



SOUND OF WANDER 2026

concerts, talks, educational

MASTERCLASS IN COMPOSITION

CAROLA BAUCKHOLT, CASPAR JOHANNES WALTER and mdi ensemble

Milano, Spazio Vivienda
20-24 October 2026

Deadline: 25 July 2026



Carola Bauckholt © Inge Zimmermann



The composition masterclass as part of the ***Sound of Wander: Musica in tre dimensioni*** festival, organized by Associazione musicAdesso and curated by mdi ensemble, is led this year by Carola Bauckholt and Caspar Johannes Walter.

The masterclass spans four days and includes **individual composition lessons, reading sessions** featuring the mdi ensemble, two **lectures** led by Carola Bauckholt and Caspar Johannes Walter, and two final concerts featuring a selection of works composed by the participants.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 20th October

14:00 – 20:00 individual lessons

Wednesday 21st October

10:00 – 18:00 individual lessons and reading sessions

Thursday 22nd October

10:00 – 18:00 individual lessons and reading sessions

Lecture by Carola Bauckholt – seminar open to the general public

Friday 23rd October

Sound of Wander 2026 Opening (talk and concert)

Saturday 24th October

10:00 – 14:00 individual lessons and reading sessions

Lecture by Caspar Johannes Walter – seminar open to the general public

December (TBD)

Final concerts

All course activities are open to actual participants and auditors.

The schedule of activities may be subject to changes organizational needs and to accommodate specific requests from participants whenever possible.

COURSE LOCATIONS

Classes and lectures

Vivienda (Headquarters of mdi ensemble and Associazione Musicadesso) | Via Gioacchino Murat 84, Milano

Concerts

Teatro Elfo Puccini | Corso Buenos Aires 33, Milano

Conservatorio G. Verdi di Como | Via Luigi Cadorna 4, Como

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

ACTUAL PARTICIPANTS [12 available spots]

The €300 fee includes annual membership in the musicAdesso Association as well as participation in all activities scheduled as part of the masterclass:

- a 60-minute individual composition lesson
- a 40-minute reading session with mdi ensemble
- participation in seminars led by Carola Bauckholt and Caspar Johannes Walter
- free admission to the course's final concerts

The course's final concerts, organized by mdi ensemble, will feature performances of pieces by masterclass students, alongside works from the ensemble's repertoire.

AUDITORS (subject to availability)

Auditors have free access to all course activities by purchasing a pass for **€50 for the entire masterclass or €15 for a single day**.

Booking a pass is compulsory; this can be done by emailing corsi@mdiensemble.com and paying in advance by 20 October.

A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the course.

HOW TO APPLY

ACTUAL PARTICIPANTS [12 available spots]

Applications must be submitted via email **by July 25, 2026**. Please send the following documents to corsi@mdiensemble.com

Subject: FIRST NAME + LAST NAME - actual masterclass

1. Link to the **scores** required for the selection process: **please read the details on page 4 carefully**.
2. Links to up to **4 recordings** [streaming platforms, personal website, or shared files];
3. Artistic and academic résumé.

The selection of participants will take place by **August 10, 2026**: all participants will be promptly notified (via email) of the selection results and will receive payment instructions for the fee, which must be paid by **August 20, 2026**, or the spot will be forfeited.

Candidates not admitted following the selection can still participate as auditors (by paying the fee required for auditors).

A waiting list will also be created during the selection process; those directly concerned will be informed accordingly. In case one or more students selected to participate in the masterclass withdraw from their spot, the Association will contact the students on the waiting list in order of ranking.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AND PIECES FOR THE FINAL CONCERT

For admission, each applicant must submit at least one score and up to a maximum of four scores in accordance with the following criteria:

1. **up to 2 compositions for solo instrument** (different instruments);
2. **up to 2 compositions for an ensemble** of up to three different instruments;

Instruments permitted: flute, clarinet, saxophone, violin, viola, cello, percussion, and piano. Any special instruments or accessories must be provided by the composers themselves.

Scores that involve amplification of instruments and/or the use of electronics will not be considered.

Scores must be submitted in .pdf format and made available online (personal website or shared files) for download.

Some of the submitted scores will be selected, at the sole discretion of mdi ensemble, to be performed in the final concert of the masterclass; the performances will be carried out by the musicians of mdi ensemble.

READING SESSIONS AND REHEARSALS

Regular students who are not selected to perform in the final concert will be entitled to a 60-minute reading session on one of the scores submitted for the final concert. The reading sessions will be led by the musicians of the mdi ensemble and will feature the participation of Carola Bauckholt and Caspar Johannes Walter. The reading session is intended as an **opportunity for dialogue between the ensemble, the teachers, and the composer**, with the aim of developing specific ideas regarding a piece or particular instrumental techniques; under no circumstances should it be considered a recording session.

Rehearsals for the selected pieces will take place in December before the concerts; for those who are unable to attend the December concerts, rehearsals will take place in October on the same days as the masterclass.

RECORDINGS

Any recordings made during the final concert and the reading sessions may be used exclusively for educational purposes. **Posting on social media, SoundCloud, or personal websites is permitted only upon prior request for explicit consent from mdi ensemble. Under no circumstances will permission be granted for commercial release.**

ORGANIZATION

The participation fee **does not include travel expenses, meals, or accomodation.**

The musicAdesso Association will provide enrolled students and auditors who do not reside in Milan with useful information on where to stay in the city and how to reach the course venues via public transportation. For further information, please contact corsi@mdiensemble.com.

PRIVACY

The personal data provided by participants will be processed in compliance with current regulations and will be disclosed to third parties solely for purposes related to the organization of the masterclass.

Data Controller for personal data and documentation:

Associazione musicAdesso
viale Murillo, 23 - 20149 Milan, Italy

BIOGRAPHIES

CAROLA BAUCKHOLT

<https://www.carolabauckholt.de>

Carola Bauckholt was born in Krefeld, Germany, in 1959.

After working at the Theater am Marienplatz (TAM), Krefeld for several years, she studied composition at the Musikhochschule Köln with Mauricio Kagel (1978 - 1984). She founded the Thürmchen Verlag (music publisher) along with Caspar Johannes Walter in 1985, and six years later they founded the Thürmchen Ensemble.

She has received numerous residencies and prizes such as the Bernd Alois Zimmermann Scholarship from the city of Cologne (1986), a residency at the Villa Massimo in Rome (1997), in 1998 she was designated the Artist of the Year by the State of North Rhine Westphalia, and she was selected to represent Germany at the World Music Days in Mexico City 1992, Copenhagen 1996, Seoul 1997 and in Zurich 2004. She was awarded the German Composers Prize from the GEMA in the category of experimental music in 2010. From London International Animation Festival 2019 she received the "Best Sound Design Award" for "The Flounder" in collaboration with Elizabeth Hobbs and Klangforum Wien. She has been invited to reside at the Villa I Tatti in Florence in 2021 and at the Villa Aurora in Los Angeles in 2022. In 2019 Ensemble Dal Niente presented her with a portrait in Chicago, in 2023 she was a portrait composer at the Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik and in 2024 she was presented by the International Contemporary Ensemble in a portrait concert in New York City. Her double CD with orchestral works was nominated for the German Record Critics' Award (Maria de Alvear World Edition) and won the 2025 Abbiati Prize for Recordings in Cremona. In October 2025, she was awarded the Louis Spohr Prize by the city of Braunschweig.

She has worked as a guest teacher in Santiago di Chile (2010 and 2014), Ostrava Czech Republic (2011 and 2013), Amsterdam (2012 and 2014), Krakow (2012), Zurich (2012), Apeldoorn (2013), Kiev (2013) Oslo (2014, 2015, 2024), Mexico City (2014), Monterrey (2015), London (2015), Moscow and Tchaikovsky City (2016), Valencia (2018), Barcelona (2018, 2021, 2025) Bludenz (2018, 2019), Haifa (2019) Chicago (2019, 2022), Luxembourg (2020), Graz (2021, 2025), Cambridge, Huddersfield, Scotland (2021), Los Angeles (2022), New York (2022), Stockholm (2022), Oulu/Finland (2023), Glasgow (2024), Boswil (2024), Basel (2024, 2025), Tel Aviv (2024), Trento (2025), Madrid (2025) and in Germany.

In 2013, she was elected as a member of Akademie der Künste in Berlin, from November 2021 on as the director of the music section. In 2015, she was appointed as professor of composition with focus on contemporary musictheatre at the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität in Linz, Austria, and retired in 2024. In 2020, she was elected as a member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts.

A central theme of Bauckholt's work is the examination of the phenomena of perception and understanding. Her compositions often blur the boundaries between visual arts, musical theater and concert music. She is especially fond of using noisy sounds, which are often produced by unconventional means (such as extended instrumental techniques or bringing everyday objects to the concert hall). It is important to note that these noises are not just part of some kind of a predetermined compositional structure, but rather they are carefully studied and left free to unfold and develop at their own pace lending the compositions their own unique rhythm.

CASPAR JOHANNES WALTER

<https://www.casparjohanneswalter.de>

He was born in Frankfurt/Main in 1964, and studied composition with V. D. Kirchner (Wiesbaden) as well as with J. Fritsch and C. Barlow (Cologne Conservatory of Music, 1985-90). In 1985 he was cofounder of the Cologne-based Thürmchen Verlag (Publishing House). He has received several major composition awards including the first prize in the Stuttgart Composition Competition (1991), the 13th Irino Prize for Orchestra (Japan, 1992), in 1995 the first prize in the competition »Vienna modern«, the Hindemith Award of the Schleswig-Holstein Festival and from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia the award for most promising in the category music. In 1988, he was awarded the same by the City of Cologne. He received a scholarship in 1995/96 at the Künstlerhof Schreyahn (Artists' Colony), Lower Saxony, and in 1998 he has been granted a fellowship to carry out his work at the Villa Massimo in Rome. He has represented the young generation of Cologne musicians in exchange projects sponsored by the Goethe Institute in New York (1989) and Atlanta (1993). His pieces were selected for the World Music Days in Stockholm in 1994 and in Copenhagen in 1996. A CD with chamber music works by Caspar Johannes Walter released by the German Council of Music on the Label Wergo has been awarded the »Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik« in 1998.

His interests as an interpreter - he is cellist in the Thürmchen Ensemble, which he also co-founded in 1991 - are focused primarily on young composers from the areas of experimental music and musical theatre. Caspar Johannes Walter's works are performed regularly, not only in Europe but also very successfully in the USA and Japan, for example 1993 World Premieres in Atlanta and Tokyo.

In 2002/2003 Caspar Johannes Walter was teacher of composition and composer in Residence at the University of Birmingham/UK, since 2006 he was professor for composition and director of the studio contemporary music in Stuttgart/Germany and since 2013 he is professor for composition at the Musikakademie Basel/Switzerland. In 2014 he was elected into the „Akademie der Künste, Berlin“.

MDI ENSEMBLE

www.mdiensemble.com | facebook & instagram @mdiensemble

mdi ensemble was formed in Milan in 2002. In 2017 the group has been awarded with Una vita per la Musica prize from Teatro La Fenice in Venezia, for having pursued "with tenacity and tireless study a very precise goal, that is to tackle the production of contemporary music with a strong identity of sound and interpretative style, similar to chamber groups dedicated to traditional repertoire". In 2021 mdi was awarded with Franco Abbiati Prize, "for his dedication to contemporary repertoire, which he approached with analytical discipline and poetic interpenetration, identifying direct dialogue with the composers he performed as the key to deciphering scores of very different nature, always cultivating his own sound and interpretative signature".

Since the beginning, the ensemble collaborates with composers such as Unsuk Chin, Stefano Gervasoni, Sofia Gubaidulina, Helmut Lachenmann, Isabel Mundry, Gérard Pesson, Salvatore Sciarrino, Marco Stroppa and it is regular guest of the most important Italian and foreign musical institutions, including Festival Milano Musica, Biennale Musica di Venezia, Società del Quartetto di Milano, Bologna Festival, Mito-Settembre Musica, Ravenna Festival, Festival dei Due Mondi, Festival Transart, IUC, Festival Présences/Radio France, Festival Jeunesse Wien, ORF in Innsbruck, Villa Concordia Bamberg, SWR Stuttgart, SMC in Losanne, LACMA in Los Angeles, Chelsea Music Festival in New York, Festival Montréal/Nouvelles musiques, Acht Brücken in Köln.

Since 2016, mdi ensemble has been curating the concert series Sound of Wander in Milano. Since 2019 it has also been the promoter of Newmusic Week, an international workshop on contemporary composition and instrumental performing, in collaboration with Accademia Filarmonica Romana and Villa Vigoni (German-Italian Centre for European Dialogue).

mdi ensemble's discography includes monographic CDs dedicated to composers such as Stefano Gervasoni (Academy Charles Cros award, "Coup de Coeur– Musique contemporaine 2009"), Mauro Lanza and Andrea Valle, Marco Momi, Giovanni Verrando, Misato Mochizuki, Emanuele Casale, Sylvano Bussotti, Simone Movio. Their DVD See the Sound – Homage to Helmut Lachenmann was broadcasted by Rai 5 and Sky Classica.

Musicians participating in the 2026 masterclass:

Sonia Formenti, flute
Paolo Casiraghi, clarinet
Salvatore Castellano, saxophone
Matteo Savio, percussions
Luca Ieracitano, piano
Elia Leon Mariani, violin
Paolo Fumagalli, viola
Giorgio Casati, cello

For any enquiries, please email corsi@mdiensemble.com