

ACCADEMIA VICINO



University for
Continuing
Education Krems



Music - an integral part of the reconstruction process

In 2016 and 2017, central Italy was shaken by a series of earthquakes. This event brought much suffering and destruction to the region. The historic centre of the town of Accumoli was largely destroyed.

The »**Accademia Vicino di Accumoli**« is a music academy and aims to support the **complex reconstruction** process. In this way, the focus is not only on the physical reconstruction of the buildings, squares and infrastructure, but also on the **revitalisation** of cultural, social and religious life in Accumoli. The aim is to create economic impetus. The town is to be revitalised and filled with functions and tasks.

The »Accademia Vicino di Accumoli« is not only intended to help **international musical** talents discover the hidden treasures of Accumoli and the region, but also to promote **musical talent from the region** and create an international network.

The young musical talents should also be made aware of the responsibility of their skills. Music can be used to support the reconstruction of destroyed historic towns and cities and bring endless joy in the process. Music is now an integral part of strategic reconstruction (»Mapa di comunità«).

The academy organises **music lessons** and **orchestra rehearsals**. **Concerts** are also held in Norcia and Accumoli and the **commemorations** of the earthquake will be accompanied by music, as well

as a musical event with the local band. Lectures will also be held on the reconstruction process and the earthquake damage will be visited; the academy participants will also be familiarised with the local culture, specialities and products. The Accademia Vicino di Accumoli leaves participants with unforgettable memories.

The »Accademia Vicino di Accumoli« is an initiative of Art in Dialogue and the University for Continuing Education Krems (Danube University Krems). The music academy is organised in cooperation with the »Comune di Accumoli«, with »Radici Accumolesi«, with »Pro Loco di Accumoli«, with »Corpo bandistico di Accumoli« and with the »Comune di Norcia«.

The »Accademia Vicino di Accumoli« is one of several projects organised by the »**Scuola di Ricostruzione di Accumoli**« (www.sdr.accumoli.eu). This represents a consortium of the Comune di Accumoli, the University for Continuing Education Krems (Danube University Krems), La Sapienza University of Rome, the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant'Anselmo, the Camerino University, the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, the Masaryk University of Brno, the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Czech Republic Academy of Science and the city of Venzone. The aim of the interdisciplinary cooperation is to develop and implement long-term teaching and research projects for the holistic reconstruction of destroyed historical centres.



Scuola di Ricostruzione di Accumoli

After the series of earthquakes, a school building was erected on a hill above the historic center of Accumoli, which now serves as the home for the »School of Reconstruction.«

Together for Accumoli

The Coordinating Team

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10th Memorial Anniversary

The **Accademia Vicino di Accumoli 2026** will focus on commemorating '10 years since the 2016 earthquake'. South Tyrolean composer **Richard Josef Sigmund** has composed the oratorio '**Rimembranza**' (op. 90) especially for this occasion, which will be premiered on **24 August 2026** as part of an official commemorative ceremony under his direction, together with soloists, local choirs and choirs from Krems (Austria) and Bolzano (Italy).

As a musical greeting from the Wachau region (Lower Austria), pieces by local composer **Ernst Schandl** (1920-1997) will be performed at the concert in **Norcia** together with the choir of the Universities of Krems ('Choryphäen'). This year's repertoire also includes the overture to '**The Magic Flute**' by **Wolfgang A. Mozart**

(1756 - 1791) and the overture and dances from '**Orfeo e Euridice**' by **Christoph W. Gluck** (1714 - 1787).

The programme includes theoretical and practical **orchestra lessons** and orchestra rehearsals, as well as specialist **lectures on the reconstruction process**, programmes on **local culture and history, tastings and celebrations** with the local population. The programme also includes **musical interactions** with the local band.

Public events include concerts in **Accumoli** and **Norcia**, a musical interaction with the **Accumoli band**, musical accompaniment for the anniversary commemorations of the earthquake, and the premiere of '**Rimembranza**' in **Amatrice**.



Musicians from nine nations performing together in Accumoli

Cheers after a concert by the »Orchestra dell'Accademia Vicino di Accumoli« and the »Complesso Bandistico Città di Accumoli«, the local band from Accumoli. In front: Maestro Pier Luigi Valesini, left of him Mayor Franca d'Angeli and Prof. Christian Hanus.



Registration

Dear talented musicians!

We are delighted that you are interested in taking part in the Accademia Vicino di Accumoli. Please read the following information carefully.

Criteria for participation

- Minimum age **18 years**
- **Advanced training stage** or **professional level**
- Participation in presence from **19th - 25th August 2026**
- Existing **health** and **accident insurance** for Italy

Application form

You must qualify to participate by submitting an **audition video**. If you have a **letter of recommendation** from a specialist, you do not need to send in the audition video. There is no legal claim to participation. To apply, please out the application form carefully and completely. The application deadline is **30th April 2026**.

The organiser shall not be liable for any programme changes, delays or cancellation of one or more activities or the entire course due to events beyond its reasonable control. This includes, in

particular, circumstances such as outbreaks of communicable diseases, pandemics, quarantines, national or regional emergency measures and other cases of force majeure. Please contact us if you have any questions, we will be happy to assist you (office@accademiavicino.eu)

Participation in the academy (including lessons, community events, parties, transport, materials, academy shirts, etc.) is free of participation fee. However, participants are responsible for covering their accommodation expenses, capped at € 40 per night, and meals, estimated at approximately € 12 per day. The organiser will provide assistance in arranging appropriate scholarships, such as ERASMUS grants and various other funding opportunities.

The organiser will provide assistance with both arrival and departure arrangements, as well as accommodation reservations. Lessons will be held at the Scuola di Ricostruzione di Accumoli, located at via Pasqualino snc, 02011 Accumoli RI (Italy). The primary language of instruction for the course is English. Transportation, transfers, and excursions will be organised by the organiser.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Reflections on Richard Josef Sigmund's oratorio *Rimembranza* (Op. 90)

This work arose from a deeply personal experience. After the devastating earthquake in central Italy in 2016, I spontaneously organised a relief effort with friends and participated directly in the rescue and support measures. In direct encounter with the suffering, but also with the astonishing dignity and resilience of the people affected, a lasting inner connection grew within me – an emotional closeness to the communities that has been part of my thinking and feeling ever since.

Through numerous personal contacts, conversations and encounters, I became increasingly aware that help means much more than securing basic needs – more than food, warmth and a protective roof. There is something deeper in the nature of interpersonal relationships: emotional and cultural support. True closeness arises where people not only care for each other materially, but also support each other emotionally. It is realised in shared experiences, in cultural creativity, in shared memories, in shared laughter – and even in shared silence. It is this deeply human aspect that lifts us up and carries us forward, even in the most difficult times.

The composition 'Rimembranza' is intended as a musical expression of remembrance. In words, fragments of sound and deliberately simple melodic lines, it seeks to convey a sense of respect, mourning and, at the same time, hope. Pain, fear and the deep wounds left by the earthquake have become engraved in the collective memory of

the affected regions. But memory must not remain static. It must be transformed into responsibility – for reconstruction, for life, for a future that draws new strength from an awareness of vulnerability.

'Rimembranza' is conceived for soloists, choir and orchestra and is divided into three parts: prologue, Missa da Requiem and epilogue. Between the musical sections, melodramatic text recitations are added, which serve as moments of inner reflection and contemplation. They open up spaces for reflection in which what is heard can be transformed into personal experience.

The text and musical language are deliberately kept simple. This simplicity is not a renunciation, but an invitation: it is intended to enable as many singers as possible – especially those from the affected areas – to participate in this commemorative project. Making music together allows for a deeper engagement with what has been experienced. For some, this participation may be a painful but healing memory; for others – and this is my sincere hope – it may be a step beyond mere mourning: a creative act from which strength, confidence and the courage to live a successful life can grow.

I wish all the performers – especially the orchestra musicians and singers – a moving and fulfilling encounter with this work. May it be not only a remembrance, but a living expression of humanity and shared hope.

Tutors

An Advanced Program Under the Direction of Leading Tutors

The **Accademia Vicino di Accumoli** presents itself as a unique advanced training program for lovers of performance music, combining the development of emerging talent both in the professional and amateur sectors. Under the artistic direction of top-tier musicians with internationally recognized pedagogical expertise, participants from

various countries receive high-level instruction. This goes beyond rehearsals and includes a range of public performances. The spectacular landscape of Accumoli and its surroundings provides the ideal setting for a rich and varied program, encouraging interdisciplinary exchange as well as social and intercultural community building.



Maestro Richard Josef Sigmund

Richard Josef Sigmund completed his vocal performance studies (concert singing, art song and oratorio, as well as music drama) at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

He subsequently received performance engagements in Vienna, Munich, and elsewhere.

In 1988, he returned to South Tyrol, where he has since been active as a vocal coach,

cultural manager, conductor, stage director, and composer. Numerous conducting and directing engagements have taken him to Croatia, Italy, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Greece, and beyond.

He has successfully initiated and led several cultural projects in Merano over many years.

Richard Josef Sigmund is an internationally renowned vocal pedagogue and a recognized expert in singing and stage direction for opera and musical theatre.



Marcello Defant, violinist

Marcello Defant was born in Fermo (Italy).

He travels extensively in a very active performing and teaching career, which has recently taken him to China, the United States, France, Spain and throughout Italy. He has also performed in Turkey, Japan, South America, Africa, England, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands.

He studied violin with Ruggiero Ricci, Salvatore Accardo and Franco Mezzena. He has also studied viola and composition with Dino

Asciolla and Renato Dionisi, and was recently granted his doctorate at the University of Bologna. Since his first public performance at the age of 15, he has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in a career that is renowned for its virtuosity and inexhaustible eclecticism. His activity ranges from a well established duo with pianist Giacomo Battarino to performances as first violin of the German based "Concord" ensemble, which reunites outstanding musicians from all of Europe.



Erich Niederdorfer, cellist

Erich Niederdorfer was born in Eisenkappel in Carinthia (Austria).

After graduating from high school, he studied cello with Professor Chronopoulos at the University of Music in Graz. Erich Niederdorfer completed additional studies at the Vienna University of Music under visiting professor André Navarra. There he also studied composition with Professor Urbanner.

He took part in masterclasses with Maurice

Gendron and Paul Tortelier and enjoyed private lessons with Pierre Fournier in Geneva.

Erich Niederdorfer is known for his numerous appearances as a soloist on radio programmes and his work at the Vienna State Opera and the "Vereinigte Bühnen Wien".

He was a member of the Tyrolean Symphony Orchestra Innsbruck for over twenty years. He has founded several chamber music ensembles.



Renato Bizzotto, oboist

Renato Bizzotto is a renowned oboist and was the long-standing principal oboist of the Zurich Symphony Orchestra. From 2000 to 2004, he lived in China and worked as principal oboist with the Beijing Symphony Orchestra and the Shanghai Radio Orchestra.

He is the founder and director of the internationally recognized Muri Masterclasses and The Muri Competition, one of the world's leading competitions for oboe and bassoon. As artistic director of »Musik im Festsaal«,

he has a formative influence on musical life in the canton of Aargau.

Bizzotto is a member of the Aargau Wind Soloists and is intensively involved in chamber music and the organization of international masterclasses and competitions. His repertoire includes works by Mozart, Beethoven, Poulenc, Ibert, Stamitz, and Villa-Lobos, among others; works by C. Diethelm have also been dedicated to him for the Trio d'anches.



Accademia Vicino

Research Lab Sustainable Cultural Heritage

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