



BARENBOIM-SAID
AKADEMIE

Humanities Interview

In addition to performing for music faculty, audition days at the Barenboim-Said Akademie include a music theory and ear training test, as well as an individual interview with a member of our academic faculty.

The curriculum for both Bachelor of Music and Artist Diploma students at the Barenboim-Said Akademie is unique, combining intensive music performance studies with a humanistic education. Focusing on philosophy, history and literature, humanities courses at the Akademie are designed to foster analytical and critical thought, refine written and oral expression, and encourage meaningful encounters – not only within the Akademie’s community, but on the concert stage and beyond. The aim of these studies is to inform, and possibly transform, the way we think of ourselves, others, and the world.

Interviews are about ten to fifteen minutes long and will be conducted in English by a member of our academic faculty. In the interview, applicants are given a short text to read. The interviewer will then ask the applicant a few questions and engage you in a short discussion about the text. The purpose of this interview is not to test an applicant’s knowledge, but rather to gauge the applicant’s interest in the Akademie’s curriculum, engagement in non-musical subjects, as well as academic potential.

How should I prepare my interview? No extra preparation is needed for this part of the audition day: we are simply interested in understanding the way you respond to and discuss new ideas. However, if you wish to work on your interview skills ahead of time, we suggest you take a paragraph from a book or article that you have recently read and discuss it with an English-speaking friend, trying to articulate what you found most persuasive, unsettling, important or surprising about it.