

# Masterclasses

## Il Poggio Montecastelli

1.-5.10.2025

Aljaž Beguš (Clarinet, 2.-5.10.)

Valeria Curti (Bassoon)

Anna Krimm (Viola)

Francesca Piccioni (Viola)

Stefano Rossi (Natural/French Horn)

Pascal Siffert (Viola)

Lodging+Full Board 100€ per night

Course Fee 400€ (Clarinet 320€)

additional:

Performance Training

Chambermusic

Piano Accompaniment

Chambermusic Ensembles  
welcome

Possibility of scholarships



Fondazione  
*Science & Music*

Application via [annakrimm@gmx.de](mailto:annakrimm@gmx.de)



**Aljaž Beguš** began his musical studies with his grandfather Franc Tržan, Jože Kregar and Jože Kotar in Ljubljana.

Later he studied with Michel Arrignon at Escuela superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid.

Aljaž was 5 times winner of national **competitions** and is also the winner of International Competitions such as Citta' di Carlino and Marco Fiorindo in the Junior Category (Italy, 2002). With the woodwind quintet Spirito he was semifinalist of ARD Munich competition 2014.

As a **chamber musician** he played with Alexander Lonquich, Sergio Azzolini, Dag Jensen, Giorgio Mandolesi, Enrico Bronzi, Bruno Canino, Maria Joao Pires, Lorenza Borrani and Dora Schwarzberg, among many others.

He has been a regular player and member of orchestras such as English National Opera, Orchestra da Camera di Mantova, Orchestra Leonore, Spira mirabilis, Orchestra Mozart, Haydn Philharmonie, European Union Youth Orchestra, and in Gustav Mahler Jugend Orchester.

Currently Aljaž is a Bass clarinetist of the **Slovenian Philharmonic orchestra**.



**Valeria Curti** teaches bassoon at **Bern Academy of the Arts** and is the principal bassoon of the orchestra **Musikkollegium Winterthur**. She is passionately committed to the solo presence of the bassoon in today's music scene and therefore maintains regular performances as a soloist.

Her musical and technical skills developed and perfected thanks to intensive collaboration with her professors Sergio Azzolini, Matthias Racz, Marco Postinghel and her mentor Daniele Galaverna.

Curtis musical activity has been honored by the prestigious Göhner Music Prize (2021) and the 1st prize at the IDRS Young Artist Competition 2015 in Tokyo. She has also received grants from various foundations, such as the Rahn Kulturfonds (2020), the Migros Kulturprozent (2017), the Ruth and Ernst Burkhalter Foundation and the Friedl Wald Foundation (2013), enabling her

to search archives for forgotten bassoon music.

As an orchestral musician, Valeria Curti is regularly active in Switzerland and abroad, which has already taken her to renowned festivals such as the **Salzburger Festspiele** and the **Lucerne Festival**. She was a member of the Schleswig-Holstein Orchestra Academy (2014/15), the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester (2018) and has performed on a project basis as principal bassoonist with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** in London, the **Mozarteumorchester** Salzburg, the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**, the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**.

[www.valeriacurti.com](http://www.valeriacurti.com)



**Anna Krimm** is the Co-Principal Viola of **Beethoven Orchester Bonn** (Germany) and a member of the project **Spira Mirabilis** (Italy). She is a regular guest of the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** and played in many international renowned ensembles like Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Radio Symphony Orchestra Stockholm, as soloviola in Münchner Kammerorchester, Ensemble Resonanz among many others.

As a former member of **Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop** (Berlin) and as guest of **SWR Radio Symphony Orchestra** Baden-Baden/Freiburg she also specialized in contemporary music.

Anna studied with Hartmut Rohde and Tabea Zimmermann in Berlin, with Johannes Lüthy in Karlsruhe – and additionally baroque viola with Midori Seiler. Since 2016 she is teaching Viola at the Hochschule für Musik **HfMdK** in Frankfurt (Germany) and will start a new teaching job at **ZHdK** in Zurich from September 2025 on.

Alongside the instrumental viola studies, she emphasizes on performance training, historically informed playing, effective practicing, body mapping and audition preparations.



**Francesca Piccioni** began her musical studies in Florence, initially as a violinist, before dedicating herself fully to the viola. A graduate of the Conservatorio G.B. Martini in Bologna and the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin, she studied with Antonello Farulli and Pauline Sachse, and took part in masterclasses with Tabea Zimmermann and Hatto Beyerle.

She is the violist of the award-winning **Quartetto Lyskamm**, a former ECMA ensemble-in-residence, and a core member of the contemporary music group **Schallfeld Ensemble** Graz.

Francesca regularly performs with leading orchestras including the **Orchestra Mozart**, **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra** and **Maggio Musicale Fiorentino**.

A passionate chamber musician and educator, she teaches viola and string quartet at the **Scuola di Musica di Fiesole** and conservatories across Italy.

Francesca follows a PhD program at the MdW-Wien under the guidance of Professor **Clive Brown**. She recently won the position of Solo-Viola at the **Orchestra della Toscana** in Florence.





**Stefano Rossi** received his early musical training at the Conservatorio “Luca Marenzio” and studied later at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and with Professor José Vicente Castelló in Barcelona. His first fixed job was Principal Horn of the orchestra **Sinfonia Varsovia**. Stefano performed with the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** and experienced the world of opera houses working with **Teatro alla Scala di Milano**, **Teatro Regio di Torino** and **Teatro Petruzzelli di Bari**.

He plays regularly as principal horn with the **Münchener Kammerorchester**, with other chamber orchestras like **Orchestra da Camera di Mantova** and in many chamber music ensembles. He performed as soloist playing Mozart, Strauss horn concertos and played Britten Serenade with Mark Padmore.

Stefano is specialized in historical performance, he’s currently principal horn of the **Le Cercle de L’Harmonie**, regular player in the project **Spira Mirabilis** and plays as guest principal horn in **Il**

**Giardino Armonico** and **Il Pomo D’Oro**.

During his career he appeared as guest in many other orchestras like BBC Philharmonic, Orchestra Mozart, Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Haydn Philharmonie and i Pomeriggi musicali di Milano.

Stefano is horn professor of the **Conservatory of Pavia** in Italy, he also teaches in the **Baroque academy of Perigord Noir** and in different masterclasses.



**Pascal Siffert** studied with Marianne Baumann at the Conservatory of Fribourg (Switzerland), with Sandor Végh at the Mozarteum Salzburg, and later with Keiko Wataya and Charles-André Légal at the Utrecht Conservatory. He also took part in masterclasses with Thomas Riebl in Prussia Cove and with Rainer Moog.

Pascal has been a member of the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** since 1990, and is the **principal violist** since 2001.

From 1992 to 1997, he was a member of **Camerata Salzburg** and performed regularly with **Ensemble Modern** in Frankfurt during that time. Between 1989 and 1995, he also appeared with **Ensemble Pyramide** in Zurich and was active in various chamber music formations.

In 1996, Pascal moved to Stockholm, where he has held the position of **principal viola** with the **Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra** since 2002.

Recently he resumed the artistic activities with the **Zetterqvist Quartet** in Stockholm.

**Masterclasses**  
**in Montecastelli Pisano**  
1.-5.10.2025 (clarinet 2.-5.10.)

**Arrival/ departure:**

it is possible to arrive on 30.9. and depart on 6.10., but of course 1.-5.10. works as well (begin 1.10. in the morning, end 5.10. in the evening, final concert 4.10./Matinee 5.10.)

Montecastelli is difficult to reach by bus (quite unreliable connections..), best to come by car, but help will be provided to all the others:

nearest airports are Pisa and Firenze, also Bologna is well connected. From there trains /busses run to Colle di Val d'Elsa/ Poggibonsi or from Pisa to Volterra or Pomarance. Then pick ups will be organized by us.

We eat, sleep, practice and have lessons in the wonderful castello of Science & Music, Il Poggio di Montecastelli of Philipp Bonhoeffer, who builds there in his workshop string instruments and has been a famous doctor.

Swimming pool and billiard table are on the premises.

<https://www.scienceandmusic.com/>

**Costs:**

**Accommodation/full board** costs 100€ per night per person (in double room, 120 € in single room), to be transferred to Fondazione Science & Music **before 1.10.2025**:

Beneficiary: IL POGGIO MONTECASTELLI S.R.L.

IBAN: IT05S0637071110000010003099

BIC/SWIFT code: CRVOIT3V

**Subject:** full board and accommodation Masterclasses Montecastelli 10/25

**Course fee** is 400€ (for clarinet 320€, for an fixed chambermusic ensemble applying also 400€/ensemble)

to be transferred **with the acknowledgement of application** to:

Beneficiary: Anna Krimm

IBAN: DE40500105175407325003

BIC: INGDDEFFXXX

**Subject:** course fee Masterclasses Montecastelli 10/25

(In case of cancellation, we will withhold a registration fee of 50€)

**Included in the course are:**

5 solo lessons á 1 hour (clarinet 4 solo lessons)  
in case of application as a fixed ensemble 5x1,5h lessons  
piano accompaniment  
optional chambermusic  
performance training  
lectures

**Scholarship application:**

We can provide some scholarships for a reduced accomodation price of 200€ in total.  
Please send an application letter and a 5 min video with a piece of your choice until 31.8.2025 to  
annakrimm@gmx.de

**For general application please write:**

- your name and adress
- your cv
- your wish of teacher
- are you interested in some additional chambermusic?
- your solo repertoire
- your arrival/departure day and approximal time
- how you plan to travel

to **annakrimm@gmx.de**