.com) including a video of max. 3 minutes with an excerpt of the first movement of a sonata by J.Haydn, or W.A. Mozart or L.v.Beethoven. Upon reception of your application you will receive a reply within one week regarding your acceptance to the masterclass.
3. Upon acceptance to the masterclass you will need to pay the registration fee of € 220,- with bank transfer. In case of cancellation of your participation the registration fee will not be refunded.
4. After the payment of the registration fee information about the travel details will be sent to each participant.
5. The remaining € 500,- of the course fee has to be paid by 30th of June 2026.

• COURSE PREPARATION

Upon acceptance to the course each participant should prepare the following before the beginning of the masterclass:

1. the first movement of a sonata by J.Haydn, or W.A. Mozart or L.v.Beethove
2. one intermediate or higher level baroque piano piece
3. one intermediate or higher level romantic or impressionistic piano piece

• OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- We recommend that all participants have their own travel and health insurance.
- The travel expenses and the food are not included in the course fee.
- If the courses is cancelled by the organizers, the complete fee will be refunded (incl. accommodation and additional offers).
- The organizers do not take responsibility of minor participants. Minor participants may be accompanied by one parent. In this case, an additional fee for the accommodation should be paid.

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masterclass overview / 20-24 July

film music and sound design

The masterclass in film music and sound design is addressed to novice and advanced composers, or persons who would like to understand more about the art of music and sound design in cinema. The seminar has a theoretical and a practical side and is taught by Periklis Liakakis.

On the theoretical side, Periklis will present some of his own work and will speak about his approach in film music and sound design. He will also analyse famous scenes of world class cinema. These presentations will be open to the public.

On the practical side, the participants will receive one short scene or short film (dialogue and/or sound design and foley tracks in .wav format will be provided too). They shall compose music, or do sound design, using the material given before the beginning of the masterclass. In the class it will be discussed:

- The intentions of the composer (or sound designer)
- Their concept for the scene
- Timing, the overall "tone" of the music or the sound to the scene etc)
- The technical side of things (instrumentation, VST libraries, timing, hit points, chosen sounds)
- Any specific questions the students might have.

In case that some student would like to bring some other work for discussion they are welcomed to do so.

Every student will have 3 hours at his disposal to present and discuss with Periklis their own work as an active member. The participants are highly advised to bring their laptop, eventually the VST libraries they are using as well as some midi keyboard, interface, headphones etc in case they would like to make changes.

Every student is advised to visit the classes of their fellow students as a passive member, as well. At the end of the seminar the works of the attendants will be presented in an open film night.

tutor

Periklis Liakakis



Periklis was born in Athens, Greece. He studied composition at the University of Music and performing arts in Vienna and graduated with high honours and unanimous distinction. He teaches in the same university composition, harmony and counterpoint since 2002.

He has been awarded prizes and scholarships for his work by the City of Vienna, the City of Graz, the University of Music in Vienna, the Austrian Office of the Federal Chancellor, the Greek Friends of Classical Music society, the Österreichische musikfonds, the Drama international short film festival in Greece etc. Commissions were made to him by the city of Trossingen in Germany, the Ensemble Modern International Academy, the Austrian sirene operntheater, the austrian ÖENM, theatre dramagraz, the Ensemble Oktoplus of the German NDR, the Wiener Saxophonquartett in Vienna, the Greek Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Greek National Orchestra etc.

In his compositions he blends different musical styles like orchestral, operatic, electronic and pop/rock. The mixture of this polystylism with his dedication and deep understanding of the art of sound design as it is used in Film and/or the stage, has led him to a very personal musical style.

In 2015 a tripple CD with 3 of his 8 (until now) chamber operas came out on "einklang records" and was financed by the "Österreichische Musikfonds". In 2017 his Opera "Chodorkowski" was awarded as the best independent production for 2015 with the prestigious "Schikaneder best off music-theatre price". In 2025 he was awarded with the first prize for best sound design in the Drama international film festival in Greece for the documentary by G.Lagoutari "Lost gardenias".

More information on: www.periklisliakakis.com

additional information

- **COURSE COSTS € 580***
*including the course film music and sound design, the registration fee and 4 days accommodation. All prices include taxes.
- **THE COURSE INCLUDES:**
 - 3 hours of individual composition/sound design lessons
 - The option to visit the classes of the fellow composers/sound designers as passive member
 - Presentation of the work of every participant in an open film night at the end of the course

EXTRAS (open to the public):

- 1 seminar about sound in film
- 1 seminar about Periklis's work

<Language: English/German/ Greek>

- **ACCOMMODATION**
The accommodation is located at the Gyzi Megaron. For more information see the photos and website of the Megaron.

Address: Gyzi Megaron, 25is Martiou 405, Thira- Santorini 847 00, Greece

application information

• APPLICATION STEPS

1. The application deadline is on the 1st of June 2026 (limited number of participants! Up to 5.)
2. To apply please send an e-mail to Periklis Liakakis (through www.periklisliakakis.com → contact) including a short bio (5-10 lines) and some link with previous work. Upon reception of your application you will receive a reply within one week regarding your acceptance to the masterclass.
3. Upon acceptance to the masterclass you will need to pay the registration fee of €200,- with bank transfer. In case of cancellation of your participation the registration fee will not be refunded.
4. After the payment of the registration fee information about the travel details will be sent to each participant.
5. The remaining € 380,- of the course fee has to be paid by 30th of June 2026.

• COURSE PREPARATION

After the payment of the course fee you will receive one short scene or short film (.mp4 file with dialogue and foleys). You shall compose music, or do sound design, using this material* before the beginning of the masterclass.

*Attention: the provided material will not be allowed to be presented publicly outside the masterclass or be uploaded in platforms such as youtube, vimeo, Ai platforms etc.

• OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- We recommend that all participants have their own travel and health insurance.
- The travel expenses and the food are not included in the course fee.
- If the courses is cancelled by the organizers, the complete fee will be refunded (incl. accommodation and additional offers).
- The organizers do not take responsibility of minor participants. Minor participants may be accompanied by one parent. In this case, an additional fee for the accommodation should be paid.

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