

European Hanseatic Ensemble

With Lübeck at the forefront, the Hanseatic cities in Northern Europe were centres of economic power, trade, and middle-class prosperity. Likewise, the Hanseatic League enabled a rich and flourishing culture, including a thriving music scene. The goal of the European Hanseatic Ensemble is to rediscover the vast musical heritage of this region in the years around 1600, and to revive it for today's generations through concert performances.

Participants who particularly excel in the 2026 masterclasses will be selected by the team of teachers to form the approximately 15-member European Hanseatic Ensemble for the following year. Under the direction of Manfred Cordes, this ensemble will perform on concert tours throughout Europe in 2027, e.g. in Groningen and Gothenburg as part of the YTHM project.

For those musicians involved, the course fee will be refunded, and a daily fee will be paid for rehearsal and concert days, in addition to travel and accommodation expenses.

A selection of the more than 200 Hanseatic cities



Application

The masterclasses are aimed at talented young musicians who study or have studied Early Music at a European conservatory or university, and will be under the age of 32 in September 2026.

The course fee is € 150.

The number of participants in the masterclasses is limited to seven per class. The selection will be made upon evaluation of the provided audio material submitted as part of the application, which should be of works exclusively from the Renaissance and Early Baroque. In keeping with the motto of the European Union "United in diversity", we welcome all applications, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual identity, disability and socio-economic background. The **online application form** and other important information, e.g. on sharing audio or video files, is available on our website: **www.hanseatic-ensemble.eu/en/masterclasses**

Application deadline: 15 April 2026

Contact

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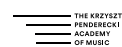
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EUROPEAN
HANSEATIC ENSEMBLE

INTERNATIONAL

MASTERCLASSES

Solo and ensemble music around 1600

**14 – 17 September 2026
in Lübeck**

Ulrike Hofbauer · Voice
Jan Van Elsacker · Voice
Veronika Skuplik · Baroque violin
Frithjof Smith · Cornetto
Hille Perl · Viola da gamba
Simen Van Mechelen · Baroque trombone
Joachim Held · Lute/Theorbo
Marcin Szelest · Organ continuo
Michael Fuerst · Organ continuo
Manfred Cordes · Ensemble

In cooperation with



Young Talents for Hanseatic Music (YTHM)

The driving force of this years' masterclasses is the EU-funded YTHM project. The aim of YTHM is to give young musicians the opportunity to experience and perform vocal and instrumental ensemble music from the Hanseatic period with large organ instruments of historical construction.

If you are looking for a sound representative of ensemble music around 1600, the significance of large pipe organs is indisputable, yet there are few places in Europe where it is still possible to become immersed in this unique soundworld.

On a concert tour in 2027, selected participants of the masterclasses will be given the opportunity to explore performance situations as they likely were at the time of the Hanseatic composers. This is thanks to a co-operation with the *International Gothenburg Organ Academy* and the *Foundation Groningen Orgelstad*.

Organists who are admitted to the masterclasses in Lübeck are strongly encouraged to also participate in the *Arp Schnitger Academy* in Gothenburg (2 – 7 August 2026) and are also recommended to participate in the *Schiörlin Academy* (9 – 12 August 2026). Detailed information can be found on our website.



North German Baroque Organ in Gothenburg, Örgryte nya kyrka



2026 Masterclasses

for voice, baroque violin, cornetto, viola da gamba, baroque trombone, lute and organ continuo

14 – 17 September 2026 in Lübeck

During the four-day masterclass dedicated to European music of the 16th and 17th centuries, participants are granted the opportunity to work with a team of internationally renowned leaders in Early Music. The course consists of two individual lessons (each of 45 minutes), in addition to a strong emphasis on ensemble playing.

Repertoire for the two individual lessons is to be prepared ahead of time, and must be named in the application. Sheet music for ensemble sessions will be made available online to participants in advance. The possibility of solo organ lessons on historic organs in the region, as well as ensemble playing from the famous rood screen of St Aegidien's Church, is to be confirmed.

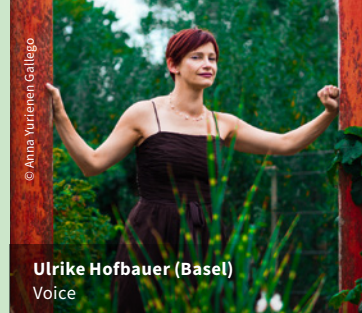
Pitch: a = 466 Hz, $\frac{1}{4}$ comma meantone

The result of all applications will be communicated by email by 31 May 2026. For those selected, the course fee of € 150 should be paid no later than 30 June 2026.

Accommodation in Lübeck (youth hostel) is booked on behalf of participants, however please note that accommodation, travel, and meal costs are not included in the course fee.

Environmental sustainability is important to us, and we therefore request for travel to and from Lübeck to be planned in an environmentally friendly way.

www.hanseatic-ensemble.eu/en/masterclasses



Ulrike Hofbauer (Basel)
Voice



Jan Van Elsacker (Trossingen)
Voice



Veronika Skuplik (Bremen)
Baroque violin



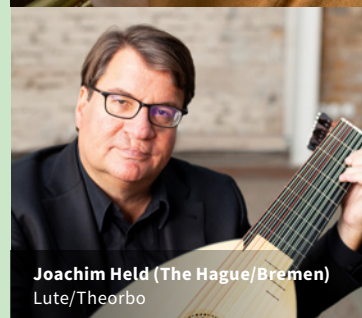
Frithjof Smith (Basel)
Cornetto



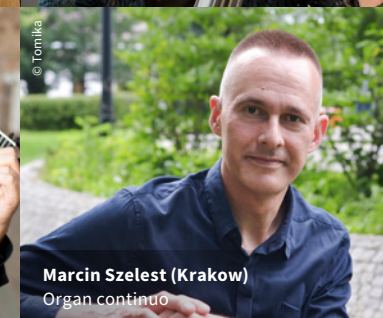
Simen Van Mechelen (Antwerpen)
Baroque trombone



Hille Perl (Bremen)
Viola da gamba



Joachim Held (The Hague/Bremen)
Lute/Theorbo



Marcin Szelest (Krakow)
Organ continuo



Michael Fuerst (Bremen)
Organ continuo



Manfred Cordes (Bremen)
Ensemble