An enriching programme of Italian repertoire coaching, performances and cultural experiences including visits to the world renowned Prosecco vineyards and La Fenice in Venice.

We invite singers and pianists to join us in the heart of Veneto for a week of high quality language and music coaching to improve sung Italian diction, expression and performance skills. Participants will perform for Italian audiences and enjoy some of the cultural and gastronomical highlights of the inspiring Veneto region!

Led by Dr. Matteo Dalle Fratte, Italian Coach (ROH, NOS, RCM, GSMD), Melofonetica Founder and creator of the Melofonetica Method® – as featured in Opera Magazine.

“One of the most amazing, insightful and enjoyable Italian courses out there!”

APRIL, SOPRANO
The week includes:

- Inspiring masterclasses in sung Italian using the highly effective Melofonetica Method, to help singers master authentic pronunciation and improve musicality and expression
- One-to-one music coaching
- Vocalising exercises with Italian text
- Ensemble coaching
- Tailored coaching for pianists in how to use the Melofonetica Method to better prepare Italian repertoire and collaborate more effectively with singers
- Two performances for Italian audiences
- High quality accommodation with air-conditioning, wifi, breakfast and three-course lunches
- Welcome aperitivo
- A tour to the beautiful Prosecco vineyards with prosecco tasting
- A trip to Venice to visit the stunning La Fenice opera house
- A visit to the charming hilltop town of Asolo
- Optional grappa tasting at Poli Grapperia

“This week has transformed not only my use of Italian, but my awareness of language in singing more generally.”

JOHANNA, SOPRANO

Perform for Italian audiences

Singers will have the opportunity to sing one solo aria or song in each of our final concerts. These include a performance at the beautiful Chiesa San Vito, one of Bassano’s most important churches.

Ensemble work is also an integral part of the course, so all singers will be invited to learn one or more ensemble pieces for the final performances.
Faculty

Dr. Matteo Dalle Fratte, Lead Coach and Artistic Director
Matteo is Melofonetica’s Founder and a renowned Italian Coach, working at the Royal Opera House, National Opera Studio, Guildhall School in London and other leading conservatoires. He coaches on a wide range of productions and recordings and works with international conductors including Sir Mark Elder and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He is also a musicologist and tenor, having trained in Italy with Paolo Badoer, a pupil of Gilda Dalla Rizza, Puccini’s favourite soprano. Matteo will be leading the programme and providing masterclasses and one-to-one coaching in sung Italian.

Peter Ford, Conductor
Peter is a music director, coach, and educator, working throughout the UK and Europe. He made his international conducting debut at the opening night of the 2016 Birgitta Festival, conducting *Così fan tutte* with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. Peter is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of The Black Cat Opera Company, with recent Italian-language productions including *Don Giovanni*, *Falstaff*, *Così fan tutte*, and *La bohème*. Peter provides music coaching for our singers as well as conducting our performances.

Julie Aherne, Pianist
A UK-based pianist, music director and coach, Julie is a Co-Founder of The Black Cat Opera Company, and has worked as répétiteur and producer on productions of *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen*, *Falstaff*, *La bohème* and *Così fan tutte* – for which she played harpsichord continuo alongside the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra at the Birgitta Festival. As a freelance pianist, she works regularly with many operatic and choral groups including the Association of British Choral Directors. Julie provides music coaching for our singers and pianists and accompanies our performances.

Bernard Tan, Pianist
Bernard is an award-winning collaborative pianist, vocal coach and répétiteur. He is currently completing his doctoral studies at University of Michigan, advised by the world-renowned Martin Katz. He holds a Master of Music degree from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and has won numerous accompanist awards in the UK. Bernard’s work on operas has seen him appointed as a répétiteur on productions in the USA, Canada and Italy including *Tosca*, *Suor Angelica* and *Alcina*. Bernard provides music coaching for our singers and pianists and accompanies our performances.
Bassano del Grappa

Our venue, the peaceful Scalabrini Institute, is located beside the river in central Bassano del Grappa. Bassano is a beautiful, historic town at the foothills of the Alps in the Veneto region and takes its name from nearby Monte Grappa.

The historic centre of Bassano is just a 5-10 minute scenic riverside walk from our venue. It is pretty and compact with many bars, restaurants and boutiques. The architecture is a blend of typical Venetian arcaded streets and piazzas, and Austrian alpine wooden balconies.

The town is well known for its covered ‘Ponte Vecchio’ wooden bridge over the Brenta river, locally-produced ceramics and the local grappa liqueur.

Bassano is within easy reach of Venice Marco Polo, Treviso and Verona airports. There are also direct trains from Venice, Vicenza and Padova. Parking is available at our venue if required.

Accommodation

The Scalabrini Institute provides comfortable, high quality accommodation and spacious teaching rooms with views towards the mountains, the town and the famous Ponte Vecchio. The venue provides:

- Air-conditioned ensuite bedrooms
- Continental breakfast and three-course Italian lunches
- Wifi
- Use of a small kitchen and washing machine
- Access to beautiful riverside walks

“Venue (and the food!) was amazing and the course was superbly organised. Generally fantastic!”

TOM, BARITONE

The inspiring Veneto region

The Veneto region is rich in art, architecture and gastronomical delights! During the week, we’ll be visiting the world renowned prosecco vineyards for tastings, followed by ice cream in the charming hilltop town of Asolo – known as ‘The pearl of the province of Treviso’ and ‘The city of a hundred horizons’.

Bassano is also within easy reach of the beautiful cities of Venice, Padova, Treviso, Vicenza and Verona. Our programme includes a day trip to Venice to visit the stunning opera house La Fenice.
Deposit and payment

Upon confirmation of your place, we will require a non-refundable deposit of £150 to secure your place. The remainder of the fees must then be paid no later than 29 February 2020, or within one calendar month if booking after this date. If you prefer to spread the cost of the course, we can accept payment in up to three equal instalments as follows: instalment one by 29 February 2020, instalment two by 15 April 2020 and instalment three by 31 May 2020.

Optional extras

Single room: £10 supplement per person per night. Triple room: £5 reduction per night. Quadruple room: £10 reduction per person per night. Airport transfers: £50 return or £30 one way (if arriving/departing from Venice Marco Polo or Treviso airports within specified times). Grappa tasting and talk at Poli Grappa Museum: £5 per person. Guests who are not participating as a singer/pianist may be able to stay onsite and join the rest of the programme, depending on capacity – please contact us for more information and pricing.

How to apply

We welcome applications from singers and pianists aged 18 or over with prior experience of studying Italian repertoire. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Please complete the online application form or send a brief CV and a short audio/video clip of you performing any Italian repertoire to info@melofonetica.com.

If you have any queries about the programme, don’t hesitate to contact us at info@melofonetica.com.

We look forward to receiving your application!