

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

BALTHASAR NEUMANN  
THOMAS HENGELBROCK

# SINGERS' ACADEMY BECOMING! 2025

**BECOMING!** is an innovative specialization course concept of the Balthasar Neumann Academy. It stands for a new, holistic approach to training young musicians to perform at the highest artistic level. Our aim is to provide comprehensive training for interested musicians who will spread the European idea and European values, and inspire others with their work. The participants will learn from the Balthasar Neumann Tutors and are supported in developing into artistic personalities to further enhance the high standard of the European classical music scene.

## CONCEPT & FACTS

The **BECOMING!** course in March 2025 is directed by

**Detlef Bratschke** (Choir Director Balthasar Neumann Choir / Professor Early Music ensemble directing),  
**Jakob Pilgram** (Lecturer in Singing & Vocal ensemble / Artistic Board Balthasar Neumann Ensembles),  
and **Lionel Sow** (Musical Director Chœur de Radio-France / Artistic Director NFM Choir, Wrocław).

It is dedicated to the following main topics:

- **Intonation:** Exploration (both theoretically and practically) of pure intonation as a potent tool to enhance a cappella singing and as a reference point for all temperaments
- **Blending:** How to achieve good blending within a section without renouncing a satisfying technique and a healthy vocal production
- **Musical expression:** How to harness the emotional engagement of each singer to create a coherent and unified performance

With the course week, the Balthasar Neumann Academy offers an immersive experience to young professional singers, who are interested in developing their skills in ensemble and choral singing. The course revolves around madrigals for small ensemble and baroque pieces for choir. Besides rehearsal sessions and individual lessons with the tutors of the Balthasar Neumann Choir, there will be workshops, audition training, and various social concerts at the end of the week.

<b>WHEN</b>	17. - 23.03.2025
<b>WHERE</b>	Hamburg, Germany
<b>VOCAL COACHES</b>	Agnes Kovacs - soprano Pascal Bertin - countertenor Jakob Pilgram - tenor Matthias Helm - bass

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT** Thanks to the Art Mentor Foundation, for all **BECOMING!** courses of the Balthasar Neumann Academy, travel and accommodation costs as well as all classes and workshops are covered. In addition, a per diem of EUR 50,00 per day will be paid.

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**SINGERS' ACADEMY BECOMING! 2025**



## APPLICATION DETAILS

- open for musicians born 1994 or later
- open for soprano, alto/altus, tenor and bass
- experience in ensemble and choral singing as well as interest in historical performance practice and authentic sound required
- motivation to actively participate in discussions and workshops

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please submit your application with the following documents:

- updated CV including contact details, birthday and voice register
- **motivational letter** (min. 1.000 characters excluding spaces)
- link to **two recent video files** (max. 8 minutes in total) with a piece of your choice from the baroque period as well as a piece of your choice from any other period. The two videos should have contrasting characters/styles/languages.

## LIVE AUDITIONS IN NOVEMBER

Please name your favorite date option for the live audition in November in your application:

- Lucerne (Switzerland): Sun, 03.11.2024
- Bremen (Germany): Wed, 06.11.2024
- Paris (France): Mon, 18.11.2024

TO BE SENT to the Balthasar Neumann Team via [info@kulturprojekte.com](mailto:info@kulturprojekte.com)  
DEADLINE 07.10.2024

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR APPLICATIONS!**

### **BALTHASAR NEUMANN IS OUR JOINT VISIONARY PROJECT.**

*With our choir, orchestra, and academy we work from our own strengths, without subsidies, with a clear goal, and with the highest standards. For each concert we bring our musicians together from all over Europe. Their skills and dedication enable them together into an outstanding ensemble. We know what we are playing and why. We explore the meaning of each work by using authentic and historically informed performance practice. We support each other, onstage and beyond, enabling everybody to give their very best. Because we believe culture to be a connecting force across national borders, we create unforgettable artistic experiences and bring our musical heritage into the future.*

## PARTNERS

