

Singing from the book in the Renaissance

Improvised counterpoint
from the 15th and 16th c.

Course
level
1

7-10
nov
2025

Sainte-Croix
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
France

❖ Required skills

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
- fauxbourdon
- gymel + bassus

Florid counterpoint

- 1 voix upon CF : 2 notes against 1

Canons

- at the 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)

Accommodation and meals

- Meals only: please contact the Monastery
- 275 € - Meals + room with 2, 3 or 4 beds
- 340 € - Meals + 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 by writing to : superlibrumcantare.courses@gmail.com

The teachers

Barnabé JANIN

Professor at the CNSMD in Lyon (early music department), vielle player and singer, member of the ensemble Obsidienne and artistic director of the ensemble *Coclico*.

He is the author of a practical manual of 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 venue

Centre d'accueil international
- Ancien Monastère de Sainte-Croix (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France)

[Visit the website here!](#)

Timetable

Starts: Friday 07/11 at 2.30pm

Ends: Monday 10/11 at 2pm, after lunch.

Hosting

Choice of :

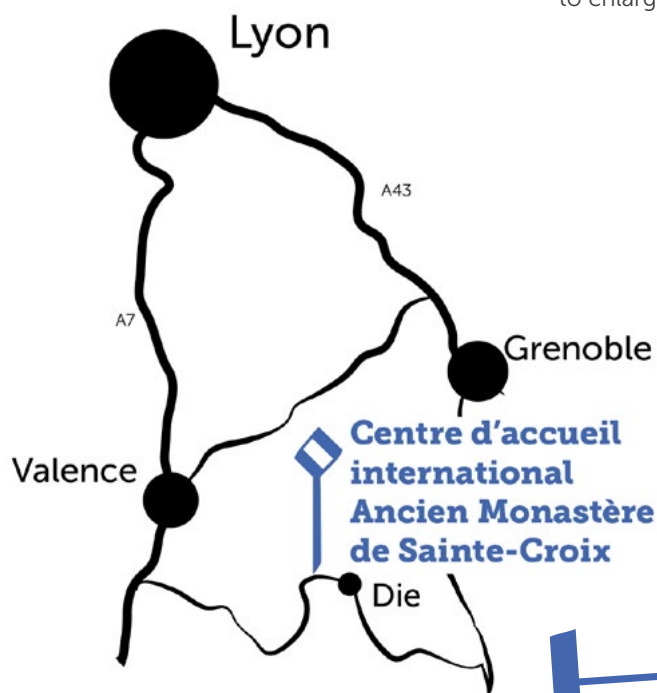
- room with 2, 3 or 4 beds
- room with 1 bed

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.

Click on the map to enlarge



Access

- Coach [D24 et D28 Valence-Die](#), Sainte-Croix - route nationale' stop. We can come and pick you up!
- By car: map above



Organiser:
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