

International Academy of Musical Praxis

Led by David Moliner

Vision & Objective

The *International Academy of Musical Praxis* is an international program for composers who want their solo percussion works to be widely playable, impactful, and part of the global repertoire.

This first edition is focused specifically on percussion, with composers guided by David Moliner, who will provide personalized mentorship throughout the program and perform the world premieres of selected works. Alongside the exploration of percussion, the Academy also opens the door to orchestral and ensemble writing, giving composers tools to extend their ideas to larger contexts and build sustainable professional careers.

The first edition combines five pillars:

- **Praxis First:** Every session, feedback, and project focuses on instrumental playability, reproducibility, and real-world performance.
- **Holistic Musical Voice:** Composers learn to see percussion not just as an instrument, but as a central, differentiating element in their musical identity, with strategies to integrate it into chamber and orchestral writing.
- **Collective Aesthetic Exchange:** The Academy fosters dialogue, collaboration, and exchange among composers worldwide.
- **Professional Projection:** Beyond percussion, participants gain resources to engage with orchestras, ensembles, and publishers, developing pathways for economic sustainability and repeated performances.
- **Global Impact:** Works created here are intended to resonate across concert halls internationally, shaping the repertoire of today and tomorrow.
- **Tangible Professional Outcomes:**
 - Professional recordings of all works (reading sessions).
 - 4 selected works will be **world-premiered by David Moliner at the Konzerthaus Berlin**.
 - Publication opportunity: All participants' works will have the possibility to publish with **Universal Edition**.

- **Global Impact:** Works created here are intended to be performed repeatedly across concert halls in Europe and internationally.
- **Exclusive Expert Insights:** Video testimonies from renowned composers **Jörg Widmann**, **Fabián Panisello**, sharing their vision of percussion, practical advice, and strategies for integrating percussion into a composer's musical discourse.

Inspired by Xenakis, the Academy merges extreme musical quality with practical instrumental understanding, pushing composers to innovate while ensuring playability.

Program Structure – 10 Monthly Sessions

Session 1 – Introduction & History of Solo Percussion

- Evolution and cultural significance of percussion instruments
- Key solo repertoire: Mantovani, David Moliner, Sueyoshi, Billone, Sciarrino
- *Praxis focus:* understanding what performers need to bring music to life

Session 2 – Writing Idiomatically for Percussion

- Notation, articulation, dynamics, phrasing
- Selecting mallets and tools for idiomatic sound
- *Praxis focus:* ensuring compositions are immediately playable

Session 3 – Standard Techniques & Notation

- Detailed approach to standard percussion techniques
- Notation clarity for reproducibility
- *Praxis focus:* making music accessible without losing artistic depth

Session 4 – Extended Techniques I

- Harmonics, multiphonics, bowing, plucking, inside-the-instrument effects
- *Praxis focus*: translating avant-garde ideas into executable gestures

Session 5 – Extended Techniques II

- Advanced mallet writing (four-mallet, six-mallet)
- Layering textures, resonance control, expressive writing
- *Praxis focus*: balancing technical challenge with musicality

Session 6 – Rhythm, Pulse & Structure

- Polyrhythms, cross-rhythms, metric modulation
- *Praxis focus*: rhythmic clarity as foundation for reproducible performance

Session 7 – Compositional Practicality

- Ensuring music is playable, reproducible, and attractive for performers
- Clarity, rehearsal efficiency, performer-friendly writing
- *Praxis focus*: writing that performers want to keep in their repertoire

Session 8 – Professional Score Preparation

- Preparing unambiguous scores
- Marking extended techniques and complex textures
- *Praxis focus*: reducing rehearsal time and performer uncertainty

Session 9 – Virtuosoic & Expressive Writing

- Writing passages with technical clarity and expressive impact
- Exercises inspired by major percussion works

- Linking percussion solos to chamber and orchestral textures
- *Praxis focus*: creating music performers want to play repeatedly and integrate into larger contexts

Session 10 – Personal Voice, Orchestral Integration & Professional Writing

Part A – Personal Voice & Experimental Writing

- Developing a unique compositional language for percussion
- Exploring experimental sounds, sympathetic resonance, unconventional techniques
- *Praxis focus*: ensuring experimentation is grounded in performance reality

Part B – Writing for Orchestra & Large Ensembles

- How to integrate percussion effectively in orchestral and ensemble settings
- Case studies: Thomas Adès, Jörg Widmann, Unsuk Chin, Kaija Saariaho → composers whose orchestral works are performed worldwide today
- Practical orchestration: how to achieve maximum impact with minimal complexity
- Avoiding clichés: giving percussion a central, distinctive role in orchestral writing

Part C – Professional Career Tools

- How to position yourself as a composer internationally
- Strategies to secure commissions with orchestras and ensembles
- Building long-term collaborations with soloists and conductors
- Entering publishing houses and maximizing performance royalties
- Preparing a strong portfolio for competitions, festivals, and residencies

Program Options

Feature	Light (€75 / session)	Base (€100 / session)	Premium (€200 / session, limited)
10 online sessions (Zoom Premium, 1h each)	✓	✓	✓
Recordings of all sessions	✓	✓	✓
Recordings of composed works by David Moliner	✓	✓	✓
Video testimonies (Widmann & Panisello)	✓	✓	✓
Comprehensive reference document	✓	✓	✓
Personalized feedback from David Moliner	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity for Konzerthaus Berlin premieres	—	✓	✓
Opportunity for publication (Universal Edition)	—	✓	✓
4 private mentoring sessions (extra) with David Moliner	—	—	✓
Participation in new chamber projects commissions (2027/2028) (Percussion / Sax /	—	—	✓
Recordings of these chamber projects	—	—	✓

Transparency Statement:

Selection for Konzerthaus Berlin premieres is based solely on artistic merit. Premium provides mentorship and collaboration opportunities, not selection advantage.

Method & Dates

- 10 monthly online sessions (Zoom Premium, 1 hour each)
- Recording day(s) at program end for all works
- All sessions recorded and accessible for review
- Program begins **November 2025**

Why join?

Work directly with **David Moliner**, renowned composer and percussionist.

Learn **practical composition techniques** that make your music performable and attractive for soloists and ensembles.

Receive **professional recordings** of your works.

Chance for **premiere at the Konzerthaus Berlin**.

Collaborate with top soloists in **saxophone, violoncello, and percussion**.

Access a **global network of composers** for aesthetic and professional exchange.

Position your works for **international visibility and repeated performances**.

Develop your **unique voice**, integrating percussion as a central and differentiating element.

Gain **exclusive insights** from world-class composers such as Jörg Widmann and Fabián Panisello through video testimonies.

Learn how to **extend your ideas to orchestral and ensemble contexts**, with models such as Thomas Adès, Jörg Widmann, or Unsuk Chin, whose works are regularly programmed worldwide.

Acquire **career strategies**: how to collaborate with orchestras, secure commissions, and build a sustainable professional path.

Opportunity for your works to be considered for **publication by Universal Edition**.

Notes for Participants

- Designed for composers worldwide
- Focused on praxis, reproducibility, global impact, and aesthetic exchange
- Premium projects limited and merit-based
- **Scholarships:** 50% discount for composition students from conservatories in **Latin America and Africa**

How to Apply

Send an email to: **mentoringprogram.moliner@gmail.com**

Include:

1. One solo composition written in the last 2 years (audio optional)
2. Short motivation statement (max. 200 words) explaining:
 - Why you want to join the Academy
 - Your compositional goals and how you aim to develop your voice
 - How percussion contributes to your musical ideas
3. Specify whether applying for **Light**, **Base**, or **Premium**