

Programme

The festival will take place from February 24 to March 1, 2026. It will open on February 24 with a concert by the masters: bass-baritone Ulf Bästlein and pianist Charles Spencer, joined by the artistic director of the Vogl-stichting, baritone Vincent Kusters. On the evening of February 25 there will be a recital with Vincent Kusters and star pianist Julius Drake. All concerts are in the Sint Janskerk.

Public masterclasses will take place from February 26 to 28, and all participants are expected to attend the concerts.

Presentation Concert and Prize Ceremony

The final presentation of the participants on March 1 will also be streamed online. After the concert, a jury consisting of the teachers and internationally renowned singers and accompanists will deliberate. One duo will be awarded the Maastricht Art of Song Prize, which includes:

- An invitation for a paid recital in Maastricht in 2027
- A cash prize of €2500,-

Application & Fees

- Fee: €350 p.p. (includes €50 application fee and accommodation, excludes catering)
- Apply by: January 18, 2026
- Audition: Send a video (3 songs) & registration form (www.voordezangkunst.nl) to info@voordezangkunst.nl
- Selected duos will be notified by January 25, 2026

Don't miss this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of Lied!

📧 Apply now and let your voice be heard in Maastricht!



J.M. Vogl-stichting

Organisation:

J.M. Vogl-stichting 'Voor de Zangkunst'
www.voordezangkunst.nl
+31 (0) 6 29 48 60 84
info@voordezangkunst.nl
Dr. Poelsstraat 22
6247BW Gronsveld, Nederland

With the kind support of:

Hoogproost van het Kapittel van Sint Servaas
info@kapittelvansintservaas.nl
Kapittel van Sint Servaas BV
Henric van Veldekeplein 29
6211TG Maastricht, Nederland



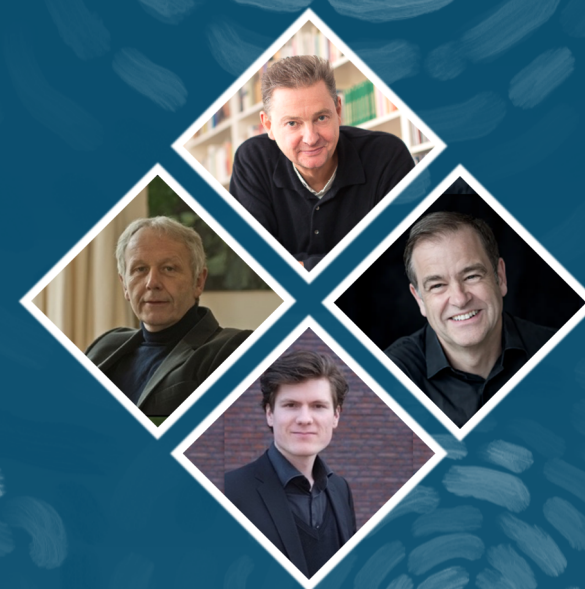
J.M. Vogl-stichting

The J.M. Vogl-stichting
presents

The Art of Song in the Heart of Maastricht

A Masterclass on the interpretation of
Art Song

February 24 – March 1, 2026



Refine your artistry in the heart of Europe!

Why Apply?

- ✓ Work with world-class Lied experts
- ✓ Perform in historic Maastricht venues
- ✓ Access to concerts with renowned artists
- ✓ Free accommodation
- ✓ Chance to win the Maastricht Art of Song Prize*

* paid recital in 2027 & a cash prize of €2500,-

The J.M. Vogl-stichting Voor de Zangkunst invites young professional Lied duos (singer & pianist) to apply for The Art of Song in the Heart of Maastricht – an intensive masterclass on the interpretation of art song from various eras. This exclusive program offers a unique opportunity to receive World-Class Mentorship from internationally renowned Lied specialists in a historic setting.

Where?

Lessons take place in the inspiring atmosphere of the **Palace of the Grand Provost** (Henric van Veldekeplein 29) and the **historic Sint Janskerk** (Vrijthof 24), Maastricht.



When?

- February 24 | 20:00 - Opening Concert: Ulf Bästlein & Charles Spencer, joined by Vincent Kusters
- February 25 | 20:00 - Evening Recital: Vincent Kusters & Julius Drake
- February 26–28 | 10:00-17:00 - Public Masterclasses
- March 1 | 15:00 - Final Presentation (with livestream) & prize ceremony

Accommodation

Free accommodation is provided for all participating duos at Henric van Veldekeplein 29 – 'Paleis van de Hoogproost/Palace of the Grand Provost' in Maastricht. Participants will share a double room.

Who Can Apply?

- Lied duos (singer & pianist) studying at a conservatoire or graduates (max. 5 years post-study)
- Repertoire: min. 10 songs, primarily German Lied
- Languages: lessons in English & German
- Limited spots: max. 8 duos – audition required



Teachers

Prof. Dr. Ulf Bästlein *Bass-baritone*

Ulf Bästlein studied classical philology and German literature (State Exams and Doctorate), followed by vocal studies in Freiburg, where he graduated with distinction. A recipient of a scholarship from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation, he began his stage career at the Heidelberg Theatre, later performing in Augsburg, Hanover, Lübeck, and Hamburg. He has received numerous prizes, including 2nd Prize at the German Music Competition.

As a sought-after concert and Lied singer, he has performed in Europe, China, the USA and Turkey, and has appeared at major international festivals including the Flanders Festival, Stresa Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Rheingau Festival, Styriarte, Ludwigsburg Castle Festival, and Herrenchiemsee Festival. His Lied partners include Charles Spencer, Michael Gees, James Tocco, Julius Drake, and Detlef Kraus.

His discography includes more than 30 CDs, featuring song settings of Heine, Goethe, Storm, Hebbel, Trakl, and Leitner, as well as oratorio and opera recordings for labels such as Sony Classical, CPO, Orfeo, and Hänssler. He holds professorships in Lübeck and at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz.

In 2000 he founded the acclaimed Liedkunst masterclass in Husum with Charles Spencer. His interdisciplinary projects combine Lied performance with literary and historical insight. He regularly gives masterclasses in China, Russia, Turkey, and Italy. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Hans Momsen Prize in 2018 and the Schleswig-Holstein Order of Merit in 2021.

Prof. Charles Spencer *Pianist*

Born in Yorkshire (UK), Charles Spencer studied with Max Pirani (Royal Academy of Music), Walter Fleischmann, Noel Flores, and Robert Schollum, and took masterclasses with Vlado Perlemutter and Geoffrey Parsons. He graduated with distinction from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where he received the Austrian Federal Prize for Artistic Achievement.

Charles Spencer is one of the most sought-after collaborative pianists of our time. He has performed with many of the world's foremost vocalists, including Christa Ludwig, Gundula Janowitz, Jessye Norman, Thomas Quasthoff, Peter Schreier, Elīna Garanča, and Vesselina Kasarova. His international career has taken him to the most prestigious concert halls and festivals across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

His extensive discography covers a wide repertoire and has received critical acclaim and several international awards. As a Lied pianist, he is known for his exceptional sensitivity, stylistic versatility, and deep connection with the voice.

Since 2000, he has served as Professor of Lied Interpretation at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where he mentors a new generation of Lied performers. He is also co-founder of the Liedkunst masterclass in Husum, Germany, with baritone Ulf Bästlein.

