

Mastering Orchestral Percussion for Conductors: Technique, Analysis & Balance

A Masterclass Series with David Moliner

In September 2025, composer and percussionist **David Moliner** launches a specialized online course designed for conductors eager to deepen their expertise in interpreting percussion within orchestral works—ranging from Beethoven and Berlioz to contemporary masters like Xenakis and Boulez. This course offers detailed score analysis, instrumental understanding, and conducting techniques that ensure clarity, balance, and cohesion in orchestral percussion.

Course Objective

This course provides conductors with the tools to:

- Master the wide variety of percussion instruments and their expressive capabilities.
- Analyze percussion parts from classical to contemporary repertoire in depth.
- Facilitate percussionists' comfort and confidence in rehearsals and performances.
- Maintain a balanced orchestral sound where percussion enhances, rather than fragments, the overall musical discourse.

Course Content and Structure

The course consists of **four online group sessions** on Fridays in September 2025: **5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th**. Each session includes a **pre-recorded lecture** and a **live Q&A session**.

Session 1: Foundations of Percussion in Orchestral Conducting

- Introduction to essential percussion instruments (timpani, snare drum, triangle, etc.)
- How mallet/stick choice impacts tone, gesture, and orchestral color
- Case studies: Beethoven symphonies and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*
- The effect of percussion technique on orchestral dialectic and narrative

Session 2: Percussion in the Classical-Romantic Repertoire

- Understanding percussion's stylistic evolution from late Classicism to Romanticism

- Managing articulation, balance, and timbral blending
- Techniques to shape expressive trajectories within traditional forms

Session 3: Percussion Ensembles and Chamber Orchestras

- Focus on repertoire such as Varèse's *Ionisation* and contemporary chamber works
- Stick and mallet selection, gesture articulation, and ensemble interaction
- Navigating rhythmic density, pulse fragmentation, and gestural fluidity

Session 4: Contemporary Orchestral Percussion

- Score reading and interpretation in works by Xenakis, Jonchaies, Shaar, Lichens, Boulez and David Moliner orchestral works.
- Deep dive into Moliner's *Percussion Concerto- Figuratio* and *Estructura IV*, premiered at the Lucerne Festival
- Conducting complex textures, extended techniques, and layered structures

Who is this Course For?

- Conductors seeking comprehensive knowledge of percussion's role across classical and contemporary repertoire
- Musicians interested in developing their interpretative language with percussion sections
- Professionals preparing for percussion-focused rehearsals, performances, or auditions

Post-Course Opportunities: Selection and Collaboration

After the course, **between one and six conductors** will be selected based on an analysis of **two orchestral works by David Moliner** (provided during the course). These selected participants will have the opportunity to:

- **Conduct ensemble and orchestras** performing David Moliner's works, including upcoming **concerto and ensemble projects for the 2026–2027 season (to be announced)**

- **Establish meaningful artistic relationships** with leading orchestras and ensembles that will perform Moliner's works during the **2026–2027 and 2027–2028 seasons**, including:
 - Orquesta de Valencia
 - Orquesta de Castilla y León
 - Orquesta de São Paulo
 - Orquesta del Teatro Colón
 - Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz
 - Banda Municipal de Barcelona
- Engage directly with the **artistic directors and management teams** of these institutions. These professional contacts will provide key networking opportunities and real visibility within the international orchestral circuit.
- Receive personalized artistic mentoring and long-term career guidance from David Moliner, establishing artistic connections with renowned conductors and soloists who will perform Moliner's music in 26/27 season (such as José Rafael Villaplana, Alexander Liebreich, Carolin Widmann or Nuno Coelho)
- **Connect directly with Universal Edition**, the official publisher of David Moliner's works, to build long-term relationships in the field of score editing, promotion, and artistic collaboration.

Methodology and Schedule

- Four online group sessions via video conference
- Dates: Fridays, September 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025
- Format: Pre-recorded lecture (available in advance) + Live Q&A discussion
- Time: To be confirmed (recordings will remain accessible)

Course Fees

- Full course (4 sessions): €240 (60 euros pro session) **50% scholarship (€160 total)** available for conductors currently enrolled in conservatories or universities in **South America or Africa** (valid proof of enrollment required)
- Scholarships available for emerging conductors upon request

How to Apply

To apply, please send an email to **mentoringprogram.moliner@gmail.com** including the following:

- **Curriculum vitae**
- **A video** of yourself conducting
- **A short motivation letter (maximum 100 words)** explaining why you wish to take part in the course

Application Deadline: August 31, 2025

Unlock the full potential of percussion in your conducting. Strengthen your analytical and interpretative skills, connect with top-level ensembles, and shape your artistic voice with David Moliner.

Contact & Info:

mentoringprogram.moliner@gmail.com