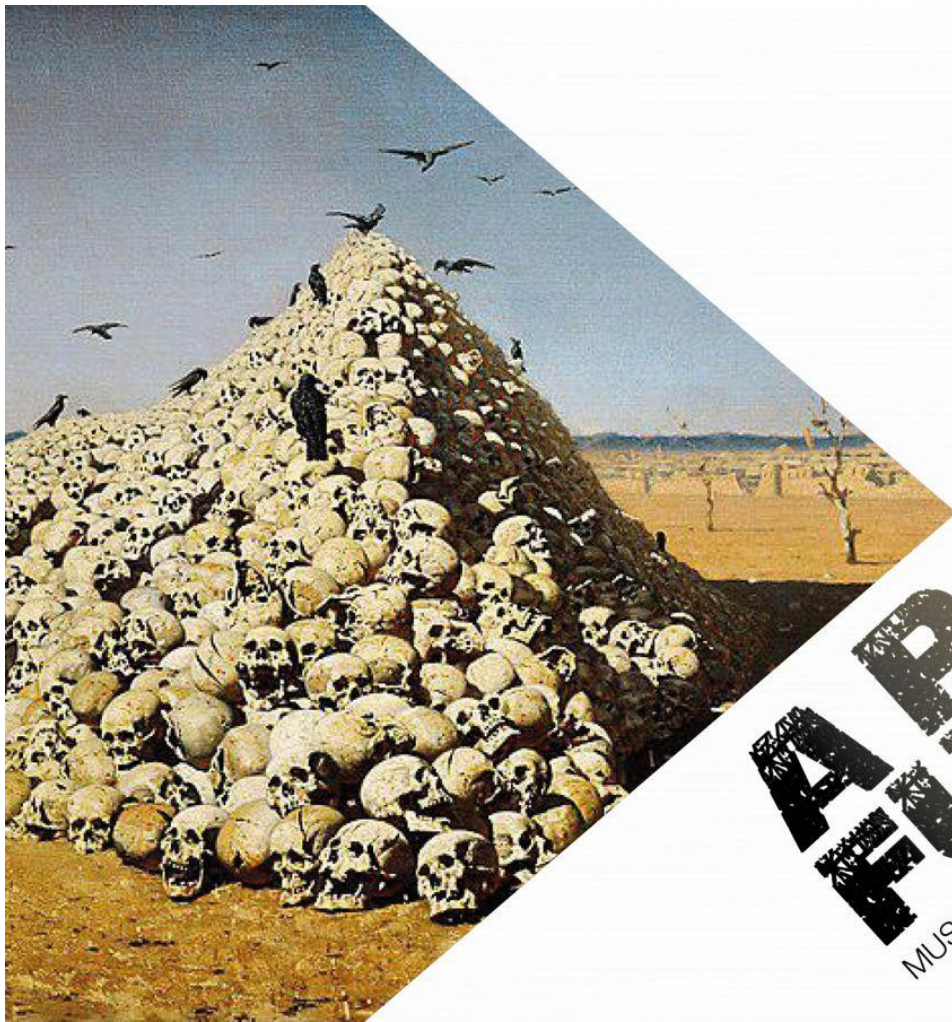




MALTA SPRING FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL STRINGS ACADEMY

21 - 26 April 2025

www.maltaspringfestival.com



19TH MALTA SPRING FESTIVAL

A BRADIANANT FUTURE

22-26
APRIL
2025

MUSIC · DANCE · PERFORMANCES

Artistic Director : Karl Florini

BOOKINGS :
WWW.TEATRUMANOEL.MT

WWW.MALTASPRINGFESTIVAL.COM



About

Conceived and founded in 2005 [as International Spring Orchestra Festival VO no. 1474] by composer Karl Fiorini, The Malta Spring Festival is an annual classical and contemporary music festival known for its innovative programming and commitment to new orchestral and chamber works. The Malta Spring Festival is held in Valletta, presenting each year its listeners with a theme [2017 From Zappa to Beethoven, 2018 Revolution and its Composers, 2019 Of Death and Maidens, 2020 Must it be? It must be!, 2021 Degenerates, 2022 About Hope, 2023 the Island of Nowhere, 2024 Fighting for Hope]. Exploring the repertoire from the classicists to the current day, to rarely performed or hitherto unheard in Malta, the programming takes the audience on a journey of cultural, psychological and personal discovery. The Malta Spring Festival takes pride in carefully selecting an ambitious roster of artists and on placing a premium on challenge, innovation and class, showcasing the new with the not-so-old in unexpected juxtapositions of programming. Running parallel to the evening concerts and recitals, an education strand of the Malta Spring Festival - The Rising Stars Concert Series - welcomes up-and-coming local artists to hone their skills on the larger stage, encouraging them to think and compare less regionally, with the aim of providing these young artists in-the-making the necessary springboard to pursue their musical education beyond the shores of Malta.



18TH MALTA SPRING FESTIVAL

FIGHTING FOR HOPE

MUSIC · DANCE · PERFORMANCES

2-13 APRIL 2024

Artistic Director : Karl Fiorini



17TH MALTA SPRING FESTIVAL

THE ISLAND OF NOWHERE

MUSIC · DANCE · PERFORMANCES

11-15 APRIL 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR : KARL FIORINI

The "Malta Spring Festival International Strings Academy" is a one-week intensive course held during the **Malta Spring Festival**, from the 21st to the 26th April, 2025. This free program - including tuition and accommodation* - offers Masterclasses focused on solo and chamber repertoire, and orchestral training sessions. Open to string players currently studying in a Music Institution / University, the Academy provides the opportunity to learn from a host of highly experienced and renowned European musicians and pedagogues.

* Twin-room accommodation at the Preluna Hotel, Sliema, [4 star hotel] on bed & breakfast basis.

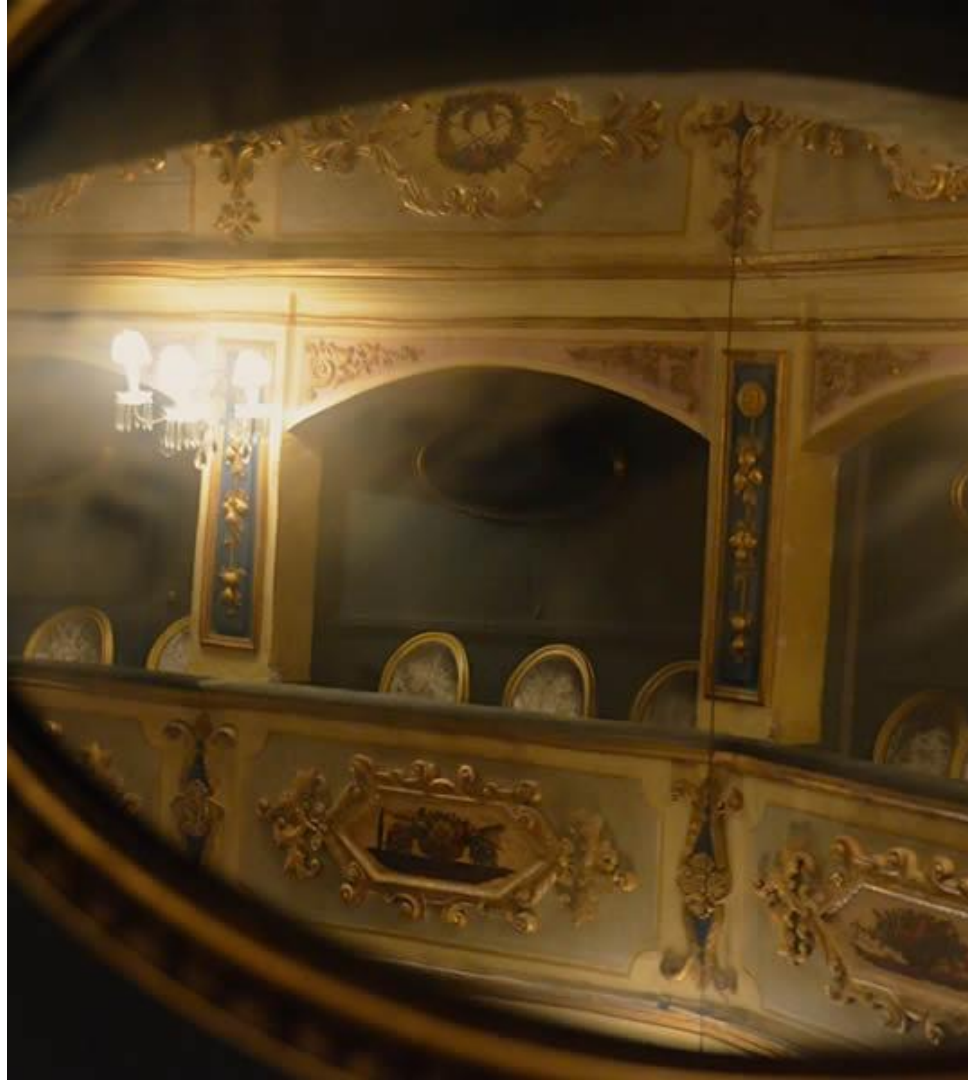


Masterclasses

Each student will receive a minimum of *three* individual lessons and will have the unique opportunity to collaborate directly with world-class faculty in chamber music settings. Chamber ensembles will be carefully curated by the Academy, with at least one faculty member joining each group.

The Masterclasses will take place in some of Malta's most prestigious venues, including the Malta Society of Arts, the Casino Maltese, the Nicolò Isouard Music Room at the Manoel Theatre, and the National Library—each located in the breathtaking fortified capital city of Valletta. Afternoons will be dedicated to rehearsals for the string orchestra, preparing for an exciting final concert on April 26th. The repertoire includes Shostakovich's *Chamber Symphony*, Op. 110a, Tchaikovsky's *Serenade*, Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* for violin solo, strings, and percussion featuring renowned soloist Dmitry Sitkovetsky, and *Pentimenti* for strings and percussion by Karl Fiorini.

As part of the program, students will attend evening concerts programmed during the festival at no additional cost. These performances, featuring international artists, which provides a chance to witness exceptional musicianship and reflect on the artistry presented.



Guest of Honour | Dmitry Sitkovetsky

A renaissance man and a magnetic creative force, Dmitry Sitkovetsky is recognized throughout the world for the considerable impact he makes on every aspect of musical life. A prolific recording artist, with a career spanning more than four decades, he is celebrated globally as a violinist, conductor, creator, transcriber and facilitator – holding an undisputed and venerable position in musical society as a giant personality and educator.

His celebrated career is documented in an extensive discography of more than 40 recordings, reflecting the impressive breadth of his repertoire. His recording collaborators to date include such orchestras as the London Symphony, Philharmonia, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, under the batons of such legendary maestros as Sir Colin Davis, Mariss Jansons, Sir Neville Marriner and Lord Yehudi Menuhin. As a soloist, Sitkovetsky has performed with the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, New York Philharmonic, NHK Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra, among others.

He is also in high demand as a jury member, having served at such competitions as Queen Elisabeth in Brussels, Tchaikovsky in Moscow, Montreal in Canada, Indianapolis in the United States, and the George Enescu in Bucharest, where Sitkovetsky returns as the President of the Jury for the fourth time in September 2024.

Sitkovetsky's name has also become synonymous with the art of transcription. His iconic orchestral and string trio versions of J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations have taken on a life of their own – enjoying regular performances and acclaimed recordings by many of today's leading performers.



Violin



Charles Sewart | Head of Strings at the Purcell School

Having studied in London at Westminster School and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Charles has had the privilege to be guided by some of the most distinguished and acclaimed specialists and pedagogues in the world of violin performance and chamber music. Joining the celebrated Chilingirian Quartet in 1992 Charles had the fortune to perform in over 50 countries at important venues worldwide, collaborating with many distinguished artists in performances of the great masterpieces of the repertoire, both historic as well as new commissions. Charles has had the honour of being Head of Strings at The Purcell School since 2008 where he enjoys the great responsibility of nurturing some of the finest talent from all around the world, supported by a team of highly experienced international artists and pedagogues.



Emanuel Salvador | International Soloist

Emanuel has been described by the Strad Magazine as "one of the finest Portuguese violinists of his generation". He has played as soloist, chamber musician and orchestral leader on four continents including extensive tours in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Emanuel is artistic director of both Guimarães Clássico Festival and Szczecin Classic Festival. He served as concertmaster of the Orquestra do Norte in Portugal for a decade, from 2005 to 2015, and later took on the role of concertmaster at the Baltic Neopolis Chamber Orchestra in Poland. As a guest concertmaster, he has collaborated with orchestras such as the Spanish National Orchestra, Seoul Classical Players, Remix Ensemble, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Musica, and Orquestra Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias, among others. Emanuel plays a violin by J. B. Ceruti from 1802.



Maria Conrad | Orchestra leader

Maria began her piano and violin studies at an early age, obtaining Associate and Licentiate Diplomas from London College of Music, Trinity College of Music and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in both instruments. She graduated from the University of Malta in Music and German Studies, and completed her postgraduate violin studies at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Between 2001-2011 she worked with several leading Spanish orchestras. As from 2012 Maria was a regular member of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra where she was also associate concertmaster, as well as string coordinator and violin tutor at the Malta Youth Orchestra. Since September 2024 she is a member of ADDA Simfónica (Alicante), one of Spain's most dynamic and exciting new orchestral formations.

Viola



Emilia Goch | Orchestra section leader

Emilia graduated with honours from the Jan Paderewski Music Academy in Poznań in 2005. As a soloist and chamber musician, Emilia has collaborated with artists including Bartłomiej Nizioł, Vasko Vassilev, Marcelo Nisinman, and Kevin Kenner. From 2005 to 2018, she performed with various ensembles and orchestras such as Deutsche Oper Solisten, Covent Garden Soloists, and the Symphony Orchestra of India, touring in countries like India, Norway, Germany, and Singapore. From 2012 to 2015, she worked with Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, participating in international productions *Sutra* and *Orbo Nova*.

Violoncello



Adam Klocek | International soloist

Adam is a distinguished cellist, conductor and educator. He has held significant roles in several prestigious Polish music institutions, including serving as the Director of the Kalisz Philharmonic from 2006 to 2020 and the Director of the Częstochowa Philharmonic since 2020. Klocek is also an accomplished academic, working as an associate professor at the Academy of Music in Kraków. Adam's career spans classical and jazz music, and he performs on a rare 1717 Stradivarius cello. He has been honored with the Silver Gloria Artis Medal for Merit to Culture. His contributions to the music world continue to leave a lasting impact on Polish and international audiences.

Double Bass



Gjorgji Cincievski | Double bass virtuoso

Gjorgji is the Principal Double bass player with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. He was the first Junior Fellow in Double bass at the Royal Northern College of Music, he has performed with some of the most prestigious and world leading orchestras such as the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, WDR Funkhaus Orchestra, Aachen Symphony Orchestra, Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, Halle Orchestra, Malmö Symphony Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Liepāja Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Opera North, Northern Sinfonia, Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, as well as collaborating with some of the leading conductors and artists of today.

Brian Schembri | Conductor

One of the most brilliant musicians to emerge from Malta, Brian Schembri started his music studies with his father Carmelo Schembri. He later graduated in piano and conducting at the Kiev and Moscow "Tchaikovsky" Conservatories studying with A. Snegiriov, S. Dorensky, R. Kofman and G. Rozhdstvensky.

Actively performing as a concert pianist, he started working as assistant conductor with Michel Plasson and Emmanuel Krivine, closely collaborating with prestigious conductors Edoardo Muller, Serge Baudo, Yuri Temirkanov, Garcia Navarro, Armin Jordan.

Eventually dedicating most of his time to conducting, he became Chief Conductor of the OPFOrchestra and the Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, Music Director at Malta National Theatre "Teatru Manoel" and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

Guest conductor engagements have included the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, l'Orquestra Ciutat Barcelona, l'Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, l'Orchestre Nationale de Radio France, the Lithuanian State Symphony, the Moscow Soloists, the Novosibirsk Philharmonic, London Mozart Players, l'Orchestre National de Lyon, London Philharmonic, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the Svetlanov State Symphony, opera productions at the Hong Kong, Lubeck, Nancy and Rennes opera theatres. Soloist have included Lucia Aliberti, Jacquelyn Wagner, Jose Cura, Joseph Calleja, Gianluca Terranova, Alexandre Da Costa, Carmine Lauri, Alexander Kniazev, Sergey Antonov, Ludmila Berlinskaia, Oleg Polianksy, Balazs Szokolay, Anne Queffelec, Emma Johnson, Sergei Nakariakov with performances at the "Festival Massenet", "Octobre en Normandie", "Les Rencontres Musicales d'Evian", "Festa da Musica", "Lisboa em Festa", "Festival Music Atlantico", "Fêtes de Genève", "Henley Festival", "Kings Lynn Festival", "Colmar International Festival". He has also composed scores for theatre productions at the Manoel Theatre, Teatru Strada Stretta in Malta, the Comédie Française in Paris and the Malta Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia 2022.

Since 2009 Brian Schembri has been a strong supporter of the International Spring Festival.

CD recordings include piano sonatas by Beethoven, Schubert and Rachmaninov, works by Charles Camilleri with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Bach concertos with the European Union Chamber Orchestra and Lucia Micallef and Tansman concertos with Diego Dini Ciacci and Fabrizio Meloni and the Malta Philharmonic.

Receiving critical acclaim as an artist of high caliber for his strongly passionate and lyrical performances, he has forged a strong reputation for a moving profound musicality.



Piano Accompanists



Sofia Narmania | Chamber musician and Accompanist

International prize-winning Abkhazian pianist Sofia Sciberras Narmania, gave her first concerts at the age of seven, continuing her advanced studies at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with Irina Plotnikova. Sofia appeared on the concert stage as a soloist with many orchestras, and gave several recitals in the main halls of Moscow and other cities of Russian Federation. As a soloist she performed the major concertos from Bach to Shostakovich and participated in numerous festivals and master-classes. Sofia continues her career as an accompanist with different instrumentalists and opera singers.



Julia Miller | Chamber musician and Accompanist

Julia graduated from the Music Academy of Lodz in piano performance and chamber music. Since then, she has carved for herself an international career both as a soloist and as a musical collaborator. She moved to Malta in 2012 and built herself a reputation as both an accompanist to vocalists as well as an accomplished pianist in her own right. She collaborated with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Kor Malta, the Manoel Theatre Youth Opera and been present in several festivals, including the Malta Baroque Festival, the Malta Spring Festival and has been piano accompanist to most celebrated musicians in Malta.



Debbie Shah | Head of Accompaniment at the Purcell School

Debbie enjoys a varied career of duo recital performances and chamber music. She has performed in many of the London Venues and also abroad. She has worked with some leading instrumentalists and is highly sought after as an accompanist and Chamber Musician. Debbie has also been resident pianist on various music courses around England and has been involved in Masterclasses with artists such as Rostropovitch and Vengerov. She is now Head of Accompaniment at the Purcell School and also teaches Chamber Music and piano. She works regularly as an accompanist for The Awards for Young Musicians and The Royal College of Music.

What the Malta Spring Festival International String Academy offers:

A Comprehensive Support Package for all participants selected for the 2025 cohort comprising:

Tuition: Full support covers all musical training, Masterclasses, and free access to all concerts during the Malta Spring Festival.

Accommodation: Selected students of the Malta Spring Festival International Strings Academy will receive accommodation provided by the festival.

Meals: Daily lunches are provided by the Malta Spring Festival. All other meals will be at the participants' own expense.

Travel: Travel expenses to and from Malta are the responsibility of the participants.



Application Process:

Please send the following materials to info@maltaspringfestival.com:

Two recent, high-quality video recordings (as links) of two contrasting pieces.

A high-resolution portrait photo (at least 1 MB).

A curriculum vitae, including the names of your past and current schools, as well as your professors.

A brief motivation letter outlining your personal musical achievements.

Deadline 28th February 2025

