



**ACCELERATED GERMAN,
INTENSIVE VOCAL TRAINING,
AND AUDITION OPPORTUNITIES**
IN THE HEART OF GERMANY'S
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
UPPER MIDDLE RHEIN VALLEY

We offer two, six-week modules (each) of State-certified,
accelerated German language study, combined with private,
intensive vocal training and **professional audition opportunities** this
FALL SEMESTER 2020





Why should anyone study German and aim to work in the German market?

The German language is the most widely spoken language in the European Union, ahead of both French and English.

It is spoken by approximately 100 million people across Germany and Austria, as well as parts of Switzerland and Belgium.

The German speaking-market has the largest number of opera houses anywhere in the world, and more Germans attend theater performances than soccer matches.

Why study voice privately rather than in a university or a conservatory?

While universities and conservatories do undoubtedly offer valuable learning opportunities, opera singing is, strictly speaking, a practical skill. Solid technique, musicality, musicianship and linguistic skills can all be developed in a private context.

It is an inconvenient truth that holding a higher-education degree is of no value if a singer cannot sing. Yet, too much emphasis is given at universities and conservatories to the study of related music subjects (history, theory, choir practice, etc.) in detriment of the practical aspects of singing at a crucial time in the development of young singers.

Alarmingly, most academic programs only envision one voice lesson per week and often do not offer any coaching; language training is also typically limited.

How does the cost of attending a university or conservatory compare to studying music privately?

There is simply no comparison since universities and conservatories face huge overhead costs due to the gargantuan and costly administrations that they require to do business, and the vast but ultimately superfluous amenities that they offer.



BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

Individual lessons per week:	2.5	€80 each	€200.00
Individual coachings per week:	2.5	€65 each	€162.50
Applied diction per week:	5	€12.50 each	€62.50
German per week:	25	€10 each	€250.00
Professional auditions:	1	€140 each	€140.00
Accommodation per week:	7	€27.50 per day	€192.50
Facilities use per week:	7		€87.50
Weekly total:	25		€955.00
Weekly total w/ opt. auditions:			€1,105.00

COMPARATIVE CHART OF EXPENSES: SGIMFA VS. TWO SAMPLE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

New England Conservatory

Tuition:
\$24,375 per semester
(14 weeks)
Housing
\$7,950

Total per semester:
\$32,325

Cost per week:
\$2,308

**Voice lessons
per six-week period:**

6

Indiana University

Tuition and fees
\$19,302 per semester

Housing
\$5,415

Total per semester:
\$24,717

Cost per week:
\$1,765

**Voice lessons
per six-week period:**

6

SGIMFA

Tuition and fees:
€675

Housing and facilities:
€280

Cost per week:

€955 (\$1,050)
€1,105 (\$1,225)
with optional auditions

**Voice lessons/coachings
per six-week period:**

30

UNIQUE ADVANTAGES

What other unique advantages does SG-IMFA offer?

We offer audition opportunities, personalized attention thanks to an ideal student/faculty ratio, excellent facilities, an internationally renowned faculty, and a unique, inviting, calm and secure environment.

Audition opportunities:

SG-IMFA has a vast professional network across Europe. Since 2015, SG-IMFA has organized private work sessions with casting directors and general managers from leading European opera houses and festivals, including:

- **Wiener Staatsoper**, Austria
- **Oper Stuttgart**, Germany
- **Teatro Real de Madrid**, Spain
- **Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux**, France
- **Festival d'Aix-en-Provence**, France
- **Opéra de Lyon**, France
- **Oper Zürich**, Switzerland
- **Theater Sankt Gallen**, Switzerland
- **Konzert Theater Bern**, Switzerland

and the theaters of the cities of

- **Mainz, Saarbrücken, Detmold,**
- **Coburg and Freiburg**, amongst others.



Certified German language study:

The intensive German language course will be offered by a partner institution which is fully accredited by the German government both to teach the German language and to administer language tests and issue official certificates attesting to the completion of the levels A1 through C2.

Personalized attention:

The faculty/student ratio at SG-IMFA is 5 students for every 1 faculty member.

At any given point, there can only be 10 students hosted at the academy itself. Subject to demand, the total number of students may be increased to 15. In that case, however, those additional students would be hosted off-campus and an additional teacher or vocal coach would join the faculty.

Excellent facilities:

The historical, 1892, SG-IMFA villa was fully remodeled in 2014 with the explicit purpose of hosting our music academy.



Spread across four spacious floors, it features:

- 5 double-rooms for students,
- 3 double-rooms for faculty,
- 2 kitchens,
- 2 studios,
- a music library and
- an office/studio.

There are a total of 5 grand pianos and 5 upright pianos.

This student/instrument ratio is also unparalleled.

Internationally renowned faculty:



Dr. **Emilio Pons** (Mexico/Germany), *tenor*

MM, DM, Indiana University School of Music

Concert pianist, Conservatorio Nacional de Música

International credits: Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Mariinsky Theater, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Royal Danish Opera, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Vlaamse Opera, Teatro Municipal de Santiago, Ópera de Bellas Artes, etc.



Dr. **Keith Chambers** (USA), *conductor and pianist*

DM, University of Houston

Bachelor's and MM, University of Miami

International credits: Dallas Opera, Indianapolis Opera, New York City Opera, New Amsterdam Opera, Delaware Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Vienna Kammeroper, etc.



Kirsten Chambers (USA), *soprano*

MM, University of Houston

Bachelor's Degree, Illinois Wesleyan University

International credits: Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, New York City Opera, Savonlinna Opera Festival, Florida Grand Opera, American Symphony Orchestra, Opera Hong Kong, Indianapolis Opera, Opéra de Rennes, Mikhailovsky Theater, Lincoln Center, Arizona Opera, etc.

Selected guest, casting and artistic directors from previous editions (2015-2019):



Alain Perroux,
former Casting Director
Festival d'Aix-en-Provence

Currently:

General Manager,
Opéra National du Rhin, Strasbourg



Joan Matabosch,
Artistic Director

Teatro Real de Madrid



Sebastian Schwarz,
former Casting Director
Theater an der Wien

Currently:

General Manager,
Teatro Regio di Torino



Guy Montavon,
General Manager

Theater Erfurt



Boris Ignatov,
Casting Director

Oper Stuttgart



Robert Körner,
Casting Director

Wiener Staatsoper

Guest, casting and artistic directors from previous editions (2015-2019) (*continued*):



Christian Carlstedt,
former *Casting Director*
Stadttheater Klagenfurt

Currently:

Casting Director,
Staatstheater Hannover,
Theater Bern, et. al.



Julien Benhamou,
Casting Director
Opéra Nationale de Bordeaux



Jean Denes,
former *Assistant Casting Director*
Zürich Opera

Currently:

Casting director,
Theater Basel



Peter Heilker,
former *Artistic Director,*
Theater Sankt Gallen

Currently:

Casting director,
Theater an der Wien



Bodo Busse,
former *General Manager*
Theater Coburg

Currently:

General Manager,
Saarländisches Staatstheater



Roland Spohr,
Casting Director

Theater Freiburg

Ideal, beautiful, calm and safe environment:

Sankt Goar is a quaint, calm and small town (population: ca. 2,700) in the heart of the beautiful **UNESCO World Heritage**, Upper Middle Rhine Valley.

While Sankt Goar is conveniently located a mere 56 miles (90 Kms) from one Europe's largest airports, Frankfurt International Airport, and is reachable by train directly from the airport's terminal 1 (with a single stop in Mainz or Ingelheim; once in Sankt Goar, the academy is located within a short, five-minute walk from the city's train station), Sankt Goar remains a quiet, idyllic town.



Sankt Goar's relative isolation has two significant advantages:

- as of May 1, 2020, there have been absolutely no cases of COVID-19 in the entire town (and only a few dozen in the entire county where Sankt Goar is located);
- crime is basically unheard of.

Local restaurants are very inexpensive. The weekly budget necessary both to eat at home and dine-out in Sankt Goar is anywhere between 20% and 40% cheaper than what is needed in larger metropolitan areas in Germany and in most American cities.

Sankt Goar enjoys mild-temperatures up until late October/early November.

Visitors can therefore enjoy carefree strolls and bicycle rides along the Rhine, and hikes along the surrounding mountains and enjoy the breath-taking views of the multiple surrounding vineyards and Medieval castles and fortresses.