

ERASMUS Project

Conservatorio "G.Cantelli" - Novara

Strategy Statement

The Conservatorio "Guido Cantelli" of Novara is strongly committed to fostering student and teacher mobility within the Erasmus project. We are deeply convinced of the need to broaden the span of high-profile didactic project investigation on a European level, thus enhancing the specific qualities of our teachers in order to promote academic development and cultural exchange. The Conservatorio "G.Cantelli" is completely independent from ministerial institutions and is able to make autonomous decisions regarding the choice of its partners, following criteria of prestige and top-quality teaching standards. It is precisely in order to encourage on-line consultation of our formative offer that we are working on a more extended English language version of our website. At present, the Conservatorio promotes the following didactic orientations, all of which are supported by adequate research centers and characterized by ongoing investigation.

- **The Wind Instrument Department** features highly qualified teachers offering courses covering a wide range of instruments and historical ages and a widespread production of concerts with the use of Renaissance, Baroque and modern instruments. It also promotes an important annual international festival which has now come to its seventh edition. The Wind Instrument Festival has become an opportunity for didactic and musical cooperation: every spring, it gathers in Novara famous concert artists, well-known teachers and a large number of students, thus promoting fruitful cultural exchanges.
- **Inaudita Musica (*Unheard Music*)** is an important study center, promoted by the Conservatorio "Guido Cantelli" with the purpose of investigating the musical production of past and present women composers. This is done through the creation of an archive of musical pieces, concerts, lectures, exhibitions, recordings, all directed to revaluing the importance of women's musical production which has too long been neglected and is still overlooked despite the high number of existing music pieces.
- **The Ancient Music Department** counts among its faculty such prestigious figures as Enrico Gatti, Gaetano Nasillo, Gabriele Cassone, Marco Ruggeri and Corrado Colliard. The Department's activity focuses primarily on the didactics of Baroque music, in order to shape musicians that are highly trained in ancient music culture and techniques. Within the span of its artistic production, the Department has created a Baroque instrument orchestra, which has produced the modern-day première of baroque works such as the oratorios *La Bersabea* and *Santa Francesca Romana* by Giulio D'Alessandri, *San Giovanni Battista* by Alessandro Stradella and Isabella Leonarda's Sonatas. In April 2007, the Department organized a performance of Bach's Easter Oratorio which took place in the Vatican State, at the Cappella del Palazzo del Governatorato (Governorship's Palace Chapel), with the likely presence of His Holiness Pope Benedetto XVI. In the Academic Year 2007-08 the Ancient Music Department has also performed Bachs' St. Matthew Passion.

- In cooperation with the **Singing Department**, one of our institution's strongholds, we investigate the Italian repertory by means of specific performances, such as Tosti, Coccia and Mercadante. This activity involves a large number of foreign students.
- **XIX and XX Century Italian Instrumental music** with special consideration for **piano** and **guitar** solo repertory, as well as chamber music literature. With reference to the **Piano Department**, research on XIX and XX Century Italian Piano Literature is carried out by means of specific tests and is focused on performance, according to philological criteria and with the use of period instruments, such as the fortepiano.
- Musical Education Teaching Training for all educational levels in cooperation with the **Music Teaching Department**.
- **Church Music** (Catholic line), in cooperation with The Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, Vatican City. Aim of the course, which leads to a Second Level Academic Degree, is the formation of musicians active in the field of church music, with particular attention for the *Kapellmeister* profile.
- **Music for Puppet Theatre**, a project in cooperation with the *Istituto per i beni Marionettistici e per il Teatro Popolare* of Turin (Puppet Heritage Conservation and Popular Theatre Fund). It has already resulted in two international conferences on *Genoveffa di Brabante* (Genoveffa of Brabante) and *Il teatro dei bambini* (The children's theatre) by Vittorio Podrecca. Conferences proceedings have been published and specific shows and concerts have been organized as part of the conference.

Within its curriculum, the Conservatorio di Novara also offers access to stages at high-profile artistic institutions. In cooperation with Teatro Coccia, the Symphonic Orchestra "Carlo Coccia" and the Music Association "Vittorio Cocito", it organizes 120-hour orchestra and theatre stages for piano accompanists, choir singers, stage-directors, opera secondary role singers and orchestra players. It also holds stages of Music Teaching in cooperation with primary and secondary schools for theoretical and instrumental classes. Students become involved in programme writing, journal articles, exhibition catalogues, conference planning and organization of events such as the *Festival dei Fiati* (Wind Instrument Festival), *il Mondo della Chitarra* (Guitar's World), etc. We are presently working on the *Guido Cantelli Study Center*, focusing on the creation of a research centre which will gather all information related to the life and activity of this famous conductor, after whom the Conservatorio di Novara has been named. The Conservatoire also promotes the study of new musical languages, by means of new technologies (including live-electronics), with the purpose of creating various types of performances.

The Erasmus Partners of the Conservatorio G. Cantelli are:

Jyske Musikkonsevatorium, Aarhus (Denmark)

Hochschule der Künste Bern (Switzerland)

Hochschule für Musik Freiburg (Germany)

Conservatoire de Musique de Genève (Switzerland)

Sibelius Academy, Helsinki (Finland)

Conservatorio Superior de Música de Murcia (Spain)

Conservatorio Superior de Música de Salamanca (Spain)

Additionally, in the frame of an international exchange-project, a project has been activated with the Odessa Music Academy, Ukraine.

Novara, 2-27-2009.