



EUROPEAN UNION BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

CALL FOR GRANT AWARDS

Learning Grants for the period January 2026 – December 2026

PREAMBLE

Fondazione ICONS,

HAVING regard to art. 4 of its Statute

HAVING regard to the resolution of 19 June 2017 of the General Council which approved the Call for Grants conferral for musicians participating in the learning projects of European Union Baroque Orchestra

LAUNCHES

a contest based on merit to award **Learning Grants** addressed to musicians wishing to enter the European Union Baroque Orchestra and participate in its learning activities for the period
January 2026 – December 2026

This Call is published on the website of the European Union Baroque Orchestra

www.eubo-orchestra.eu/auditions

The Call is published on 28.07.2025

The deadline for the submission of applications is **Thursday, 11 September 2025, 23:59pm (CET)**.

Fondazione ICONS

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ART. 1 | SUBJECT OF THE CALL

Art. 1.1. Characteristics of the Grants

The Grants enable the participation to a series of 4 (four) residencies of the European Union Baroque Orchestra [short: EUBO] covering the period **January 2026 – December 2026**, whose calendar is provisionally described in Art. 3.3.

Each Grant includes:

- Participation in the learning and artistic activities of EUBO, including Orchestra Residencies, specialized Workshops etc. to improve skills and experience in the performance of symphonic repertoire of the Baroque Era on period instruments.
- Participation in the scheduled concerts and recording activities at the end of each Residency.

Grantees will have to sign a binding **Learning Agreement** and commit to participate to all the scheduled Residencies and activities relevant to their instrument, their role within the orchestra and their own professionalizing path within EUBO.

Art. 1.2. Open Grants

The present Call is finalized to the award of new Learning Grants for a Learning Program covering the period **January 2026 – December 2026**. In particular, the following Grants are available to applicants for the following instruments:

- violin
- viola
- cello
- double bass
- oboe
- bassoon
- harpsichord

Art. 1.3. Grant Amount and Conditions

The amount of the Grant consists in a total lump-sum of 2.800 EUR (two thousand eight hundred Euros), gross of withholdings applicable in Italian law, for musicians winning the Grant for the categories of instrument described under Art. 1.2.

Fondazione ICONS will be fully in charge for organizing accommodation (double rooms) for grantees participating in artistic Residencies and on-site activities during their stay in Italy and abroad, and for the related expense.

Fondazione ICONS will cover the travelling costs for the orchestra during concert tours and the meals offered before each concert.

Fondazione ICONS will not cover the expenses of board and in- and outbound travelling to the destination specified in the Schedule (see Art. 3.3) that will be entirely borne by the Grantees. Fondazione ICONS will however try to offer special discounts for subsistence expenses to each Grantee, where possible and applicable.

Art 1.4. Qualified musicians for reserve list talent pool

A candidate can be qualified for EUBO's reserve list talent pool without being awarded one of the available full grants if he receives a positive evaluation from the jury following the auditions.

Qualified candidates will be included in a reserve list of musicians who may be offered a grant in case of renounce or withdrawal of awarded grants for their instrument.

In addition, qualified candidates are insert in a list of musicians that may be invited to join EUBO for specific productions and might be invited to take part in on-line activities of EUBO's learning cycle.

ART. 2 | AUDITIONS

Musical part

The auditions will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, in partnership with the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt am Main (HfMDK), from Thursday, 9 October o Saturday, 11 October 2026 included.

The detailed schedule will be communicated together with the invitation to attend the audition session in person in Frankfurt in order to allow attendants to book their travel arrangements.

The auditions will be run as orchestra and chamber music workshops under the supervision of the Board of Examiners: as a consequence, candidates are required to attend the whole event (availability for the whole period).

Motivational interview

Candidates who passed the musical part of the auditions will be invited to a motivational interview which will take place online indicatively within two weeks after the musical part. The individual interview time and the link for the online connection will be sent after the musical part and the latest by Monday, 13 October 2025.

Art. 2.1. Requirements for participation

Exclusively musicians who meet the following **mandatory requirements** may apply for admission to the selections:

- Born on or after **1 January 1997**.
- Citizenship of one of the Countries of the European Union or of the European Economic Area. Non-EU citizens may apply if they have a residence permit or visa in one of the Countries of the European Union, allowing them to travel, work and receive a study grant in the European Union.
- Not having received a study grant from ICONS for the participation in EUBO previously
- In-depth knowledge of performance praxis on authentic instruments.
- Use of period instruments or copies of period instrument.
- **The use of the baroque bow for strings and baroque instruments for winds is mandatory during the Auditions.**

Art. 2.2. Program of the Auditions

The musical programme will be published on the website www.eubo-orchestra.eu/auditions. Scores and parts will be sent together with the official invitation to attend the live audition and the detailed schedule.

2.2.1 ORCHESTRAL PIECES

[This programme might be subject to changes and will be confirmed together with the invitation to attend the audition session in person]

Georg Friedrich Händel Water Music Suite in F Major HWV 348, all movements without horns (n.1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 10)
Georg Muffat: Sonata in G Major from *Armonico Tributo*, 1682

2.2.2 CHAMBER MUSIC PIECES

The detailed chamber music programme and groups will be communicated (and the scores will be sent) together with the official invitation to attend the audition session in person

The pitch must be A=415 Hz for all instruments.

The use of the baroque bow for strings instruments is mandatory.

The Board of Examiners for the Auditions will be composed of

Alfredo Bernardini – Oboe, Principal Conductor

Gemma Longoni – Violin, Concertmaster

Christoph Dangel – Cello, Tutor

Mario Martinoli – Harpsichord, Artistic Director

Susanna Bucher – EUBO General Manager

Art. 2.3. Award of the Grant

All candidates participating to the live auditions in Frankfurt will be ranked by the Boards of Examiners on a classification of merit, including motivational aspects.

Candidates with the highest score will be offered one of the available Grants. The remaining candidates, exceeding the availability of Grants, will not be admitted to the Learning Program of EUBO for the one-year period January 2026 – December 2026.

Art. 2.4. Further Procedures

If the present Call fails to identify sufficient eligible candidates, Fondazione ICONS reserves the right to launch subsequently a new contest based on Learning Qualifications and Examinations for the conferral of the remaining available Grants.

ART. 3 | PROCEDURE OF ALLOCATION AND REPORTING OF THE GRANTS

Art. 3.1. Grant allocation and payment

All Grants will start in January 2026 and will be running up to December 2026.

The allocation of the Grants will be subject to the signature by the Grantee and Fondazione ICONS, of a binding Learning Agreement reflecting the provisions laid down in this Call.

The allocation of the Grants will be subject to the actual performance of training activities proposed for each Learning Program based on the reference instrument.

The allocation will be made by bank transfer and will be paid by instalments based on the progress in the Learning Program for each category of instrument and type of Grant.

Art. 3.2. Revocation of Grant and suspension of the Learning Program

The Foundation reserves the right, to its unquestionable judgment, to revoke the Grant if the musician being awarded fails in the prescribed learning obligations, viz.:

- If the musician fails to attend the agreed number of residencies within the duration of the grant
- If the study activity and participation is judged qualitatively inadequate by Fondazione ICONS management and/or musical conductors and/or tutors and/or learning supervisors.

In case of voluntary waiver of the Grant, the Grantee must compulsorily submit a request for waiver to Fondazione ICONS, which shall be assessed and formally approved by the General Council of Fondazione ICONS.

In both cases, the amounts already paid should be returned in full to Fondazione ICONS within 30 days of the date of notification of revocation to the Grantee. The voluntary waiver of the Grant implies the exclusion from the learning program.

Art. 3.3. General Schedule

Each grantee will be scheduled for the residences listed below from the Learning Program of the period January 2026 – December 2026. The detailed schedule and activities for each grantee will be agreed individually and determined by the Individual Learning Plan [ILP], attached to the Learning Agreement.

The ILP will be communicate according to the following calendar:

- January 2026 – June 2026: the ILP will be sent to each grantee by 31 October 2024 and will include the residencies listed below (or, in special cases, a selection of these residencies).
- July 2026 – December 2026: an updated ILP with more details about the residencies will be sent to the grantee on a regular basis.

With the signature of the Learning agreement, the grantee commits to give priority to EUBO projects and to wait for the signature of each ILPs before accepting other commitments in that period.

Participation in concerts, or any recordings that will be organized at the end of each Residency, is compulsory and forms an integral part of the Learning Program. The Schedule for the period January 2026 – December 2026 envisages the following Residencies¹ of interest for the new grantees and will be published at the address www.eubo-orchestra.eu/events/:

Provisional 2026 EUBO Schedule (Precise dates will be confirmed in the Learning Agreement)

PROJECT #11

4-12 May 2026 – Darmstadt / Schwetzingen (Germany) (venue TBC)

Musical direction: Christophe Rousset

Jean Philippe Rameau: *Pygmalion*

In collaboration with Deutsche Philharmonie Merck and Schwetzingen SWR Festspiele

Project #12

First half of June 2026 – (Lithuania and Sweden) (venues TBC)

Musical direction: Claudio Astronio

In collaboration with Stockholm Early Music Festival

Project #13

5 – 22 July 2026 – Tartu (Estonia) and Kuopio, Sastamala and Helsinki (Finland) (venues TBC)

Musical direction: Alfredo Bernardini

In collaboration with Glasperlenspiel Festival and Estonian Record Productions, Sastamala Gregoriana Festival and Barokkikuopio Festival

Project #14

5 – 15 September 2026 – Kloster Michaelstein (Germany) and Poland (venues TBC)

In collaboration with Kloster Michaelstein

¹ Dates and locations may be subject to slight changes. A final calendar will be specified in the Learning Agreement. Possible changes will be communicated by Fondazione ICONS. at least 3 months before the event. The official updated calendar of Residencies is always updated and available at the address www.eubo-orchestra.eu/events/.

ART. 4 | APPLICATION

In order to participate to the Auditions, candidates must fill out the form available at the following [link](#).

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Susanna Bucher, general manager of EUBO, at susanna.bucher@icons.it.

Applications will be considered individually and judged as eligible only if provided with all the required documents.

Due to the high number of expected applications, the Board of Examiners might make a pre-selection on the basis of the CV and the video recording. Only a limited number of musicians will be invited to the audition sessions in Frankfurt.

The deadline for application submission is **Thursday, 11 September 2025, 23:59 pm (CET)**

ART. 5 | PRE-SELECTION VIDEO: REQUIREMENTS

As part of the application process to join the EUBO, candidates are required to submit a pre-selection video. The following conditions must be strictly observed:

Art. 5.1. Requirements

- Period Instruments: Candidates must use period instruments with a Baroque setup.
Wind instruments: CANDIDATES PLAYING MODERN INSTRUMENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE.
String Instruments: Must follow the historically informed set-up for the baroque era outlined in the [String Instrument Set-up Guidelines](#). **CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE.**
- **Pitch:** A=415 Hz for all instruments.

Technical requirements:

- **No editing:** the video should ideally be one continuous recording. If this is not possible, the candidate can submit several videos, but each must be unedited and uninterrupted, with cuts allowed **only between complete pieces or movements**—in no case while the candidate is performing. No further post-production enhancements are permitted.
- **Video and Audio:** The recording must include both image and sound. Submissions consisting solely of audio, or audio with a fixed image, will not be accepted.
- **Audio Quality:** While professional equipment is not required, the video must be of sufficient quality to clearly convey the musical performance.
- **Recording Date:** The video must have been recorded within 12 months prior to the submission deadline.
- It is possible to submit YouTube or downloadable links (e.g., WeTransfer, Google Drive)

Art. 5.2. Content

The preselection video should contain:

1. A brief introduction of yourself (maximum 2 minutes)
2. The required musical programme for your instrument (see details below)

Details for part 2: Musical programme (per instrument):

If you wish to receive the scores, please write to Yeefei Koay, orchestra manager, at yeefei.koay@icons.it

VIOLIN

Arcangelo Corelli: Sonata 3 in C Major, First and Second movement: *Adagio & Fuga*

VIOLA

Franz Benda: Viola Sonata in c minor LIII.137, First and Second movement: *Adagio & Allegretto*

CELLO

Salvatore Lanzetti: Sonata 9 in a minor, First and Second movement: *Adagio & Allegro*

DOUBLE BASS

Giovanni Battista Vitali: Capritio sopra otto figure

OBOE

Georg Friedrich Händel: Sonata in c minor HWV 366

BASSOON

Georg Philipp Telemann: Bassoon Sonata in f minor TWV 41:f1

HARPSICHORD

1. Choose between:
Johann Sebastian Bach: Gigue from Partita 4 in D Major
OR
Johann Sebastian Bach: Gigue from Partita 5 in G Major
2. **Continuo:** one free non-edited video of continuo playing in duo, trio or quartet

ART. 6 | NOTIFICATION OF THE OUTCOME

The outcome of the pre-selection and the official invitation to the audition sessions in Frankfurt will be notified directly to each candidate as soon as possible and in due time to allow invited candidates to book travel arrangements.

ART. 7 | TRAVEL COSTS

Applicants are responsible for expenses incurred in connection with travel for the audition.

Applicants accept any traveling restrictions that might be issued by German authorities at the time of the auditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ART. 8 | BINDING CLAUSE

Participation in this Call involves the candidate accepting all the provisions of this regulation.

Lodi, 28 July 2025

The President
Mario Martinol



Privacy Policy: pursuant to art. 13 of Legislative Decree 196/03, we inform that the data provided with the application for admission to the selection is subject to confidentiality and shall be processed solely for organizing the concerts and for sending notices regarding the grant. The provision of data is not compulsory, but it is necessary to give full assistance to the participants and their non-notification is a reason for exclusion. Pursuant to art. 7 of the above-mentioned law, the data controller is entitled to know, update, delete and rectify the data or to oppose its use.

HfMDK

The auditions are hosted by Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt am Main (HfMDK)