

IDEA INTERNATIONAL  
DIVERTIMENTO  
ENSEMBLE  
ACADEMY

Since 1998  
10 international competitions  
23 high-level training courses  
204 students of  
28 different nationalities  
over 500 concerts accomplished  
in collaboration with the best  
students of our courses and the  
winners of our competitions

**IDEA** INTERNATIONAL  
DIVERTIMENTO  
ENSEMBLE  
ACADEMY  
FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

## THE ACADEMY

For many years, Divertimento Ensemble has followed two guidelines that direct most of its choices and activities: **attention to youth and education**. The tools used to follow these guidelines are competitions, workshops, masterclasses and courses for young composers, performers and orchestral conductors that are organized annually.

The inclusion of the best young people in the Milanese season of the Divertimento Ensemble, *Rondò*, makes it possible to achieve an important goal that is closely linked to these choices: **support for young musicians** during the delicate passage from training to professional employment.

All of these activities are complementary to the musical performances of Divertimento Ensemble. In order to better coordinate them, to facilitate their management, to support new ones, and to allow dialogue with European institutions pursuing similar goals, the IDEA International Divertimento Ensemble Academy was born.

Specifically, IDEA groups and coordinates training activities already in place into two distinguished and clear branches that are complementary to each other. On one hand, there are **courses** – *Conducting Course*,

*Call for Young Performers, International Workshop for Young Composers* – intended for conductors and instrumentalists interested in deepening contemporary language, as well as for young composers; on the other there are **competitions** – the “*Franco Donatoni*” *International Meeting for Young Composers*, the *AFAM composition competition, Sul palco!* – designed to bring young composers to the light, but also to foster original and innovative performative projects.

Included in the academy, there is also a special position, the **Composer in Residence**, that every year offers a young composer – whose music is already known and partly performed by the Ensemble, or who has not yet come into contact with the Ensemble, but whose interest has been sparked by it – the opportunity for the reoccurring presence throughout the *Rondò*'s programming and the recording of a CD.

In addition to this, IDEA will program new activities, starting with the masterclasses, that are still aimed at young people who will interact with *Rondò*'s guest composers as teachers.



## IDEA activities

	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Conducting Course				■
Call for Young Performers	■	■	■	■
'Franco Donatoni' International Meeting for Young Composers			■	
AFAM Competition for Italian composition students			■	
Composer in residence	■	■	■	
International Workshop for Young Composers				■
Sul palco!			■	



## COURSES

### Conducting Course Repertoire for ensemble from early 20th century to the present day

The course begins the first week of September in Moncalvo, in Piedmont, and concludes with three public concerts in Piedmont and one in Milan, during the *Rondò* season, conducted by the students who attended it. No more than 10 students will be admitted. The course is usually divided into 48 hours of rehearsals with the ensemble and 19 hours of score analysis and of theory lessons.

Every year, the repertoire is witness to the presence of masterpieces from the 20th century and of at least one more recent piece, whose composer will serve as a tutor.

The courses created in the past have included Klaus Huber, Helmut Lachenmann, György Kurtág, Mauricio Kagel, Luca Francesconi, Stefano Gervasoni, Hanspeter Kyburz, Mauro Lanza, Stefano Bulfon and others.

Many elements are given to our conducting students to provide them with the analytical and technical tools to approach and examine the contemporary repertoire: theory lessons, the presence of one or more composers, many hours of rehearsals with the ensemble, and four concluding concerts.

**Application : April of every year**

### Call for Young Performers

Every year, one or more masterclasses are organized and held by the soloists of Divertimento Ensemble and are intended for young performers who desire to draw closer to contemporary repertoire. Masterclasses were created for and aimed at pianists, percussionists, brass players and vocalists. Classes are spread over a 5 to 6 month time period between November and May, or concentrated in a period of 8 to 10 days between August and September. The location varies from one instrument to another. The youth that attend the masterclasses are placed in the *Rondò* scheduling as soloists or members of chamber ensembles.

**Application: October of every year for winter-spring courses, Februar to April of every year for summer courses**

### International Workshop for Young Composers

This 10-day workshop takes place in Bobbio (Piacenza) during the first half of July. Through a call for scores, 10 young composers under the age of 35 are selected, who are invited to send a score for ensemble that is written for a maximum specified instrumental group. The scores are studied during the workshop and performed in two concerts by the musicians of Divertimento Ensemble.



## COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

In 2012, Divertimento Ensemble added the figure of composer in residence to the *Rondò* season.

The residency does not oblige the composer to live in Milan, but offers the composer a recurring presence in the season's program that makes he or she familiar to the performers and to the public, as well as publishing a CD with Stradivarius label.

The composer in residence's participation must be comprised of least four compositions of which one must be a premiere.

Two well-known composers, acting as tutors, analyze and comment on the scores and hold two masterclasses about their music. The workshop offers much rehearsal time and training to the 10 selected composers: 34 hours of individual lessons from each of the two tutors, 10 hours with the conductor of the ensemble, 3 hours of meetings with each of the musicians, and 40 hours of rehearsal with the ensemble. The project concludes during the next *Rondò* season with the performance of no more than 3 compositions from the workshop.

**Application: November of every year**

### Composition Masterclasses

Every year from January to June, IDEA organizes three 2-day masterclasses held by composers invited to perform in the *Rondò* season. Each meeting admits a variable number of composers as actual students and a larger number of student listeners. The actual participating students are selected, through a call for scores, by the invited composer and by the Artistic Director of Divertimento Ensemble, and they will submit their scores to the composer. The structure of each masterclass will be specified in agreement with the invited composer.

**Application: two months before the first date of the masterclass**



## COMPETITIONS

### "Franco Donatoni" International Meeting for Young Composers

The "Franco Donatoni" International Meeting is accessible through a competition that can be attended by composers under the age of 35 from across the world, who send one or more pieces for instrumental groups between 5 and 12 performers.

An international panel composed of five important composers selects three of the compositions received, that are performed during the *Rondò* concert season.

A new composition is commissioned to the respective composers, which will be

performed at a concert during the following season. The three composers are hosted in Milan for the entire rehearsal period.

The performance of the three selected scores allows composers to know the musicians of the ensemble before the composition of the new piece begins, giving them the possibility of direct and personal contact with each of them during the work of the composition. In every edition, commissioned compositions offer combinations between different instrumental groups and diverse collaborations with directors or scenographers (in the case of musical theater),



choreographers and dancers, singers and vocal groups.

The project is biannual because it takes place over the time frame of two years.

**Application: December of every other year**

### AFAM Competition

The competition is reserved for young composers enrolled at the Italian institution AFAM (*Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale* - the highest level of musical education).

A panel selects three scores for each edition, which are **performed in three different concerts of the *Rondò* season.**

The audience, the panel that selected the three works, and the musicians of

Divertimento Ensemble, choose one of the three composers who are **commissioned to write a new composition for the following *Rondò* season** through an online vote that takes place after the three performances. The competition is organized every two years and alternates with the *Sul palco!* project.

**Application: March of every other year**

### Sul palco! On Stage!

*Rondò* dedicates part of its playbill and stage to a musical show within the frame of contemporary music and research – a show using and integrating **different languages and technologies**, that is selected through an international contest. Be it a musical theatre

show with singers and/or actors, be it a dance show with or without audio and video multimedia devices, be it a full or half evening event, it must be self-produced.

Associations/groups of artists who have designed the show in whole or in part, or who have already created a show involving no more than eight people, including artists, technicians and collaborators, are eligible to participate. They must be on average under 32 years old.

Divertimento Ensemble selects one or more show projects, enough to fill an evening; such selection takes into account the **project innovative momentum**, its capability of intertwining different languages

and technologies and the completion of the project at the time and in the manner specified.

*Rondò* season provides an adequately equipped stage (quadraphonic sound production, lights, video, etc) available to the selected young artists, grants the event the visibility of Divertimento Ensemble's concerts, livestreams the event, completes the necessary paperwork, hosts the artists for two nights in Milan and offers each participant a lump-sum compensation.

The competition is organized every two years and alternates with the *AFAM competition*.

**Application: September of every other year**



"Franco Donatoni" International Meeting for Young Composers 2014



Sul palco! 2016 - © Giovanni Daniotti



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