



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

**CONSERVATORIO DI MUSICA "A. BOITO"
PARMA**

ALTA FORMAZIONE ARTISTICA E MUSICALE
Via del Conservatorio, 27/a – 43100 Parma - tel. 0521 – 381911, fax. 200398

Website: www.conservatorio.pr.it

**SECOND LEVEL POSTGRADUATE ANNUAL SPECIALIZATION COURSE
IN THEORY, RHYTHM AND MUSIC PERCEPTION
EAR TRAINING
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027**

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The main aim of this 2nd level postgraduate annual specialization course in Ear training is to meet the education needs of Conservatory graduates who intend to specialize in teaching subjects related to the Theory, Rhythm and Music Perception sector.

The Course was born from the observation of the lack of specific training opportunities in this field in the face of the numerous and varied job opportunities present in musical education institutions of all levels. Many prospective teachers could be asked to teach a subject connected to the sector of Theory, rhythm and musical perception, but in the majority of cases without specific didactic-methodological training.

The main objective of the Master is therefore to provide methodological tools to teachers who intend to specialize in Ear training. In Italy, unlike what happens for other professional figures and in other European countries, a specific training path aimed at training teachers of Theory, rhythm and musical perception has never been proposed, so much so that on the occasion of competitions for teaching this discipline, subjects in possession of qualifications related to Composition, Choir and Orchestra Conducting are generally privileged: these training paths, while guaranteeing adequate theoretical, harmonic and semiographic knowledge, do not provide any specific methodological skills necessary for a teaching that has radically changed in recent decades. While the educational scenario prior to the reform precisely delineated the operational boundaries of the teacher of Theory, solfeggio and musical dictation, today the figure of the teacher of Theory, rhythm and musical perception must be able to operate in various educational contexts, ranging from the literacy of pre-AFAM courses aimed at school-age students to the high perceptive specialization required, for example, of a student of the academic courses of Orchestra Conducting. The teaching of Ear training, moreover, involves the knowledge of the musical languages in which this discipline is declined in the different addresses present in the AFAM institutions, from Ancient Music, to Jazz, to Pop-Rock. Such a variety of teaching situations and breadth of knowledge required makes it necessary to activate a specific specialist path, to access which it will however be necessary to complete a second cycle of studies.

In addition to the specific training related to the various disciplines that make up the annual Master's training offer, the network of institutions in agreement with Conservatorio "A. Boito" will allow students not only to learn and deepen their knowledge of teaching methodologies and strategies, but also to apply them concretely through internships to be carried out in multifaceted teaching contexts, both with the support and job shadowing of teachers involved in teaching disciplines pertaining to the COTP/06 disciplinary sector - from basic training at the Primary and Secondary Schools in agreement, up to the first and second level Higher Education courses - and through the design and implementation of specific teaching projects.

Thanks to the international Workshop "Sentiamoci a Parma", activated annually since 2015, the Conservatory of Parma has become a pivotal centre in the European panorama of Ear training in recent years: the network of "Sentiamoci a Parma" now has over 250 teachers belonging to 32 nations, allowing an unprecedented diffusion of

knowledge and expertise. This will not only permit active participation in the Workshop by students, but will also allow the realization of educational activities and integrative Seminars carried out by international teachers in Erasmus mobility. There is also an active collaboration with the International Solfege Competition – International Solfege Days, a competition activated every two years by the Academy of Music at the University of Ljubljana (SI). All the activities of the Master are delivered in group mode. Part of the activities might be delivered in distance or blended mode.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE, EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Postgraduate has the following specific objectives:

- specialization of the teacher of subjects related to Ear training, through a structured didactic-methodological path, contact with teachers with significant international experience, participation in the Workshop “Sentiamoci a Parma” and the International Solfege Competition
- carrying out internships in a wide variety of contexts, supporting the teachers of Rhythmic Theory and Musical Perception in teaching activities.

The professional profiles for which this specialization constitutes an indispensable added value are:

- teachers of Rhythmic Theory and Musical Perception in Higher Education (HE) courses;
- teachers of Rhythmic Theory and Musical Perception in pre-HE courses organized by Secondary Schools with a Musical Focus, Music High Schools, Conservatories, public and private institutions that operate in the musical education sector (Municipality Schools, Private Schools).

CANDIDATES

The Postgraduate will be activated with a minimum number of 6 (six) students, who have passed the selection criteria.

To take the selection exam, candidates must have at least an EQF7 Master Diploma or Degree awarded by Conservatory or University.

INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS

Academic year 2026-27 will benefit of the following international teachers:

Erik Albjerg – Royal Conservatorie – The Hague (NL)
Fabio Ferrucci – Conservatorio di Musica “Arrigo Boito” – Parma (IT)
Erik Højsgaard – former Royal Danish Academy of Music – Copenhagen (DK)
Maria Medby Tollefsen – Arctic University of Norway – Tromsø (NO)
Gro Shetelig – professor emeritus Norwegian Academy of Music – Oslo (NO)

SELECTION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

The selection of the applicants in possession of the valid requirements for admission will be made through a multiple evaluation with a maximum overall score of 100 points:

- evaluation of musical qualifications (maximum 10 points)
- evaluation of artistic and professional qualifications (maximum 20 points)
- evaluation of the practical test (maximum 70 points)

Candidates who have achieved a minimum score of 70/100, of which at least 50/100 in the practical test, will be included in the eligibility ranking.

The judging commission will be composed of a minimum of three members designated by the Director, with the inclusion of Teachers of the relevant Disciplinary Sectors; the Commission's decision is final.

PRACTICAL TEST

The test is designed to highlight the candidate's skills in the following areas:

- music reading
- rhythmic, melodic and harmonic perception and understanding
- piano practice

and will be structured as follows:

- 1) rhythmic reading (with voice, hands, Orff instruments or your own instrument) of an author's piece
- 2) sight singing of an author's piece
- 3) listening description of author's pieces of different genres and repertoire. This description may be supported by a transcription made by the candidate and will concern the widest possible range of aspects (rhythmic, melodic, harmonic) in relation to the pieces proposed by the commission
- 4) sight reading on the piano
- 5) sight singing of a melody proposed by the commission and extemporaneous creation of a simple piano accompaniment to the melody
- 6) motivational interview.

The practical test will be carried out in person at the Parma Conservatory in October 2026. The exact date will be announced via notice on the institutional website.

APPLICATION

The application for admission must be filed using the appropriate form available at the Teaching Office or downloadable from the website of the "Arrigo Boito" Conservatory of Parma, www.conservatorio.pr.it, and submitted between **1 and 30 September 2026** by email to all of the following addresses: didattica.master@conservatorio.pr.it , master@conservatorio.pr.it , fabio.ferrucci@conservatorio.pr.it

The completed application form must be accompanied by:

- curriculum vitae;
- diploma/degree/maturity certificates or self-certification attesting the achievement of qualifications drawn up in accordance with current legislation;
- list of the most significant artistic and professional qualifications, in particular those pertaining to the contents of the Postgraduate;
- receipt of payment of the registration fee for the selection.

Non-EU candidates living abroad who intend to enroll in this Postgraduate must first register on the UNIVERSITALY portal in order to submit the application for a study visa online, following the procedure indicated on the portal itself.

STUDY PLAN

The Postgraduate training activities will take place throughout the Academic Year and will normally end by December 2026; the Internship and Traineeship activities may be completed by the following winter session. The Postgraduate Course Council reserves the right to establish further exceptions in the event of needs related to the completion of all the activities.

The Postgraduate activities will take place at the "Arrigo Boito" Conservatory of Parma, as well as at the Institutions that collaborate in the implementation of the Postgraduate.

Attendance at 80% of the teaching activities, internships and Seminars provided for in the Training Offer plan is mandatory.

To obtain the final qualification, the student must obtain 60 ECTS, as follows:

BASIC ACTIVITIES (9ECTS)

	Type	Hours	ECTS	exam
SCORE READING	Group	20	3	E
VOACL PRACTICE	Group	20	3	I
CHOIR CONDUCTING	Group	20	3	I

CORE ACTIVITIES (27ECTS)

	Type	HOURS	ECTS	exam
EAR TRAINING	Group	45	15	E
SIGHT SINGING	Group	20	6	E
MUSIC THEORY AND SEMIOGRAPHY	Group	20	6	E

INTERNSHIPS (10ECTS)

	Type	Hours	ECTS	exam
INTERNSHIPS AT INSTITUTIONS, PLANNING OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	Internships	160	10	I

OTHER ACTIVITIES (8ECTS)

	Type	Hours	ECTS	exam
COMPOSITION ANALYSIS	Group	20	3	I
ENGLISH LANGUAGE – B2	Collective	36	3	E
SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS	Collective	24	2	I

FINAL EXAM (6ECTS)

			ECTS	
POSTGRADUATE THESIS			6	

Exam modality:

E: exam

I: suitability

TOTAL ECTS: 60

Hours of attendance: 385

Individual study: 1115

TOTAL HOURS: 1500

FINAL EXAM:

The final test to assess the skills acquired consists of a written paper (Postgraduate Thesis), an oral interview and a practical test.

DIPLOMA

Students who have completed the required courses and passed the final exam will be awarded the Postgraduate Degree in Rhythmic Theory and Musical Perception - Ear training (1,500 hours - 60 ECTS).

In order to be awarded the Postgraduate degree, it will be necessary to have attended at least 80% of the class teaching activities and other forms of guided study and interactive teaching, to have passed all the intermediate tests, if required, earning all the credits, to have completed the entire internship period and to have passed the final exam.

It is possible to award scholarships to support the enrollment and attendance of the most deserving students, identified on the basis of the ranking of the entrance exam, up to a maximum of 10% of the Master's financial plan and compatible with the coverage of all the expenses of the Course, or in the presence of specific financing by third parties.

This Notice is approved by the competent Bodies pending ministerial acknowledgement; the text, therefore, could undergo changes or additions, of which immediate communication will be given.

ATTENDANCE FEE AND PAYMENT METHODS

The contribution fee to access the selection for the Master is €66 (€50.00 tax fee + €16.00 stamp duty), to be paid via PAGOPA. The payment form will be generated and must be downloaded independently from the personal area of the CINECA platform

(<https://consp.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do>) starting from September 1st and by September 30th 2026.

The total fee for attending the Master is €1,800.00 : the annual fee is divided into two installments: the first, €1,350.00, to be paid upon enrollment; the second, €450.00 to be paid by July 31st 2027. There are no reductions based on the ISEE.

The payment of the fees must be made via PAGOPA, independently downloading the payment forms from CINECA.

The Dean

M° Massimo Felici

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

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Via del Conservatorio, 27/a – 43100 Parma - tel. 0521 381911, fax. 200398

www.conservatorio.pr.it

master@conservatorio.pr.it

Postgraduate Coordinator, M° Fabio Ferrucci: fabio.ferrucci@conservatorio.pr.it

Postgraduate Counselor, M° Gianluca Ferrarini: gianluca.ferrarini@conservatorio.pr.it