

PRÉSENCE COMPOSITRICES MASTERCLASS

MASTERCLASS ON OPERA ARIAS
Opera Arias and Operatic Scenes by Women
Composers – 19th Century France

Introduction

Dedicated to promoting female composers from all eras and nationalities, the resource and promotion center Présence Compositrices conducts numerous initiatives and provides the professional and amateur classical music network with a vast array of resources. These resources aim to assist in discovering works, facilitating access to them, and encouraging their programming.

As a major resource of Présence Compositrices—accessible free of charge—the platform Demandez à Clara («Ask Clara») currently offers 2,234 composer profiles and 26,635 work files, searchable via more than 800 search filters.

As part of its actions dedicated to young performers—whom it wishes to encourage to discover a repertoire still underrepresented in educational music institutions—the Centre Présence Compositrices organizes masterclasses, some of which are hosted by the Conservatoire Les Lilas-Romainville.

On the occasion of the partnership formed between éditions Symétrie (publishing) and the Centre Présence Compositrices, two volumes titled «Opera Arias and Operatic Scenes by Women Composers - 19th Century France» were recently published in July 2026. One is intended for women's voices, and the other for men's voices. Each contains 11 arias, contextualized with short introductory notes. The musicological work was done by Florence Launay, an eminent specialist in 19th-century female composers, and Michael Cook, pianist and conductor.

These two volumes finally make it possible to explore a particularly overlooked and hard-to-access repertoire, bringing it within reach of lyric artists who can subsequently incorporate it into their audition, competition, and concert programs.

Masterclass Details

This four-day masterclass aims to explore all of the arias contained in the two volumes. To explore the greatest possible number of works, it is intended for singers of a very high level whose vocal specifications will complement one another.

The masterclass will be conducted in part under the direction of Sophie Fournier—lyric artist and teacher at the Romainville and Montreuil conservatories—accompanied by vocal coach and pianist Héloïse Bertrand Oléari, as well as with vocal coach and pianist Delphine Dussaux.

Important Note: This course is exclusively dedicated to discovering and contextualizing the selected arias, not pure vocal technique work.

In parallel, a session by Charlotte Landru-Chandès, a journalist specializing in classical music and author of numerous broadcasts on the subject, will be dedicated to female opera composers in 19th-century France.

To complete this training and open new horizons, the «Demandez à Clara» platform will be presented from the perspective of vocal repertoire during a webinar, and various resources will be made available.

General Information :

Dates : **October 19–22, 2026**

Location : **Conservatoire Les Lilas-Romainville - Nina Simone Site / 79 Av. du Président Wilson, 93230 Romainville**

Language spoken during the masterclass: **The masterclass will be conducted in French or English per the participant's needs or preference.**

Instructors



Sophie Fournier
Opera singer /
Lyric artist and teacher



Héloïse Bertrand Oléari
Pianist and vocal coach



Delphine Dussaux
Pianist and vocal coach



Charlotte Landru-Chandès
Journalist

Conditions of Entry

Because the masterclass is largely funded by the Centre Présence Compositrices, selected participants are asked to fully commit to all four days of the course. Full attendance at all sessions and talks is strongly encouraged, not just during individual coaching sessions. This is a unique opportunity to discover the entirety of both volumes and enrich historical and contextual knowledge.

Minimum Level Required : **cycle III**

Age Limit : **none**

Application Fee : **none**

Participation Fee (if accepted) : **€90 (includes €40 for Clara membership to Centre Présence Compositrices)**

Important : The significant effort by the musicologists, the Centre Présence Compositrices, and Symétrie publishing requires support and respect. For this reason, and to ensure this work continues, each participant is required to purchase the volume of arias corresponding to their voice type. Photocopies will not be permitted during the masterclass.

Initial Application File Requirements

1. The completed application form
2. A recent photograph
3. A short biography (maximum 1,000 characters)
4. A short cover letter
5. A recent, high-quality video recording of a 19th-century French opera aria. The recording date must be specified, and it must have been recorded within 6 months prior to the application deadline.

Selection Process

Number of Places: 10 to 11 participants will be selected and contacted to complete registration.

Submission Deadline: Complete application files must be submitted no later than Friday, September 18 at midnight (French time).

Submission Method: Original documents and videos must be sent exclusively via WeTransfer to both email addresses simultaneously: direction@presencecompositrices.com and communication@presencecompositrices.com.

Email Subject Line: Applications must use the subject: Candidature Masterclass.

Results: Results will be published on the website www.presencecompositrices.com and on Présence Compositrices' social media (Instagram and Facebook) on Wednesday, September 23 starting at 4:00 PM.

Final Registration: Final registration and payment of fees must be completed before the deadline of Friday, October 2 at midnight (French time).

Artistic Content of the Masterclass

To the extent possible, all arias from both volumes of the anthology will be studied or touched upon. Depending on individual vocal ranges and colors, participants are asked to bring one or more arias from the two volumes. Arias must be learned in advance, as deeper work will take place throughout these four days. At the end of the course, a shared presentation/performance time will allow everyone to hear each of the arias.

Schedule

The entire masterclass will be open to the public, subject to available seating. The schedule below is subject to minor adjustments based on needs.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM: Welcome of participants – Project contextualization
10:30 AM – 1:00 PM: Session with Sophie Fournier accompanied by Héloïse Bertrand-Oleari
1:00 PM: Lunch break
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Session with Sophie Fournier accompanied by Héloïse Bertrand-Oleari
4:00 PM: Break
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM: Presentation / Session by Charlotte Landru-Chandès

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:30 AM: Welcome
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Session with Sophie Fournier accompanied by Héloïse Bertrand-Oleari
12:30 PM: Lunch break
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Session with Sophie Fournier accompanied by Héloïse Bertrand-Oleari
4:00 PM: Break
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM: Session with Sophie Fournier accompanied by Héloïse Bertrand-Oleari

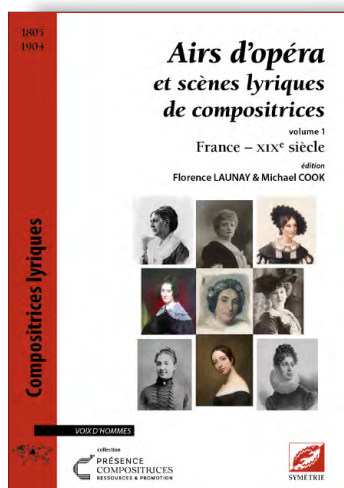
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:30 AM: Welcome
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Session with Delphine Dussaux
1:00 PM: Lunch break
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Session with Delphine Dussaux
4:00 PM: Break
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM: Session with Delphine Dussaux

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:30 AM: Welcome
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Session with Delphine Dussaux
1:00 PM: Lunch break
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Session with Delphine Dussaux
3:30 PM: Break
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Presentation of all prepared arias in front of all participants

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Airs d'opéra et scènes lyriques de compositrices

France XIXe siècle

Florence Launay et Michael Cook

Vol. 1 - Partition pour voix d'hommes

Vol. 2 - Partition pour voix de femmes

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ORDER

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