



The Barenboim-Said Akademie

The Barenboim-Said Akademie offers an unprecedented conservatory education for talented, young musicians from the Middle East and North Africa, uniting intensive music performance studies with a grounding in the humanities – all within the heart of historic Berlin. Its origin is the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, founded in 1999 by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said in Weimar. The building was made possible by private donations through the Daniel Barenboim-Stiftung and the financial support by the federal government. Its concert hall, designed by Frank Gehry, is named after the composer and conductor Pierre Boulez.

Bachelor of Music

The Bachelor of Music program offers accredited degrees in all orchestral instruments, piano, conducting, and composition. It is comprised of twenty-four courses over four years, which are grouped into nine pedagogically related modules. The first two years of courses in the Bachelor of Music are fixed and provide a broad introduction to skills and ideas, and the last two years of courses are more flexible and offer advanced, elective courses.

Bachelor of Music students at the Akademie receive individual instrumental instruction and ensemble coaching from dedicated, world-class faculty members. The Bachelor of Music curriculum also incorporates courses in music theory, music history and ear training, as well as advanced courses in music performance, music education, musicology and music composition. Ensemble performances are guided by Daniel Barenboim.

Courses in the humanities are viewed as an integral part of the Akademie's undergraduate music education. Designed to foster intellectual curiosity, critical reflection, and persuasive written and oral expression, the humanities curriculum consists of courses in philosophy, history, and literature. The teaching language is English.

To cap their studies, Bachelor of Music candidates must complete a final project as a formal graduation requirement. Intended as a culmination of their work in both the music and humanities sides of the curriculum, this project combines a full recital performance with an individually conceived and researched academic paper on a related topic.

Artist Diploma

The Artist Diploma program is designed as a post-graduate study course for advanced musicians who are preparing to embark on a performing career. The program is one-year long with a possible second-year extension; unlike the Bachelor of Music degree, the Artist Diploma is not an accredited degree. Freedom and flexibility have been built into the curriculum of the Artist Diploma to match the demands of more active performing career schedules.

The core of the Artist Diploma program is rigorous instrumental and musical training. In addition to individual instruction and coaching, Artist Diploma students also participate in chamber music courses and secondary instrumental modules. Ensemble performances are guided by Daniel Barenboim.

To inform and enhance their intensive music studies, Artist Diploma students are also required to enroll in foundational courses in the humanities, such as philosophy, history, and literature. Artist



Diploma students may additionally enroll in language courses, further elective courses in the humanities, or explore further offerings in the Barenboim-Said Akademie's music curriculum, including music theory, music history, ear training, musicology, and composition.

Preparatory Program

The Barenboim-Said Akademie started the Akademie Preparatory Program in October 2016. The program provides music and English lessons to student-age musicians from the Middle East who have moved to Germany recently under extenuating circumstances. We currently have five students enrolled in the Preparatory Program. Invitation and completion of the Preparatory Program does not guarantee entry to the Barenboim-Said Akademie.

Student Body

The Barenboim-Said Akademie held a Pilot Program in the 2015-16 academic year with thirteen students from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. Twelve students have remained in the Akademie, enrolled in either the Bachelor of Music or Artist Diploma program. The Akademie accepted twenty-five new students for the 2016-17 academic year, out of a pool of two-hundred applicants, bringing the total student enrollment to thirty-seven. At full strength, the Akademie will teach approximately 90 students. The additional five students of the ongoing preparatory program bring the total number of students in degree and non-degree programs to 42.

Leadership and Faculty

Maestro Daniel Barenboim is the President of the Akademie; Professor Michael Naumann, former Minister of Culture, is its Founding Director. Dr. Carsten Siebert is CFO/COO of the Akademie. The musicologist and composer Dr. Mena Mark Hanna holds a PhD from Oxford and is Dean of the Akademie. Dr. Roni Mann is Director of Humanities and holds an SJD from Harvard Law School. Ole Baekhoej, former CEO of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, is the Intendant of the Pierre Boulez Saal. Faculty at the Barenboim-Said Akademie includes professors and lecturers in instrumental instruction, chamber music coaching, composition, musicology, music theory, philosophy, German, history, literature, writing, and physiotherapy. Instrumental faculty are major soloists, pedagogues, and members of orchestras such as the Berlin Staatskapelle and the Berlin Philharmonic. For the 2016-17 academic year, the Akademie plans to appoint nine professors in addition to twenty-seven lecturers.