

# Singing from the book in the Renaissance

Improvised counterpoint  
from the 15th and 16th c.

Course  
level  
**1**

7-10  
July  
2025

Rosario  
**Bever**  
Belgium

## ❖ Skills required

You are a musician, amateur or professional, singer and/or instrumentalist. If you're new to Renaissance counterpoint, or already have some experience, this course is for you!

All you need to know is how to recognise the different intervals by ear, and how to sing them from a given note. .

## ❖ Programme

### Simple counterpoint

- gymel
- faux-bourdon
- gymel + bassus

### Diminished counterpoint

- For 1 voice upon a CF :  
2 notes against 1

### Canons

- in unison
- at the octave

### Singing upon the book, singing upon the hand

These techniques are usually based on a basic melody, the cantus firmus. Depending on the case, the cantus firmus will be read on a staff or shown on the hand (known as 'guidonian hand'), the two modes of visualisation being complementary.

## ❖ Activities

The work takes place in different sequences: presentation of improvisation techniques and associated instructions (in a large group); putting the instructions into practice (in small groups of 2 to 5, with coaching from the teachers); shared feedback (in a large group).

**Maximum number of trainees: 20**

## ❖ Rates

### Educational costs

- 600 € - Employer rate (paid by the employer)
- 270 € - Standard rate
- 200 € - Student rate (proof of status required)

### Meals and accomodation

- 255 € - Meals and use of the site
- 355 € - Meals and use of the site + room with 2, 3 or 4 beds
- 425 € - Meals and use of the site + room with 1 bed

## ❖ Registration

To register for this course, please fill in [the online registration form](#).  
For any information of an educational or administrative nature, please contact us at : [superlibrumcantare.courses@gmail.com](mailto:superlibrumcantare.courses@gmail.com)

# The teachers

## Barnabé JANIN

Professor at the CNSMD in Lyon (Department of Early Music), medieval fiddle player and singer, member of the ensemble Obsidienne and artistic director of the ensemble *Coclico*.

he is the author of a practical guide to Renaissance polyphonic improvisation, *Chanter sur le livre* (Symétrie, 2014), and the co-manager of the website *Super librum cantare*.



## Antoine SCHNEIDER

Antoine Schneider teaches ear training and counterpoint at the Geneva and Berne music universities, as well as at the ESM Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (early music department).

As part of his teaching activities, he specialises in musical improvisation in the Renaissance period. He is regularly invited to give master classes throughout Europe, and improvises with the ensemble *Les Poissons rouges* in Zurich. He is the co-manager of the website *Super librum cantare*.



# Practical info



## The course venue

Rosario, in Bever (Belgium)

[Visit the website here](#)

Click on the map to enlarge

## Timetable

Starts: Monday 07/07 at 2.30pm

Ends: Thursday 10/07 at 2pm, after lunch.

## Hosting

Choice of :

- room with 2, 3 or 4 beds
- room with 1 bed

Sheets are provided, but not towels.

## Meals

Meals are prepared by the monastery's kitchen, which can cater for special dietary requirements within its means.



## Access

- By [Lijn bus 161](#), Bever Gemeentehuis stop
- By car: map above

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