

International Autumn Academy for Singing and Orchestral Conducting

Dame Emma Kirkby
Soprano

Prof. Howard Williams
Orchestral Conducting

Bass-Baritone
Florian Franke

Philharmonic
Chamber Orchestra
Wernigerode

Repetiteur
Nadja Naumova

17th to 24th September 2025
in Wernigerode

Tutors



Dame Emma Kirkby

Emma Kirkby feels lucky in many ways: that she met renaissance vocal polyphony while still at school, that she studied Classics and sang with the Schola Cantorum at Oxford, and, best of all, that there she encountered “historical” instruments known to Renaissance and Baroque composers, the lute, harpsichord, and wind and string instruments, whose sound and human scale drew from her an instinctive response. As a schoolteacher and amateur singer she was invited to perform professionally with pioneer groups; and long partnerships followed in Britain and abroad, with ensembles, individual players, and record companies, so that now Emma’s voice and style are recognized worldwide. Emma was awarded a DBE in 2007, and in 2011 the Queen’s Medal for Music. Amazed by all this, she is nevertheless glad of the recognition it implies, for a way of music-making that values ensemble, clarity and stillness above volume and display; above all she is delighted to see a new generation of singers and players bringing their skills to the endeavor.

More information: www.emmakirkby.com



Prof. Howard Williams

Howard Williams, one of Britain's most experienced conductors on the international platform, has covered a formidable range of work both in the opera house and concert hall. His large symphonic repertoire is matched in the theatre by nearly a hundred opera and ballet titles. He has a special affinity with singers, both in opera and concert.

In the UK, he has conducted all the BBC orchestras and most of the independent orchestras, appearing at the BBC Proms and at the Edinburgh, Leeds, Bath and Brighton Festivals, as well as festivals in Budapest, Hong Kong, and throughout Europe.

Howard has also featured in the concert seasons of the Austrian Radio Symphony, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Swedish Radio Orchestra, Belgian Radio Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestras, Slovak Philharmonic, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Hungarian Radio Symphony, Budapest Philharmonic, Orchestre Nationale de Lyon, Orchestre de Strasbourg, Orchestre Symphonique de Montpellier, Orchestre de Picardie, RTE Symphony Orchestra Dublin and the Portuguese National Symphony Orchestra.

Following his appointment in 1989 as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Pécs Symphony Orchestra (now Pannon Philharmonic), Hungary, Howard spent a significant amount of time working with the leading orchestras in that country. In 2000 he was appointed Head of Conducting at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and his six years in Cardiff enabled him to explore and develop his approach to the teaching of conductors. He has worked frequently with student orchestras and conductors at conservatoire and university level in the UK, Europe and the USA and is currently a Professor of Conducting at the Royal College of Music, London.

More information: www.howardwilliams.com



German Bass-baritone Florian Franke has made a name for himself both as a concert singer and as a singing teacher. Concert tours have taken him to France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Denmark and Greece. As a concert singer, he works with renowned orchestras and choirs like the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra. With the soprano Dame Emma Kirkby, Florian can be experienced as a singing teacher at international masterclasses as well as a singer.

Florian Franke is also a teacher of singing at the University of Bielefeld and the Kirchenmusikakademie Schlüchtern. In November 2024, he deputised for Prof. Caroline Thomas at the HfM Detmold. He is also in great demand as a lecturer for choral voice training.

Florian coached choirs such as the Bundesjugendchor, Göttinger Knabenchor and Andreaskantorei Hildesheim.

Florian Franke already enjoys the trust of many singers and is often praised for his sensitive and holistic work.

More information: www.florianfranke-bassbariton.de

Florian Franke



Pianist Nadja Naumova earned great international success as a concert pianist at an early age. She made her debut as a soloist with the St. Petersburg National Symphony Orchestra and won first prize at the "Citta di Racconigi" competition in Italy. She regularly performs as a soloist and accompanist throughout Europe.

In addition to her concert activities, Nadja Naumova is in high demand as a teacher and accompanist. Particularly close to her heart is her work as a répétiteur for singers. She holds a teaching position at the Detmold University of Music and is in great demand as a teacher for opera productions, concerts and international masterclasses

More information: www.nadjanaumova.com

Nadja Naumova

Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra Wernigerode

The PCOW's characteristic combination of high-quality sound and an openness for experimentation is reflected in an exceptionally broad stylistic flexibility and a multi-faceted programme for a wide variety of audience interests. Their main focus is on the tried and tested classical concert programmes in Wernigerode and the surrounding area, which are regularly supplemented by performances with renowned choirs, world premieres of contemporary works as well as film music and New Year's Eve concerts.

Since 1996, the „Wernigeroder Schlossfestspiele“, founded by MD Christian Fitzner, has been one of the outstanding cultural highlights in the annual events calendar of the regional event programme.

The Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra also offers innovative crossover projects in their classical concert programme ("classic meets jazz", "music forever"), which combine established artistic genres such as soul, jazz, funk and classical music.

More information: www.pkow.de



The Academy

In cooperation with the Wernigerode Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, the *"International Autumn Academy for Singing and Orchestral Conducting"* will take place in the pleasant atmosphere of the Villa Russo. The course **begins** on Wednesday, 17th September at 3 pm and **ends** on 24 September with a final concert with orchestra in the "Liebfrauen" concert hall in Wernigerode. This will also be the official opening concert of the orchestra's new season 2025/2026.

The Academy is aimed at **advanced students and professionals** in the fields of singing and orchestral conducting. Students of related disciplines, such as choral conducting or church music, are also encouraged to apply.

Singers will receive individual tuition from both Emma Kirkby and Florian Franke. Emma and Florian will also work in joint "team teaching units", which have proved very successful in the past. In addition, they will work together with Prof Howard Williams and the participating conductors on the course repertoire which they will rehearse with orchestra.

In addition to individual tuition in conducting technique and interpretation with the orchestra, **conductors** will have the opportunity to work musically with the participating singers under the guidance of Prof. Howard Williams.

The opportunity to sit in on each other's lessons is also offered and encouraged.

Course repertoire: Works to be selected from J.S. Bach/G.F. Händel to W.A. Mozart/J. Haydn as well as Lieder with orchestral accompaniment from Schubert, Berlioz, Durparc, Wolf to Mahler and Strauss.

Language: English

Application

Course registration must be submitted by 15.05.25 to mail@florianfranke-bassbariton.de

After receipt of the registration, the tutors will select the active participants by 15.06.25 at the latest.

Participation requirements:

Singers:

- Audio sample or video (link to YouTube or similar)

Conductors:

- Video (please send as a link)
- If no video is available, please send a letter of recommendation from a teacher.

Conductors will receive the allocation of their works to be conducted by 15.07.25 at the latest.

Please address any queries to: mail@florianfranke-bassbariton.de

Costs and accommodation

Costs:

Singers:

595,00 Euro
plus accommodation

Active participation is limited to a maximum of 12 singers.

Conductors:

795,00 Euro
plus accommodation

Active participation is limited to a maximum of 7 conductors.

Accommodation:

- Participants will be accommodated in the guest house (single room with ensuite bath and shower) at Villa Russo, subject to availability
- The cost including meals from 17th to 24th of September is 349,00 Euro
- For participants with a limited budget, there is a limited possibility of free private accommodation in Wernigerode. Please indicate this when registering

*The order of registration determines the allocation of accommodation

** Double rooms: 320,00 Euro per person including meals

Locations:

Villa Russo

www.villa-russo.com

Feldstraße 7, 38855 Wernigerode

Konzerthaus „Liebfrauen“ Wernigerode

www.konzerthaus-wernigerode.de

Liebfrauenkirchhof 5, 38855 Wernigerode (Germany)

Our Sponsor

Hirsch-Apotheke Wernigerode
Dr. Christina Schlage

