Study medieval music performance practice at the legendary Sorbonne, in the heart of Paris!

The Sorbonne offers an advanced degree programme, the only one of its kind in the world, which provides in-depth performance and practical training together with theoretical studies. This course of study is essential for any vocalist or instrumentalist interested in pursuing a serious professional career as a performer of medieval music. The Sorbonne offers a full-time, total-immersion course of study aimed at pre-professional and professional musicians of any age who wish to study at the highest level, within a university context and in conjunction with our partner institutions, including the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique, Fondation Royaumont, École Nationale des Chartes, École Pratique des Hautes Études, and the Musée National du Moyen Âge.

A diploma programme which opens career paths:

Numerous career possibilities are open to students who obtain the diploma:
- Professional specialization as a performer of medieval music (vocal or instrumental).
- The possibility to continue with doctoral studies (via the diploma programme Master 2 Research or the degree of Master/Doctor of Musical Arts.
- A teaching position in the field of medieval music.
- A teaching position in a specialized school in France (university, CRR, etc.) under the condition of obtaining the necessary diplomas and corresponding job recruitment.
- Employment within musical organizations such as festivals, record labels, or specialized musical press (in relation with the Sorbonne’s diploma programme in music administration (‘Administration et Gestion de la musique’).

The team:

Dr. Frédéric Billiet, Professor of musicology (Sorbonne University): medieval music history, iconography.
Dr. Katarina Livljanic, Maitre de Conférences in musicology (Sorbonne University) and director of the ensemble Dialogos: performance of liturgical chant and early polyphony; music history.
Marc Mauillon, instructor [PAST] (Sorbonne University): performance of vernacular and Latin song, polyphony.
Dr. Isabelle Ragnard, Maitre de Conférences in musicology (Sorbonne University and Conservatoire National de Musique): music history, codicology, notation, reception.

Raphaël Picazos, instructor (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique): improvisation, counterpoint, singing from medieval mss.
...and other medievalists from Sorbonne University and partner institutions.

Structure of the programme:

This Master’s degree programme is organized into four modules of instruction, each one containing several elements:
- specialized courses in musicology and research seminars with specialists in medieval musicology.
- practical courses in interpretation (medieval plainsong, polyphonic and monophonic repertoires of the Middle Ages, both sacred and secular) with directors of internationally-acclaimed ensembles for medieval music.
- practical courses in medieval counterpoint and improvisation techniques, held at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, as well as courses in other medieval-studies disciplines offered by various
partner institutions or other departments of the Sorbonne (in conjunction with each student’s research project).
- the diploma candidate must prepare a final concert and successfully defend a research-project document which is linked to the final concert, but which must also demonstrate a profound and scientific knowledge of written sources and of bibliography.

The programme will permit the student to develop competence in the following areas:
- styles and interpretation, modality, rhetoric, memory, ear-training, improvisation, ensemble music.
- history of medieval music, paleography, transcription and edition of texts, codicology, liturgy, introduction of medieval languages, music theory.

Requirements for enrollment:
- successful completion of a bachelor degree programme in music and/or musicology (in the case of French schools bac+3: licence from a French university or foreign university diploma), or
- acceptance by the entrance examination committee, based upon other diplomas or the equivalent of the French diplomas (diplômes musicaux français et étrangers de niveau licence, diplôme d’état (D.E.), certificat d’aptitude à l’enseignement (C.A.), or previous musical training, ongoing musical work (including professional activities) and an entrance examination/audition.

Information and registration:
This programme is open to musicians of all nationalities, without an age limit, either as first-time students or in continuing education, on condition of passing the entrance audition. The language of instruction is French. First written contacts may be in English.

The application process:
1.) Pre-selection based on the application file (deadline for filing: 1 June 2019)
- curriculum vitae
- copies of university and/or musical diplomas
- a letter of motivation in French or English
- a recording (link) of a solo performance
- a short presentation of a research project related to the performance of medieval music

This application file should be sent to Katarina Livljanic (kataliv@mac.com) before 1 June 2019.

2.) Admission test/ audition
First session: 20 June at 3 pm at the Centre universitaire Clignancourt (2, rue Francis de Croisset, 75018 Paris), room to be confirmed.

The audition will consist of a performance by the candidate as well as a discussion of the candidate’s background and his/her proposal for a research project. The candidate will also be asked to sight-read one or two short pieces in square notation. There will also be a short ear-training evaluation.

After the selection process is complete, the candidates admitted will be assisted with the various administrative procedures for enrollment:
- French candidates not in possession of a licence diploma must submit a file containing credits acquired.
- Foreign candidates from the European Union and from outside the EU must complete the procedures for validation of their previous diplomas, as required for admission to the university. This obligatory pre-registration is a step which allows you to proceed to the audition. The dates may vary for the candidates from the European Union and from outside the EU, living in or outside France.

More information: http://www.english.paris-sorbonne.fr/admission/
- In addition to this it is essential to present a certificate which attests to proficiency in French. In the absence of such a certificate, the candidate may inscribe in a French-language admission test organized by the university.