



FOTO @ALINEKLIBER

EMMA KIRKBY AND FLORIAN FRANKE

VOCAL MASTERCLASS IN VIENNA

**FEB.
24. -28.
2026**



WEBSITE



EMAIL

COURSE LOCATION:
PALAIS SCHÖNBORN-BATTHYÁNY
RENNGASSE 4, A-1010 VIENNA

FINAL CONCERT
28 FEBRUARY AT 2:30 PM

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:
AUDIO SAMPLE OR VIDEO (LINK TO YOUTUBE OR
SIMILAR)

APPLICATION AND CONTACT:
COURSE REGISTRATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
20 JANUARY 2026 TO

GESANG.SEMINAR@GMAIL.COM
AFTER RECEIVING YOUR APPLICATION,
THE COURSE DIRECTORS WILL DECIDE ON ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION.

COURSE FEE:
€600 (STUDENTS: €500)
PASSIVE PARTICIPATION: €50 PER DAY,
€200 FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE
(INCLUDING THE FINAL CONCERT).

INSTRUMENTS:
PIANO (442 Hz)
HARPSICHORD (415 Hz)

After the inspiring masterclass in July 2025, Emma Kirkby and Florian Franke return to Vienna for a new course in February 2026. Held in the elegant Palais Schönborn-Batthyány, this masterclass will focus particularly on **Passion repertoire** by J. S. Bach, Handel, Telemann, and others - Participants are also welcome to bring freely chosen repertoire from any musical era.

Course Structure & Teaching Focus

All participants receive alternating daily input with both teachers:

Emma Kirkby

Interpretation, stylistic understanding, text delivery; efficient projection through embodying the text, expressive consonant work, gesture, and rhetorical clarity.

Florian Franke

Vocal technique, breath and body work, resonance, balance, and technical preparation for historically informed performance.

This combination of stylistic depth and technical development has proved highly valuable and is greatly appreciated by singers.

The outstanding harpsichordists and pianists **Jason Marmaras** and **Taichi Hiratsuka** will enrich the course with their expert accompaniment on both harpsichord and piano, bringing significant musical insight to the work with participants.

The course concludes on February 28 with a **final concert** in the palace's grand hall.

Participation and Application

Open to:

- professional singers
- voice students
- advanced amateurs with suitable experience

Application Materials

Please submit a link to a recent audio or video recording (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox, Google Drive) to:
gesang.seminar@gmail.com



Fees:

Active participation: €600 / €500 for students

Passive participation: €50 per day / €200 for the full course (incl. final concert)

Emma Kirkby's career as a singer began quite unexpectedly.

While studying Classical Philology at Oxford, she took every opportunity to sing, especially polyphonic works of the Renaissance. During her brief time teaching classical philology, she was fortunate to encounter numerous pioneering groups in Early Music and was deeply impressed by their expressive voices and the historical lute, wind, and string instruments they played.

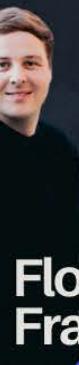
Today, she looks back on a decades-long career as a singer, captivating audiences worldwide with her distinctive voice and the expressiveness of her interpretations. More than 100 CD recordings bear witness to her artistic achievements.

Emma Kirkby is an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher and is invited to numerous masterclasses and academies around the world, where she is passionately committed to supporting the next generation of singers.

Further information: <http://www.emmakirkby.com>



Emma Kirkby



Florian Franke

The German bass-baritone **Florian Franke** is active internationally both as a concert singer and as a sought-after vocal pedagogue. Known for his empathetic and holistic approach, he works with professional singers, students, and choirs, earning an outstanding reputation as a mentor and coach. His long-standing collaboration with Emma Kirkby has significantly shaped his artistic work; together they regularly lead masterclasses and projects in Vienna, Venice, Neuburg an der Donau, Wernigerode, and at Hawkwood College (UK).

As a concert singer, Franke's repertoire spans from the great sacred works of Bach to contemporary music. Art song and lute song are also among his passions. He performs regularly with renowned orchestras such as the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra and gives concerts in numerous European countries.

As an educator, he teaches at Bielefeld University and the Church Music Academy in Schlußtern, serves as a mentor for vocal pedagogy students at the Detmold University of Music, and is frequently invited to masterclasses and choral projects – including the German National Youth Choir's project *Bach im Spiegel*.

Further information: <http://www.florianfranke-bassbariton.de>

OUR TEAM



Jason Marmaras

Jason Marmaras is a Greek keyboardist, singer, and conductor. He founded the Schola Cantorum Sancti Pauli in Athens and directs its vocal ensembles in Renaissance services and concerts both in Greece and abroad. As a harpsichordist, organist, and singer, he collaborates with renowned ensembles such as the APOLLON Ensemble, La Risonanza, and the Scroll Ensemble, and has performed on major stages including the Vienna Musikverein, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and Tokyo Opera City.

He is a prizewinner of the Berlin Bach Competition (2018) and the International Basso Continuo Competition (2019). Trained in The Hague and Basel, he now teaches improvisation, basso continuo, and vocal ensemble at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Taichi Hiratsuka, born in Tokyo in 1996, received early training in piano and clarinet and began his conducting studies at the age of 17 under teachers including Seiji Ozawa. After completing his bachelor's degree at the Tokyo University of the Arts, he has been studying conducting at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MUK) with Prof. Andreas Stoehr since 2020 as a scholarship holder of the Japanese Ministry of Culture, and since 2023 also vocal coaching for opera.

His work as a conductor encompasses symphonic repertoire, contemporary music, and opera alike. He has already collaborated with renowned orchestras such as the Tonkünstler Orchestra of Lower Austria, Varna State Opera Orchestra, the Ryukyu Symphony Orchestra Festival Orchestra, members of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Allegro Festival Orchestra, Kodály Philharmonia Debrecen, Kyushu Symphony Orchestra, and Nara Symphony Orchestra.

In addition, he has organized and produced around 20 concerts, including various orchestral performances and educational concerts in schools. Since 2023, he has been organizing several concerts in Eppan, South Tyrol, to promote education and culture.

As a pianist, he performs both as a soloist and in chamber music and has served as an official accompanist at international festivals such as the Nałczów Music Festival, the East-West Music Festival, and the International Holland Music Session.



TAICHI HIRATSUKA