

RIGOLETTO

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Module 1:
5-10 April 2025

Module 2:
2-8 June 2025

CONDITIONS



Real Círculo de la Amistad
Liceo Artístico y Literario
Medalla de Oro de la Ciudad
Córdoba



CORDOBA OPERA LAB

III CÓRDOBA INTERNATIONAL OPERA STUDIO

CÓRDOBA OPERA LAB / REAL CÍRCULO DE LA AMISTAD DE CÓRDOBA

RIGOLETTO

REGISTRATION

- From January 22 to March 2, 2025.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

- March 3-4, 2025.
- March 5, 2025 – Participants's Announcement.

CIOS 2025 DATES

Module 1:

- April 5–10, 2025.
 - **Opera Gala:** Tuesday, April 8.
 - Masterclass with Aquiles Machado: April 9.

Module 2:

- June 2–8, 2025.
 - **Rigoletto performances:**
 - Saturday, June 7.
 - Sunday, June 8.

- **Francesco Izzo** - Director of Opera Studio.
(University of Southampton / Teatro Regio di Parma)
- **Alberto Cubero** – Conductor.
- **Guillermo Amaya** – Stage director.
- **Aquiles Machado** – Vocal technique.
(Artistic director of Lyric Season of A Coruña).
- **Victor Sánchez** – Verdian Opera.
(Universidad Complutense de Madrid).

Francesco Izzo, Director of Opera Studio

(University of Southampton / Teatro Regio di Parma)

Francesco Izzo holds the position of a musicologist, pianist, and opera specialist, with a focus on 19th-century opera and vocal music. He currently occupies the role of a Music Professor at the University of Southampton. He is the General Editor of the critical edition "The Works of Giuseppe Verdi" (University of Chicago Press and Casa Ricordi), where he has worked on the edition of "Un giorno di regno."



Alberto Cubero, Conductor.

The musical direction of the production will be led by Alberto Cubero, a successful conductor whose dedication and talent have led him to take on the leadership of excellent operatic projects. Established as an essential figure in the development of outstanding productions, as an assistant conductor at Spain's most prominent opera houses.



Guillermo Amaya, Stage director.

He has worked as an Oberspielleiter (responsible for the scenic area and resident director in the field of Musiktheater) at the Lower Saxony Theater, Hildesheim- Hannover, Germany, where he resided for 14 years. He has been involved in numerous theater, musical, and opera projects, both in Spain and in various countries of the European Union and in Peru.



Victor Sánchez, Musicologist.

(Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Professor in the Department of Musicology at the Complutense University of Madrid, where he teaches Music History, music publishing, musical theatre and History of lyric theatre (opera and zarzuela). He has been coordinator of the Master's Degree in Spanish and Latin American Music (2011-12) and director of the Department of Musicology between 2012 and 2016.



Clases Magistrales de Técnica Vocal

Aquiles Machado, renowned tenor with an outstanding international career and currently Artistic Director of the Lyric Season for Amigos de la Ópera de A Coruña, will offer participants masterclasses in vocal technique.

Widely acclaimed for his brilliant performances on the world's most prestigious stages, Machado has established himself as one of the most versatile and expressive voices of his generation.

In these masterclasses, he will share his extensive professional experience and artistic insights, providing young singers with a unique opportunity to refine their skills under the guidance of a true icon of international opera.



The third edition of Córdoba International Opera Studio is a project of Córdoba Opera Lab (COOL), in collaboration with the Real Círculo de la amistad de Córdoba.

This edition offers 24 young artists the exceptional opportunity to participate in a highly advanced course in Italian opera.

The final goal is the semi-stage performance of the opera *Rigoletto* by G. Verdi.

COURSE CONTENT

The course offers a rich and diverse experience for singers, conductors and pianists alike, totalling 24 artists spread across the following:

- **18 singers (2 opera casts)**
- **4 conductors**
- **2 pianists**

Singers

The singers will undergo comprehensive training, covering everything from vocal technique to operatic repertoire preparation. Additionally, they will work on stagecraft under the guidance of an experienced stage director, refine their Italian diction, and collaborate closely with conductors and répétiteurs. A standout feature of the program is the opportunity to work directly with an orchestra.

Participating singers will submit two arias of their choice, selected from the Italian opera repertoire, which will form the program for the **Opera Gala**, accompanied on piano by Maestro Francesco Izzo.

The roles* offered are:

- Rigoletto
- Il Duca
- Gilda
- Paggio | Contessa di Ceprano ! Cover Gilda
- Maddalena | Giovanna
- Sparafucile | Conte di Monterone
- Borsa
- Marullo | Cover Rigoletto
- Conte di Ceprano

* Registration can be made by opting for several roles.

Structure of the program for Singers

The course for singers is designed to offer comprehensive training, alternating individual work, joint rehearsals and practical activities, with the aim of perfecting their technical and interpretive skills in a professional environment.

Module 1. Opera Gala and Introduction to *Rigoletto*. [46 hours].

- Individual coaching sessions with Maestro Francesco Izzo to work on arias of the participant's choice.
- Musical preparation of *Rigoletto* under the direction of maestros Izzo and Cubero.
- **Opera Gala:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Student singers will perform in a public recital accompanied by Maestro Francesco Izzo on piano.
- **Master class:** Tenor Aquiles Machado will lead a vocal technique masterclass on Wednesday, April 9.

Module 2. *Rigoletto*. [48 hours].

- Musical rehearsals led by Maestros Cubero and Izzo.
- Staging of *Rigoletto*. (Semi-staged concert version).
- Lecture: *Rigoletto* presented by Víctor Sánchez, Professor of Musicology at the Complutense University of Madrid. Tuesday, June 3.
- Stage rehearsals: June 5 and 6.
- Rehearsals with orchestra: June 6 and 7 (morning)
- Performances: June 7 (Teatro El Jardinito de Cabra) / June 8 (Salón Liceo del Real Círculo de la Amistad de Córdoba). Each participant will perform a role in one of the scheduled performances.

LUGARES Y FECHAS

All activities will take place in the building of Real Círculo de la Amistad de Córdoba (C/ Alfonso XIII, 14 – Córdoba).

- April 8. **Gala de ópera.** Salón Liceo.
- April 9. Masterclass **Aquiles Machado.** Sala Julio Romero de Torres
- June 3. Lecture by **Víctor Sánchez.** Sala Julio Romero de Torres
- June 7. First performance of ***Rigoletto***. Teatro *El Jardinito* de Cabra.
- June 8. Second performance of ***Rigoletto***. Salón Liceo.



Conductors and pianists

The program **for conductors and pianists** includes the study and analysis of excerpts from essential works of the operatic repertoire (Le nozze di Figaro, Don Giovanni, La Bohème, and Peter Grimes, among others) as preparation for the study of the opera *Rigoletto*.

Participants will develop skills in:

- Conducting accompanied recitatives.
- Mastering the technical aspects required to lead an opera production.
- Planning, organizing, and coordinating the musical and professional elements involved in an opera production.

Active Collaboration and Hands-On Practice:

Participants will actively collaborate with singers, conducting musical and staging rehearsals, and will have the opportunity to apply their skills by working directly with the orchestra. This is a unique opportunity to build a solid foundation and gain valuable experience as an introduction to the operatic repertoire.

Program Structure for conductors and pianists

Formative Module (Preliminary Work) [16 hours of intensive training]

- Theoretical and practical classes at the piano, focused on technical and artistic preparation.
- Detailed score study and production planning.

** This training will take place in Madrid on a date different from the singers' Module 1. The schedule will be agreed upon with the selected participants.*

Practical Module (Work at the CIOS) [June 2–8]

- Conducting musical and staging rehearsals.
- Practical conducting session with the orchestra and singers, focusing on interpretation and final production.

** Location: Cordoba.*



This course is open to singers, conductors, and répétiteurs of all ages and nationalities.

Priority will be given to those artists holding a higher degree in their respective specialty or those in the final years of their music studies.

Additionally, professional experience in opera and the operatic repertoire will be highly valued, including previous performances in operatic productions, among other relevant experience.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must complete the online form (<https://www.albertocubero.com/cool/>) by **March 2, 2025, at 11:59 PM.**

Application

The following information must be attached:

- Personal details as requested in the registration form.
- Academic resume and certification of music studies.
- A recent recording (audio or video) of two arias from the Italian repertoire of free choice, performed in the original language and in their complete version. [The recording should be uploaded to the registration form via a link to major digital platforms: YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud...].
- A brief artistic biography of 400 words (for programs and social media).
- An artistic headshot (for programs and social media). **MAXIMUM SIZE: 3 MB.**

* *Students in the LISTENER mode only need to complete the form.*

** *Pianists and conductors must attach a video of at least 5 minutes with a repertoire of their choice.*

Selection process

The selection process will be carried out by the principal professors of the Opera Studio on **March 3 and 4**, consisting of the audition of the recordings submitted by the candidates. The candidates' stage presence and interpretive qualities will be taken into account. The list of selected participants will be communicated via email starting on March 5, 2025.

Pianists and conductors will have a brief interview with Maestros Izzo and Cubero to assess the suitability of the candidates.

FEES

SINGERS:

Full Course: **475 €** [* Includes professional video recording of the Opera Gala and the performance of Rigoletto in which they participate].

CONDUCTORS AND PIANISTS:

Full Course: **400 €**

LISTENERS:

Full Course: **150 €** / Individual psrts: **100 € each.**

* **20% discount for ACTIVE participants in CIOS 2024**



At the III Córdoba International Opera Studio, we have created a collaboration program with prominent institutions during the 2025/2026 season to promote the artistic careers of the participants selected in this edition. Participants may be selected for:

- Little Opera Festival of Zamora: 1 paid artistic collaboration in the 2026 edition, consisting of a scholarship of €700 and covered expenses. [Selected by the festival].
- Real Círculo de la Amistad de Córdoba: Paid collaboration for 2 artists in the musical activities of the 2025/2026 season. [Participants selected by CIOS professors].