

# Santorini Masterclasses

*solmization and  
counterpoint*

**14-20 July 2026**

Iason Marmaras

organized by  
Christos Marantos



## **greeting**

'Santorini masterclasses' aims to provide high quality music courses from recognized professionals in an international framework. The island of Santorini with its unique landscape will inspire the young musicians and reward them with unique experiences. I hope to see you there.

Warm regards,

Christos Marantos  
pianist/founder and artistic director  
of Santorini Masterclasses



## **Location**

The masterclass will take place in Gyzi Megaron, a special, historic venue that offers the right setting for all the planned activities. The Gyzi Megaron, as well as the dormitory and the newly renovated rooms of the guest house of the Lazarists belong to the Catholic Diocese of Santorini. Owing to the unique spirituality of the place, tourists are not allowed to stay there (the trust of the Catholic bishop in Christos Marantos makes such an invitation and accommodation possible). The whole complex is located in Fira, the capital of the island.

# masterclass overview / 14-20 July

## Solmization and Counterpoint

An exploration and embodiment of Renaissance Musica Practica on the island of Santorini, at the heart of the Aegean. Through intensive daily sessions, solmization and improvised counterpoint techniques will be practised in exercises, on plainchant melodies, and on renaissance repertoire.

This intensive masterclass offers an opportunity for highly skilled singers to develop and refine historical skills, thus deepening their understanding of the repertoire of the Renaissance.

Each day will start with historical solmization exercises and practice with the guidonian hand, working up to structured and free counterpoint exercises, during the morning session.

For the more advanced counterpoint exercises, the participants will also work autonomously in smaller groups and in pairs, providing the opportunity for individual practice and feedback.

The **afternoon session**, after a short mensural notation theory-and-practice or sightreading session, will be mostly devoted to rehearsal for the performances at the conclusion of the workshop.

All masterclass sessions will take place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, that belongs to the Catholic Diocese of Santorini.

At the conclusion of the workshop, an ensemble or ensembles of the participants will sing a concert at the Gyzi Megaron, presenting a mix of plainchant, written polyphony, counterpoint improvisation techniques, as well as "solfaing", performing textless (or texted) music on solmization syllables.

# tutor

## Iason Marmaras



Iason Marmaras is a keyboardist, singer, and conductor, specializing in historically informed performance.

He is the musical director of the Schola Cantorum Sancti Pauli, with which he organizes seminars and courses in Renaissance music theory and practice. In addition, with the various ensembles of the Schola—Cappella & Cantores Sancti Pauli and The Clerkes Extraordinaire—he organizes a monthly Renaissance Evensong in Athens, as well as concerts in Greece and abroad.

As a harpsichordist, he is a member of the APOLLON Ensemble and a regular collaborator of Leonidas Kavakos, as well as a member of the Scroll Ensemble. He has performed with the Huelgas Ensemble, Cappella Pratensis, La Risonanza, Camerata Salzburg, Latinitas Nostra, Ex Silentio, and Armonia Atenea, among others.

His discography includes J. S. Bach's Violin Concertos with Leonidas Kavakos and the APOLLON Ensemble for Sony Classical, the role of the Sorceress in H. Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with La Risonanza for Challenge Classics, and improvisations on the historical Antegnati organ at Mantua in Lodovico Viadana's Sacri Conventus for Passacaille.

In 2018, he won first prize at the Berliner Bach Wettbewerb, and in 2019 he was awarded first prize at the First International Basso Continuo and Partimento Competition.

He studied harpsichord and early music singing at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, as well as historical music theory and composition at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. Iason is Senior Lecturer for historical improvisation, basso continuo and vocal ensemble at the Early Music Institute of the mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna.

more information: [www.scholacantorum.gr](http://www.scholacantorum.gr)

# additional information

- **COURSE COSTS € 570\***  
\*including the course Solmization and Counterpoint, the registration fee and 6 days accommodation. All prices include taxes.
- **PARTICIPANT PROFILE:**  
The workshop is aimed at singers with considerable experience singing early baroque and renaissance music: advanced Bachelor and Master students and young professionals, as well as professional singers who want to expand their palette of historical skills.
- **THE COURSE INCLUDES:**
  - Eight three-hour sessions (twice daily) of Solmization and Counterpoint
  - Presentation of the work at the adjoining Gyzi Megaron

## Course Schedule:

July 14th :	arrival and introduction session
July 15th - 18th :	two sessions daily
July 19th :	evening Concert
July 20th :	departure

## EXTRAS:

- coaching in Renaissance or Baroque solo or ensemble repertoire upon request, at additional cost.
- The parallel Piano Masterclass by Christos Marantos offers the opportunity to attend advanced ear training sessions in small groups, offered by the mdw Senior Lecturer Katharina Blassnigg, at additional cost.

<Language: English/German/Italian/Greek>

- **ACCOMMODATION**  
The accommodation is located at the Gyzi Megaron. For more information see the photos and website of the Megaron.

Address: Gyzi Megaron, 25is Martiou 405, Thira- Santorini 847 00, Greece

# application information

- APPLICATION STEPS

1. The application deadline is on the 15th of May 2026 (limited places available)
2. To apply please send an e-mail to Iason Marmaras (monosandal@gmail.com), with the subject Santorini 2026, attaching a short CV and a video of you singing a piece from the 15th, 16th, or 17th century. (In case of an ensemble piece, please provide an indication of the voice you are singing.)
3. Participants will be informed as to the acceptance of their application by the 15th of May at the latest.
4. Upon acceptance, a non-refundable registration fee of € 120 will be payable by bank transfer. After that, information about travel will be sent to each participant.
5. The remaining 450 € of the fee will have to be paid by 30th of June 2026.

- FURTHER INFORMATION

- We recommend that all participants have their own travel and health insurance.
- The travel expenses and the food are not included in the course fee.
- If the courses is cancelled by the organizers, the complete fee will be refunded (incl. accommodation and additional offers).

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