

*Stichting Amici Cantus Gregoriani
in association with the Royal Conservatoire The Hague (Early Music department)*

WORKSHOPS & SINGING SESSIONS

Workshops

The course participants will study the repertoire during the workshops, which will cover vocal, musical and theoretical aspects. The participants will be divided into four groups for the workshops: two groups of singers and two groups of professional conductors.

The singers will be divided into a *basic* group (who are able to read square notation and have experience with solmisation) and an *advanced* group (who have experience with performance practice based on semiology).

A similar distinction will be made between professional choral conductors with little or no experience with Gregorian Chant (similar to the definition of singers in the *basic* group) and those with (considerable) experience (similar to the definition of singers in the *advanced* group).

Advanced singers and conductors will be assumed to possess a sound basic knowledge of the semiology in the notation of St. Gallen and Metz, as described in Eugène Cardine's *Semiologie Gregorienne*. A certain expertise in reading Beneventan and Aquitanian manuscripts will also be useful for comparing formulas. In these workshops for advanced participants, the structure of the more complex chants in the Mass and the Divine Office will be analysed. In interpreting the singing and the method of conducting the singers, the focus will be on a number of intriguing elements:

- neume separation (coupures),
- the syllabic value in articulated neumes,
- diminutive and augmentative liquescent neumes,
- conclusive and suspensive cadences,
- relationship between text and musical style in terms of modal structures.

The participants in the **beginners' groups of singers and conductors** will learn the basic principles of semiology on the basis of the printed square notation: how should the medieval notation musically be realised? The content of these workshops is based on Eugène Cardine's *Semiologie Gregorienne*. For the singers, special attention will be devoted to the appropriate aesthetics of the performance and the correct vocal technique for different genres in Gregorian Chant. The conductors will learn to conduct simple Gregorian repertoire having regard to the text, as well as the clarity of the conductor's gestures, the conductor's liturgical awareness and the didactic approach to a rehearsal.

There will be 15 to 20 participants in each workshop. Participants should indicate their level when they register.
(Changes in the composition of the groups may be necessary before the course starts).

Singing sessions

Every morning the course participants will form groups of between 15 and 20 for a singing session conducted by one of the teachers. The repertoire is part of the Vespers to be sung on the final day on

Friday. Some pieces are also part of the concert programme on Friday evening. Participants must sign up for a particular group before the first session from a list with the names of the conductors and the repertoire to be sung. The groups of singers will therefore be different than those for the workshops, but a distinction will still be made between *basic* and *advanced*.

Teachers

Course leader	Anthony Zielhorst
Beginners – singers	Simone vd Dool
Advanced singers	Eugeen Liven d'Abelardo
Beginners – conductors	Anthony Zielhorst
Advanced conductors	Jaan-Eik Tulve

The course will be given in English.

(Information may also be provided in Dutch in specific situations.)