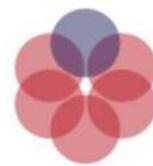


10th - 16th July 2023



the MEDICI  
ARCHIVE  
PROJECT



MASCARADE  
OPERA FOUNDATION

# THE FLORENCE CHORAL COURSE

# ABOUT

The Florence Choral Course is an intensive six-day course of choral training in the heart of Florence alongside tours and lectures in Italian Renaissance history, culminating in performances in some of Florence's most iconic buildings. The course is a unique opportunity to perform the magnificent choral repertoire of Renaissance Italy and to delve deep into its historical context.

Classes in vocal training, choral skills & musicianship and full choir rehearsals are led by professional singers whose experience includes the Papal Choir of the Sistine Chapel, international opera companies and world-leading vocal ensembles. Masterclasses will be held with celebrated soprano and early music pioneer Dame Emma Kirkby and Director of the Milan Cathedral Choir Maestro Massimo Palombella. The week will also include a full day at Milan Cathedral with workshops, a private tour and a concert followed by sung mass in the magnificent Duomo itself.

At the prestigious **Mascarade Opera Foundation** in the beautiful Palazzo Corsini al Prato in the heart of Florence, we will explore the music of the Italian Renaissance, while scholars of the renowned **Medici Archive Project** will lead lectures in history, musicology and archival research, supplemented with visits to the famous historical monuments which make Florence one of the most iconic cities in the world.



*Milan Cathedral*



*Maestro Massimo Palombella*



*Dame Emma Kirkby*

# WHOM IS THE COURSE FOR?

This course is open to anyone aged 18 or over as of the course's first day (this year 10th July 2023) with a passion for choral singing, in particular:

Those looking to enrich their university or choral scholarship applications.

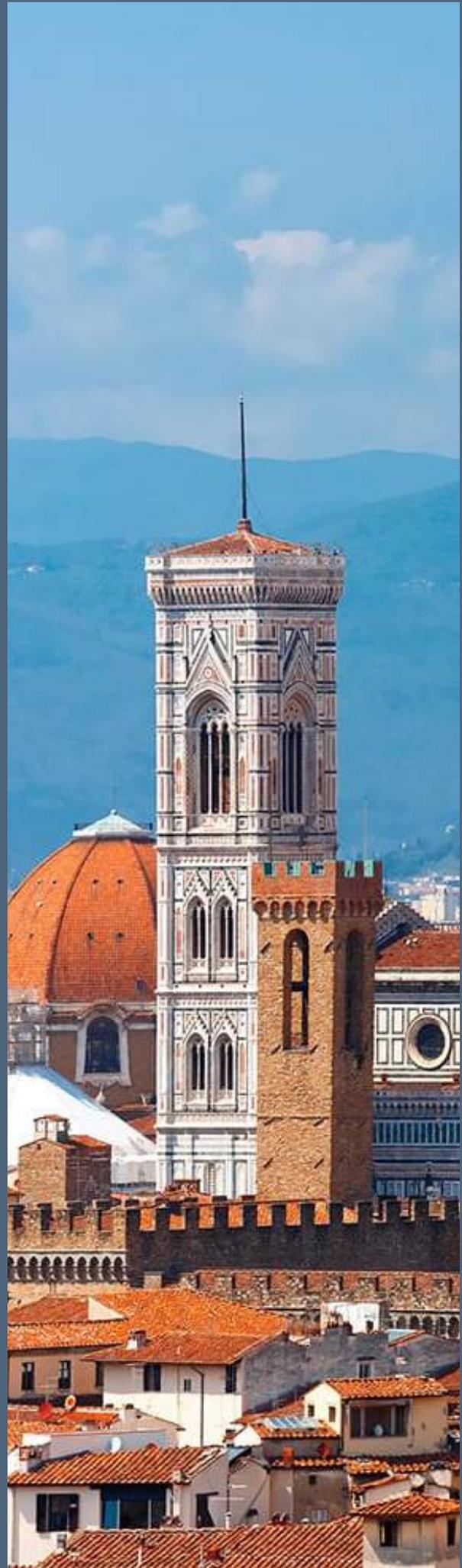
Aspiring professional singers who wish to improve their ensemble skills, Italian pronunciation, stylistic awareness and/or general musicianship.

Those interested in the relationship between music and its history in Renaissance Italy - our course offers a rare opportunity not only to study and sing the music, but also to gain an insight into its wider historical context.

# WHAT DOES THE COURSE COST?

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, all participants will be offered a full scholarship; there is no fee charged to participants for the course.

However, please note that flights and accommodation are not included.



# HOW DO I APPLY?

Please send an e-mail to [sacredmusic@mascaradeopera.com](mailto:sacredmusic@mascaradeopera.com) with the following:

1. Confirmation of your voice type: soprano/cantus, alto, tenor or bass (please select one).

2. CV: an outline of your vocal and musical experience to date (approximately 200 words).

3. Personal statement: tell us why you would like to be selected for this course and what you would hope to gain from the experience (approximately 200 words).

4. Referee: the name and contact details of an appropriate referee (i.e. a music teacher or music professional with whom you have worked recently).



*Mascarade Opera Foundation in Palazzo Corsini al Prato*



# MEET THE TEAM:

## Mark Spyropoulos

### Course Director

Mark Spyropoulos read Music at Trinity College Dublin and then trained as a singer in London at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama under Laura Sarti and later at English National Opera. He has performed with several ensembles in London and France including with William Christie at the Opéra Royal de Versailles, Opera Holland Park, the Philharmonia Chorus and the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court. In 2015 he became the first British singer to join the Papal Choir of the Sistine Chapel. With the Sistine, Mark has recorded four albums with Deutsche Grammophon including several world-première recordings, winning the Echo Klassik Prize for *Cantate Domino* in 2015. He has toured extensively across Europe, South Korea, the USA and Canada, appearing as both a chorister and a soloist. Mark has also made several TV and radio appearances discussing choral music, including interviews on RAI, Sky Arts, CBS 60 Minutes, Fox News, BBC Breakfast, the BBC World Service and BBC Radio 3's 'In Tune'. He has lectured in London at the China Exchange and at Eton College in addition to contributing to articles for the Independent on Sunday, Early Music Today, The Tablet and The Guardian. In 2020 he starred in the BBC documentary *Inside the Vatican*.

In November 2018, Mark established the Music Programme at the Medici Archive Project in Florence with a mission to rediscover sacred works from the vast archives of Medici Florence. To facilitate this, he founded Vox Medicea, a bespoke choir of Renaissance specialists based in London, with the sole purpose of reviving this forgotten repertoire. As Music Director of Vox Medicea, Mark has performed two concerts in London, an extended broadcast feature for CBS Sunday Morning and a major public concert in the Salone dei Cinquecento of the Palazzo Vecchio on behalf of the Comune di Firenze to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of Eleonora di Toledo. In July 2022, he launched the Florence Choral Course, offering advanced choral training in Renaissance repertoire.



# MEET THE TEAM:

**Daniel Turner**

**Choral Technique &  
Musicianship Coach**

Daniel Turner read Music at Oxford University where he was Organ Scholar at The Queen's College, and subsequently Lay Clerk at New College under Edward Higginbottom. He is currently the Organist at St Augustine's Kilburn and works regularly with leading international companies, including most recently at Teatro alla Scala in Milan under Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

As a singer, Daniel has studied with many of the world's most eminent conductors, vocal coaches and performers including Ryan Wigglesworth, Graham Johnson, Sarah Walker, Janice Chapman, Nelly Miricioiu, Ryland Davies, Philip Langridge, David Owen Norris and Iris Dell'Acqua. He has since appeared as both a chorister and soloist for many of the UK's leading professional ensembles.

In 2013 Daniel founded The Barnes Music Festival. In his capacity as Artistic Director, this annual two-week festival draws together international and local artists for over 30 different concerts and events. Additionally, Daniel works with several leading management and communication consultants in the pharmaceutical industry where he draws parallels with work-place team psychology and musical activity.

As a music teacher, Daniel is active with several choirs and choral courses across the UK and in China. He is currently a choral conductor on the staff of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and Assistant Director of Vox Medicea, the professional vocal ensemble of the Mascarade Opera Foundation.



# MEET THE TEAM:

## Kris Belligh

### Senior Vocal Coach

Originally from Belgium, Kris studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London and the Royal Scottish Academy in Glasgow. Since making his debut as the Count Almaviva at the Longborough Festival, Kris performs regularly in Europe's leading opera houses and concert halls, including English National Opera, De Nederlandse Opera, Royal Opera La Monnaie, Opéra de Rennes, Opera de Rouen, Opera-Ballet Flanders, Palais des Beaux Arts Brussels and the Erkel Theatre Budapest.

Recent appearances include three productions at the Royal Opera La Monnaie: *Eugene Onegin*, *The Nose*, and the world première of Howard Moody's new opera *Solar*; Hector Pàrra's opera *Les Bienveillantes* for Opera-Ballet Flanders; and a series of Bernstein Centenary concert performances of *West Side Story* with the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano.

On the concert stage, Kris has worked with William Christie and Christophe Rousset in concert tours of Lully's *Armide* and Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie*, and toured Germany with Frieder Bernius and the Stuttgart Kammerchor performing the integral *Psalmen Davids* by Schütz and Penderecki. Other highlights include *Zatopek!*, an opera created for the London Olympics and BBC Radio 3, and a concert tour of new works written for him by Belgian composers with both the Malibran String Quartet and Musiques Nouvelles.

This season Kris will sing Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Brussels Philharmonic and will be returning to Opera-Ballet Flanders in *Die Fledermaus*, and the world première of *Le Rapport de Brodeck* by Daan Janssens.

As a vocal coach and singing teacher, Kris is in high demand across Belgium and the Low Countries. He is also an affiliate of the Flemish Koor & Stem Choral Foundation and a senior vocal coach at the Louvain-La-Neuve University Summer School and the Florence Choral Course.

# 2023 TIMETABLE

10th - 16th July 2023

|       | Monday 10th                            | Tuesday 11th  | Wednesday 12th                                     | Thursday 13th  | Friday 14th  | Saturday 15th  | Sunday 16th   |
|-------|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 8.30  |  | <i>Morning Cappuccino at Bar Sapianti</i>                           |  | <b>MILAN CATHEDRAL</b><br><i>Early train, Firenze – Milano.</i>  | <i>Free morning to explore the city of Florence.</i> | <i>Cappuccino</i>  | <b>FINAL DAY</b>  |
| 9.15  |  | Vocal warm-up with Kris Belligh                                     |  |  |  | Vocal warm-up  |   |
| 9.30  |  | FULL CHOIR  | FULL CHOIR   |  |  | FULL CHOIR   | Rehearsal   |
| 10.00 |  |   |  | <b>MASTERCLASS with Maestro Massimo Palombella</b><br><i>Director of the Choir of Milan Cathedral.</i> |  |  |   |
| 10.30 |  |   |  |  |  |  | <b>SUNG MASS at Basilica of Santa Maria Novella</b>       |
| 11.00 |  | Break   |  |  |  | Break  |   |
| 11.30 |  | Consort Groups  | <i>What is Church Music? Daniel Turner</i>         | Tour of the great Duomo di Milano, including the terrazza crypt and archives.                          | FULL CHOIR   | Gregorian Chant and Mensural notation at <i>Medici Archive Project</i> | [Course ends after mass]                                  |
| 12.00 |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| 12.30 |  | Lunch break   | Lunch break  |  |  |  |   |
| 1.00  |  |   |  |  | Lunch break  | Lunch break  |   |
| 1.30  |  |   |  |  | <b>MASTERCLASS with Dame Emma Kirkby</b>             | Visit to Florence Cathedral, Baptistry and Museum                      |   |
| 2.00  |  | <i>Who were the Medici? Talk by Medici Archive Project scholars</i> | Visit to Basilica of Santa Croce                   |  | <i>Where next? Professional development</i>          |  |   |
| 2.30  |  |   |  | <b>CONCERT</b>   |  |  |   |
| 3.00  | <i>Welcome</i>                         |   |  |  | <i>Where next? Professional development</i>          |  |   |
| 3.30  | FULL CHOIR<br>First rehearsal          | Break   |  | <b>SUNG MASS</b>   | Break  | Break  |   |
| 4.00  |  | FULL CHOIR  |  |  |  |  |   |
| 4.30  |  |   | FULL CHOIR   | <i>Return to Florence</i>  |  |  |   |
| 5.00  | Walking tour of Florence and aperitivo |   |  |  | <b>VESPERS at San Miniato al Monte</b>               |  |   |
| 5.30  |  | <i>Free evening</i>   |  |  | Break  |  |   |
| 6.00  |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| 6.30  |  |   | Visit and <b>PERFORMANCE at Palazzo Tornabuoni</b> |  |  |  |   |
| 7.00  |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| 7.30  |  |   |  |  |  |  | Rehearsal and <b>CONCERT at Palazzo Corsini al Prato.</b> |
| 8.00  |  |   |  |  | <i>Recital at the Orti Oricellari gardens</i>        |  |   |
| 8.30  |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| 9.00  |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |

Please note that this timetable is subject to change.

## CONTACT US

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mailing  
[sacredmusic@mascaradeopera.com](mailto:sacredmusic@mascaradeopera.com)

# 2022 FLORENCE CHORAL COURSE TESTIMONIALS

*"I'm so happy to be here in this fantastic city.  
It is an intense week and a very special opportunity."*

Kanae from Japan



*"I've enjoyed every day that I've been here. It's been  
challenging, educational and I think my favourite part is  
learning to be a better musician."*

Benjamin from USA

(pictured with vocal coach Kris Belligh)



*"People from all over the world and all different sorts of  
backgrounds, everyone involved with this project is so  
passionate, so hard-working and most importantly so kind to  
share their expertise and experience."*

Frankie from England



*"Such an enjoyable experience,  
I would definitely recommend it!"*

Flora from Scotland



Sung Mass at Santa Maria Novella, attended by HRH Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands