

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL STRING ACADEMY

5th
edition

June 28 to July 6 2025



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL STRING ACADEMY

28 juin au 6 juillet 2025

5^{ème}
édition



 <p>SERGEY OSTROVSKY Violon</p>	 <p>NOÉMIE BIALOBRODA Alto</p>	 <p>PETER BRUNS Violoncelle</p>	 <p>Invité d'honneur VALENTIN ERBEN Quatuor Alban Berg</p>
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Pianistes collaborateurs :
Simon Peguiron ■ Annegret Kuttner ■ Hunju Sohn

MASTERCLASSES ■ MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE ■ CONCERTS

genevastringacademy.com

Informations  Inscriptions

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UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

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Société de Lecture
1818

MUSÉE BARBIER-MUELLER
GENÈVE

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**CLICK ON THE
IMAGE TO VIEW THE
DOCUMENTARY**

“I have to say that this was perhaps the best academy I have taken part in so far; the people, the atmosphere, the community, and the organizing were all magnifique. The lessons with Peter Bruns and masterclass with Valentin Erben were especially valuable for me. I now find myself more free when making music, as if a new stage is unlocked in a game. I am so happy to have met so many amazing people and musicians from all around the world. Thank you for having me. “

JJ, cellist - 2024



Documentary : 8 minutes to understand the Academy

Youtube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel>

Web site : <https://genevastringacademy.com>

Click here to apply now

SOME STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS

“GISA 24 was great! Noémie, Sergey and Peter were as wonderful and impressive, the overall atmosphere was good, the audiences were interested and willing to commit to the listening experience, very rare. And all this in the beautiful Société de Lecture, a place that is breathing history and culture like no other. My personal highlight probably was getting the chance to work and play with Valentin Erben, something I'll remember and cherish forever! I'm very proud and grateful to have been given this wonderful opportunity and experience.”

AZ, cellist - 2024

“The week has truly been most inspiring and exciting! I had a great time, helpful lessons, amazing concerts and fun after-parties. The Academy has given me many useful insights; I met so many wonderful people and musicians and reconnected with the ones I knew from before. Generally, it felt like a big family - everyone knew us by our names, everyone took such a great care of us and welcomed us wholeheartedly! The atmosphere was 100/100! Thank you so much for doing this all, I really mean it when I say it was one of the best academies I've ever done!”

VV, violonist - 2024

“Merci infiniment pour cette expérience fabuleuse que vous m'avez offerte! J'ai appris beaucoup de nouvelles choses, notamment à travers les projets avec Kati Debretzeni et Garth Knox, que j'ai trouvés extrêmement intéressants. Mes cours individuels étaient géniaux, ceux de musique de chambre également.”

MZ, cellist - 2023

“I was very glad to participate this year in the Geneva International String Academy !!! It inspired me a lot... Everything was at the highest possible. I was extremely happy to meet very talented and kind guys, as well as to play with them and share the stage. This is an incredible experience for all of us that will remain in my memory for many years.”

EC, violonist - 2023

“Thanks so much for a fantastic edition of GISA! I had a really great time: working with Noemie, playing with Sergey and Mishel, the workshops with Garth and Kati, really everything!”

BI, violist - 2023



Diplomas ceremony



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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS – INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS

Violinists, Violists, and Cellists **aged 16-28** on June 28, 2025, are eligible to apply.

You will find in the list below what is needed to fill your application.

- **Two separate videos recordings of two contrasting pieces**
YouTube links only (public or private).
There is no duration limit.
Candidates who have already applied in earlier editions of the Geneva International String Academy are asked to send different videos from those previously sent.
We expect your videos to be **of good quality** and as recent as possible.
- **Two high resolution photos of at least 1 Megabyte each**
One in Horizontal or Landscape, and one in Vertical or Portrait.
[Click here](#) for how to check the resolution of a photo.
- **Curriculum vitae**
- **At least one recommendation letter**
You can either enclose the letter in PDF directly in the application form, or the letter can be sent directly to the academy by email.
Please [click here](#) to see how to directly send the letter to the Geneva International String Academy.
- **A motivation letter**
- **Payment of the application fee: CHF 65.-**
Note: any bank commissions - national and international -, exchange rate or transaction fees are at your own expense. The full amount of CHF 65.- must be received by the Academy. Your application may be rejected otherwise.

We recommend that you fill the form with care and precision. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please, ensure the files you will submit are valid and readable.

[Click here to apply now](#)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS – STRING QUARTETS APPLICATIONS

For **String Quartets** average age should not be over 28.

The group will receive 4 lessons from the faculty members as well as Master classes with Valentin Erben, our honorable guest Cellist of the Alban Berg Quartet.

You will find in the list below what is needed to fill your application.

- **Two separate videos of contrasting String Quartet repertoire**

YouTube links only (public or private).

There is no duration limit.

Candidates who have already applied in earlier editions of the Geneva International String Academy are asked to send different videos from those previously sent.

We expect your videos to be **of good quality** and as recent as possible.

- Although not mandatory we recommend you also send a video of a quintet or sextet with a guest player.
- Although not mandatory you can also send a video of solo repertoire played by individual members of the Quartet.

- **Two high resolution photos of the Quartet of at least 1 Megabyte each**

One in Horizontal or Landscape, and one in Vertical or Portrait.

[Click here](#) for how to check the resolution of a photo.

- **Curriculum Vitae**

- **At least one letter of recommendation**

You can either enclose the letter in PDF directly in the application form, or the letter can be sent directly to the academy by email.

Please [click here](#) to see how to directly send the letter to the Geneva International String Academy.

- **A motivation letter**

- **Payment of the application fee: CHF 130.-**

Note: any bank commissions - national and international -, exchange rate or transaction fees are at your own expense. The full amount of CHF 130.- must be received by the Academy. Your application may be rejected otherwise.

Please note that members of the quartet are strongly encouraged to apply also as individuals, with a separate application. This way, in case of acceptance, they can also benefit of individual lessons with the respective faculty members.

We recommend that you fill the form with care and precision. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please, ensure the files you will submit are valid and readable.

[Click here to apply now](#)

APPLICATION FEE PAYMENT PROCEDURE

You can pay the application fee with a credit card using the Stripe online application, or via a Bank account money transfer. The procedure to pay is available in the web site at the time you apply: <https://genevastringacademy.com/en/apply-start>

TUITION, HOUSING, MEALS, TRAVEL, FEES

The Academy offers invited young musicians full comprehensive support covering all costs of their participation, excluding the travel to and from Geneva.

Tuition: the full support includes all musical training and masterclasses, and participation in concerts.

Housing: Once accepted to the Geneva International String Academy, every participant will receive complimentary housing.

Meals: Daily lunches are offered by the Academy. Light dinners are offered on concert nights. Other meals are at the own expense of the participants.

Travel: Travel costs to and from Geneva are at the own expense of the participants.

Application fee:

- Solo application: 65 CHF
- String Quartet application: 130 CHF (unique fee for the group)

The Academy is being held thanks to the generosity of its sponsors.

[Click here to apply now](#)

FACULTY - SERGEY OSTROVSKY

VIOLIN

Sergey Ostrovsky has been described by Isaac Stern as "...one of the most outstanding Israeli violinists".

Sergey was born in 1975 in Russia to a family of musicians, and has built an active and successful career as the First Violinist of the Aviv Quartet, as a soloist and as First Concertmaster of Orchestre de la Suisse Romande de Genève, Orchestre Comunidad Valenciana of Palau Des le Arts in Valencia, Spain and **Violin Professor of HEM de Genève** (Neuchatel branch).

Sergey began playing at the age of 6, inspired by the great talent and extraordinary musicianship of his father Valery Ostrovsky, a concert pianist and professor whose pedagogical touch and knowledge assisted him throughout his studies. as well as coaching Sergey, his father was his accompanist from 1990 - 2002. Sergey first studied with David Lapidus in the Music School for 8 years, during which time he made his first public concert appearance at the age of 8 and performed for the first time with a symphony orchestra at the age of 13.

In the Music College of Gorky Conservatory, Sergey continued his studies with Lazar Gantman and Yury Gluchovsky. In 1991 the Ostrovsky family emigrated to Israel, where he pursued his studies with Prof. Yair Kless and Irina Svetlova at the Rubin Academy Tel Aviv (from 2005-Buchmann-Mehta High School of Music). He completed his Bachelor Degree Diploma with Natalia Morozova in 2000 and his Master Degree Diploma in Amsterdam Conservatory with Alexander Kerr in 2002.

As a soloist, he has performed with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Cape Town Philharmonic, Johannesburg Philharmonic, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra and many others, with conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Yoel Levi, Hugh Wolff, Bernard Guller, Uriel Segal and Maxim Vengerov.

Sergey has recorded the Mozart Concertone for two violins with Maxim Vengerov and the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra for EMI Classics. In 2010, he recorded less known Russian concertos by Anton Arensky, Jules Conus and a world premiere recording of a Concertino op. 42 by Mieczysław Weinberg, for Naxos.

Sergey Ostrovsky **teaches Chamber Music** and is actively involved in **conducting youth and professional orchestras**. He plays a 1716 violin made by Giovanni Grancinno, purchased with the generous support of Mr. James Mayer and "Tzfonot Tarbut", a non-profit organization for supporting arts in Israel.



Founder and 1st violin of the Aviv Quartet (1996 - 2023)

Soloist with the greatest international orchestras

Violin professor at the Haute École de Musique de Genève

Founder of the Ensemble Symphonique de Genève in 2023

Founder and Artistic Director of the Orchestra "Les Solistes de Neuchâtel"

Co-founder and artistic director of the Geneva International String Academy

FACULTY - NOÉMIE BIALOBRODA

VIOLA

Noémie Bialobroda has been the violist of the **Aviv Quartet** since 2014, leading an active international career with the ensemble. Their performance of Beethoven's complete string quartets at the Ansermet Studio in Geneva in 2018-2019 was a great success and strengthened their presence in French-speaking Switzerland.

Noémie Bialobroda, passionate about teaching, is since 2025, **viola professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon**. She is also **Chamber Music Professor and Chamber Music Coordinator at the Haute École de Musique de Genève**. Previously, she taught at the Conservatoire de Lausanne and the Conservatoire de Genève. During the summer, she teaches at the Flaine International Music Academy. Her students have won prizes in prestigious national and international competitions.

In recognition of her contributions to music, Noémie Bialobroda was awarded the Leenaards Foundation cultural grant in the music category in 2024.

As a performer, she is invited to renowned concert seasons and festivals, including Wigmore Hall (London), the IRCAM Manifeste Festival, and the Cité de la Musique (Paris), among others. She performs with artists such as Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Yovan Markovitch, Luis Claret, Boris Garlitsky, François Guye, Philippe Müller, Tedi Papavrami, Jean Sulem, Jean-Pierre Wallez, and the Rosamonde Quartet, giving concerts across Europe, Israel, and the United States.

Dedicated to contemporary music, Noémie has premiered two solo viola pieces at IRCAM: Caprice for Solo Viola and Electronics by Japanese composer Keita Matsumiya (2012) and Drifting by Pierre Stordeur (2013). She is also regularly invited to perform with the Ensemble Modern in Frankfurt and the Contrechamps ensemble in Geneva.

Noémie Bialobroda studied with Nobuko Imai and Miguel Da Silva at the Haute école de Musique de Genève and later at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where she completed an Artist Diploma (third cycle) with Professor Jean Sulem.

Noémie Bialobroda is the co-founder and artistic director of the Geneva International String Academy.



Violist of the Aviv Quartet

Viola professor at the Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse de Lyon (France)

Chamber Music Professor et Chamber Music coordinator at the Haute École de Musique de Genève

Co-founder and artistic director of the Geneva International String Academy

« Noémie Bialobroda inhabits the room with an inspired presence and great musical generosity. While chamber music occupies a central place in her career, she aspires to take time to develop her viola repertoire with great masters and to work on her personal arrangements of the Winterreise lieder of Franz Schubert. Her confident and committed playing convinced the jury of her ability to take a new step in her artistic development. »

The jury of Grants and Cultural Prizes 2024 of the Leenaards Foundation

FACULTY - PETER BRUNS

CELLO

The cellist **Peter Bruns** has established an excellent reputation in the international music world as one of Germany's leading cellists. Born in Berlin, he studied with Professor Peter Vogler at Berlin's "Hanns Eisler" Academy of Music.

Peter Bruns has performed as soloist and chamber musician in renowned concert halls throughout all continents, including the Berliner Philharmonie, the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Wigmore Hall in London, concert halls in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul, in the Semperoper Dresden, in the Leipziger Gewandhaus as well as at the most important festivals including the Kuhmo, Bergen, Berlin and Dresden Music Festivals, the Budapest Spring Festival, the Seoul Spring Festival and Gidon Kremer's Lockenhaus festival.

The artist has also performed as soloist with many major orchestras and has toured with the Staatskapelle Dresden as well as with the RAI, MDR and Berlin symphony orchestras. He has collaborated with conductors such as Giuseppe Sinopoli, Elisha Inbal, Gianandrea Noseda, Christoph Prick, Marc Albrecht and Bruno Weil.

His fascination with the ancient language of music and the instrumentation of the various stylistic periods has led to close collaboration with renowned orchestras in this field, in particular with the "Akademie für Alte Musik" Berlin, with whom Peter Bruns has played for CD productions, concerts and festivals (Bergen, Brügge, Berlin, Regensburg, Köthen).

From 1993-2000, Peter Bruns was Artistic Director of the Moritzburg Festival. From 1998 to 2005, he was Professor for Cello at the Dresden School of Music and, since 2005, has held the same position at the **Academy of Music in Leipzig**.

Master classes led Peter Bruns to many German cities as well as to London, New York, France, Sweden and Australia.

Developing also a career as conductor, Peter Bruns is Artistic Director of the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester Leipzig since 2014, and performs regularly in its own concert series in the Gewandhaus Leipzig as well as on tours.

Peter Bruns has recorded a series of award winning CDs including Brahms's Cello Sonatas, Bach's Six Suites for Cello Solo, the works of Gabriel Fauré, Ernest Bloch, Charles Koechlin and Robert Schumann, a recording of a Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach concert which won the Cannes Classical Award for "Best CD of the Year", Antonin Dvorak's works for cello and orchestra with the Staatskapelle Dresden and his highly acclaimed recordings of Haydn's, Schumann's and Volkmann's Cello Concertos with the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester Leipzig.

Peter Bruns plays on a cello from Carlo Tononi, Venice 1730, which was once owned by Pablo Casals.



Professor of cello at the Academy of Music of Leipzig

Artistic director of the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester of Leipzig

Director of a series of concerts at the Gewandhaus of Leipzig

GUEST ARTIST - VALENTIN ERBEN

CELLO

To find the roots of the Viennese native, one must travel to Bohemia, Slovenia, Transylvania, and even Holland. His father, a music-loving physicist, and his mother, a professional pianist, taught their son never to let a day pass without music.

Günter Pichler, the first violinist of the Alban Berg Quartet, calls him the "**angel of the string quartet.**"

Valentin Erben was born in Pernitz in 1945. From 1947, his family lived in Augsburg. His mother, a pianist, and his father, an amateur violinist and cellist, regularly invited friends to chamber music gatherings at home. This led Valentin Erben to be exposed to music at a very early age. He received his first "cello" - which was actually a modified viola - at the age of four. After his initial steps on the cello under his father's guidance, he started taking lessons with Paul Freidel, the principal cellist of the Municipal Symphony Orchestra and a student of Julius Klengel, at the age of eight.

Influenced by many beautiful musical experiences and encounters - numerous concerts at the Herkulesaal in Munich, including unforgettable impressions of Rudolf Serkin and the Vegh Quartet, as well as a trip to Pablo Casals in the French Pyrenees - he already harbored the desire to become a cellist at a very young age.

In 1960, Valentin Erben began his cello studies with Walter Reichardt at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich. In July 1963, he had an encounter in Siena that would be of great significance for his future path: he met the famous cellist and pedagogue André Navarra, as well as other renowned cellists such as Maurice Gendron and Paul Tortelier.

In 1964, he graduated in Munich and then continued his studies in Vienna with Tobias Kühne, a former student of Navarra. In February 1965, he performed Schumann's Cello Concerto in the main hall of the Vienna Konzerthaus.

From 1965 to 1968, Valentin Erben experienced a happy and intensive period of study with André Navarra at the Conservatoire de Paris. He also received chamber music lessons from Jean Hubeau and Josef Calvet. In May 1968, he received the "Premier Prix" for cello and chamber music, and thus returned to Vienna.

In the spring of 1969, the **Alban Berg Quartet** was founded in Vienna, a fateful and successful association of four musicians who would shape and dominate the international string quartet scene for nearly 40 years.

From 2004 to 2007, Valentin Erben was also a member of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra under the direction of Claudio Abbado.

In June 2013, Valentin Erben retired from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, where he had taught for over 40 years.

Valentin Erben plays the famous cello by Matteo Goffriller from 1722, known as the "Ex-Pierre Fournier" and "Ex-Yo-Yo Ma."

In addition to an active concert career as a soloist and chamber musician, he now also gives musical lectures, chamber music masterclasses - including in Paris with ProQuartet - and collaborates with composers, singers, and dancers.



Member of the Alban Berg Quartet (1971 - 2008)

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

The Academy welcomes three leading pianists. They accompany the students on a daily basis.

- SIMON PEGUIRON – for violin
- HUNJU SOHNN – for viola
- ANNEGRET KUTTNER – for cello



Simon Peguiron



Hunju Sohn



Annegret Huttner

SANDRINE OSMAN

VIOLIN MAKER AND RESTORER

The Geneva International String Academy invites again for its summer Academy the wonderful luthier Sandrine Osman to assist all the musicians in bringing the best sound out of their instruments and do any small reparations that could be needed during the academy.

Students will be able to have free of charge services such as gluing, cleaning, sound adjustment, bridge check and will receive any advices needed ... They will also have the possibility to buy strings and other small accessories.

Sandrine Osman works at [Pierre Barthel's workshop](#) in Paris.

Born in Paris in 1982, Sandrine Osman has been working at Pierre Barthel's workshop as a violin maker and restorer for the past 15 years.

Graduated from the Newark School of Violin Making (England) in 2006 after a 4 years course, she travels to New York to work under the guidance of Brice Dupin de Saint-Cyr then to Tel Aviv with Amnon Weinstein.

In 2007, she comes back to France and joins Pierre Barthel's workshop in Paris, settled in the famous Rue de Rome.

Her experience and complete training alongside Pierre Barthel and some of the greatest restorers met over the years, such as Iris Carr (England), Jean-Jacques Fasnacht (Switzerland) and Anna Ediger (Austria), allows her to work on very fine instruments.

Moreover, her will to establish a trustfull relationship with musicians made her understood their needs and search in term of sound, comfort, and playability.

Helping musicians is for her the greatest achievement and joy of her work.



Violin maker and restorer at Pierre Barthel's workshop in Paris.



CONCERTS HALLS - CLASSES AND REHEARSALS

THE SOCIÉTÉ DE LECTURE

The Société de Lecture is an exceptional cultural centre located at 11, Grand-Rue. It offers in the wooded lounges of an 18th century mansion a setting and sound that are particularly well suited to concerts.



The Société de Lecture, created in 1818, is nowadays considered as one of the most dynamic cultural places in Geneva. Immediately famous for its cultural influence and exceptional library, it offers today a diversified program of conferences, debates and thematic cycles, workshops in personal development, reflection and creativity as well as activities for children and youngsters.

The Société de Lecture is situated in a beautiful mansion in the heart of Geneva's old town, built between 1740 and 1743 for the French king's official representative.



CONCERTS HALLS – CLASSES AND REHEARSALS

THE BARBIER-MUELLER MUSEUM

Located at 10, rue Jean Calvin, right next to the Société de Lecture, the Barbier-Mueller museum combines music with the intimacy of the art collections exhibited there.



Founded in 1977, the **Barbier-Mueller Museum** has been located for almost thirty years in the heart of Geneva's old town, a stone's throw from Saint-Pierre Cathedral. It occupies the ground floor and basement of a historic 16th-century building. Its intimate atmosphere invites contemplation and dialogue with the works on display. In the summer, a pretty interior courtyard offers a refreshing relaxation area.

The Barbier-Mueller Museum aims to preserve, study, publish and exhibit a collection started by Josef Mueller in 1907 and continued to the present day by his heirs.

The largest privately held collection in the world, this collection now includes several thousand pieces from tribal and classical antiquity, as well as sculptures, fabrics and ornaments from various cultures in Africa, Oceania, Asia and the Americas. Many of them are considered essential masterpieces with high historical value.



The Conservatoire Populaire de Musique de Danse et de Théâtre (CPMDT) in Geneva has been passing on its passion for music, dance and theatre to its students since 1932.



During the day, students have access to the work rooms and rehearsal studios in the main building of the CPMDT located at 7, rue François d'Ivernois in the old town of Geneva. The premises are perfectly adapted to the musical teaching for which they are designed.

Musicians can thus rehearse without time restrictions throughout the Academy.



CONTACT

<https://genevastringacademy.com/en/contactus>



Professors, Participants, Organization - July 2024

