

SUMMER SCHOOL



Word, Image, Scene, and Digital Transformations

Modena, September 22nd-25th 2025

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Summer School Themes

The International Summer School WISD: Word, Image, Scene and Digital transformations, dedicated to Opera and to its adaptations and dissemination nowadays, is part of the Research Project ***Polimnia. Opera for All!*** By adopting a fresh approach to Opera, the Opera for All! project aims to enhance public appreciation of Italy's cultural, artistic, and musical heritage, thereby boosting its appeal and international recognition. Opera serves as a quintessential representation of Italy's national culture, artistic and musical heritage. Theoretical reference points for this innovative project include studies of Community Opera, an approach that originated in the UK in 1970 and has since been developed in many countries around the world. These studies provide a privileged framework for understanding Opera production from a perspective of inclusive co-construction, cultural growth, and social change. Currently, Opera is not for everyone; it is often seen as an outdated repertoire, far removed from the artistic-musical experiences that engage young people. It is perceived as a "niche," an "elite form of art," too expensive and difficult to understand.

The Summer School, held in English, will take place on 22nd-25th September 2025 at the Conservatorio Vecchi-Tonelli in Modena (Italy) and will focus on the following topics:

- Valorization of the cultural, artistic, and musical heritage of lesser-known Italian texts and musical scores.
- Diachronic examination of the literary, linguistic, historical, musical and scenic contexts that influenced the creation and performance of Italian Opera.
- Textual analysis of librettos, exploring the potential of digitization before (i.e., digital scoring and text editing), during (i.e., use of digital tools on stage), and after (i.e., archiving) the artistic performance.

- Strategies, forms, and models to increase the attractiveness of Italian Opera for new generations, emphasizing inclusion, training, and education, in line with the adaptation of the international model of Community Opera.
- Case studies on participatory opera (co-creation of Opera with local communities, involving various professional skills, resources, and specific local characteristics, reusing repertoires, venues, and infrastructures not currently utilized for these purposes).
- Rewritings and remediations in the production and performance of Opera in the digital age.

Programme

Invited Speakers

Giorgio Barberio Corsetti (Accademia d'Arte Drammatica Silvio Damico Roma) – **Antonella Coppi** (IUL) – **Uta Felten** (Universität Leipzig) – **Maurizio Giri** (Conservatorio di Frosinone) – **Marc Jeannin** (Université Angers) – **Alberto Mammarella** (Conservatorio di Pescara) – **Federica Pedriali** (University of Edinburgh) – **Jesse Rosenberg** (Northwestern University - USA) – **Luca Salvadori** (Conservatorio di Frosinone) – **Riccardo Santoboni** (Conservatorio di Frosinone) – **Hector Sequera Mora** (Durham University) – **Gaetano Stella** (Conservatorio di Frosinone) – **Philippe Vendrix** (Université Tours)

Workshops

Benedetta Bronzini & Corps Citoyen (Unimore) – **Giuliano Bracci** (Conservatorio di Piacenza) – **Vania Cauzillo & Theresa Lafortune** (Università della Basilicata/RESEO) – **Silvia del Zoppo & Editor di Music Paper** (Conservatorio di Gallarate)

Musical Moments

Davide Pouliquen (Singer - Université Angers) – **SeiOttavi** (Contemporary A Cappella – Conservatori di Palermo, Rodi Garganico, Ribera) – **Giuseppe Fausto Modugno & Paolo Andreoli** (Piano – Conservatorio di Modena)

Who is it for

The Summer School is open to a maximum of 24 international PhD students enrolled in universities and/or Music Conservatories.

What attendants will do

During the four days of the Summer School, participants will attend keynote presentations and workshops of international experts and are also invited to present their research in a dedicated session of short speeches and poster presentations (see detailed the program below).

Selection Process and Criteria

The selection of participants is based on a review process organised by the scientific committee of the summer school. This process is open to all PhD students and to young non-tenured researchers. The application will be subjected to a double-blind peer review. Based on this review, the scientific committee of the summer school will select the participants.

The selection criteria are based on the quality of the PhD project, assessed in relation to its:

- theoretical approach
- methodological standards
- potential for innovation
- the relevance of the aims and objectives of the PhD project within the areas covered.

Participants will be expected to present their work at the Summer School, either in the form of a presentation or a poster.

Application Form (see website)

The application includes:

- abstract of the PhD project/current research project (max 2500 characters, including places).
- a short CV according to the given model

For the application form, please refer to the website www.polimina.unimore.it.

The selection process is open to all PhD students and to young non-tenured researchers. The total number of students will be limited to 24.

The deadline for applications is **June 15th 2025**.

All applicants will be informed about the selection of participants by **June 30th 2025**.

Send the application form, abstract, and CV to: polimnia@unimore.it (with the subject of the email "Application Name Surname").