

# OPERO SUMMER OPERA ACADEMY



UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE  
MUZIČKA AKADEMIJA



OPERO  
MONTENEGRO  
OPERA FESTIVAL





# OPEROSA SUMMER OPERA ACADEMY 2026

## Concept

The Operosa Cetinje Summer Opera Academy is a Montenegrin initiative of opera training developed by the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival and the Cetinje Music Academy of the University of Montenegro. It brings together opera artists and music academy students from Montenegro, the region, across Europe, and around the world, culminating in an opera production performed at the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival and the Royal Theatre Zetski Dom.

The Summer Opera Academy will provide vital educational opportunities for young singers, conductors, répétiteurs, instrumentalists, as well as artists in stage direction, management, and scenography. The students will work with esteemed international teachers and artistic directors in a series of masterclasses and ensembles, building toward a fully staged opera production. Participating students will be working alongside professional production singers, orchestra players, and the production team.

The music and opera theme of each Academy edition will change annually. The 2026 inaugural theme is Donizetti, his contemporaries, Bel Canto, and the opera “L’Elisir d’Amore”.



**Location:** Montenegro

- Cetinje Music Academy, Cetinje
- Royal Theatre Zetski Dom, Cetinje
- Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival, Herceg Novi

**Airport:**

- ARRIVAL: Podgorica
- DEPARTURE: Tivat

**Duration and timing:**

- 4 weeks
- 15.07 - 09.08.2026

**Language:**

Course content is taught in English and in Montenegrin.

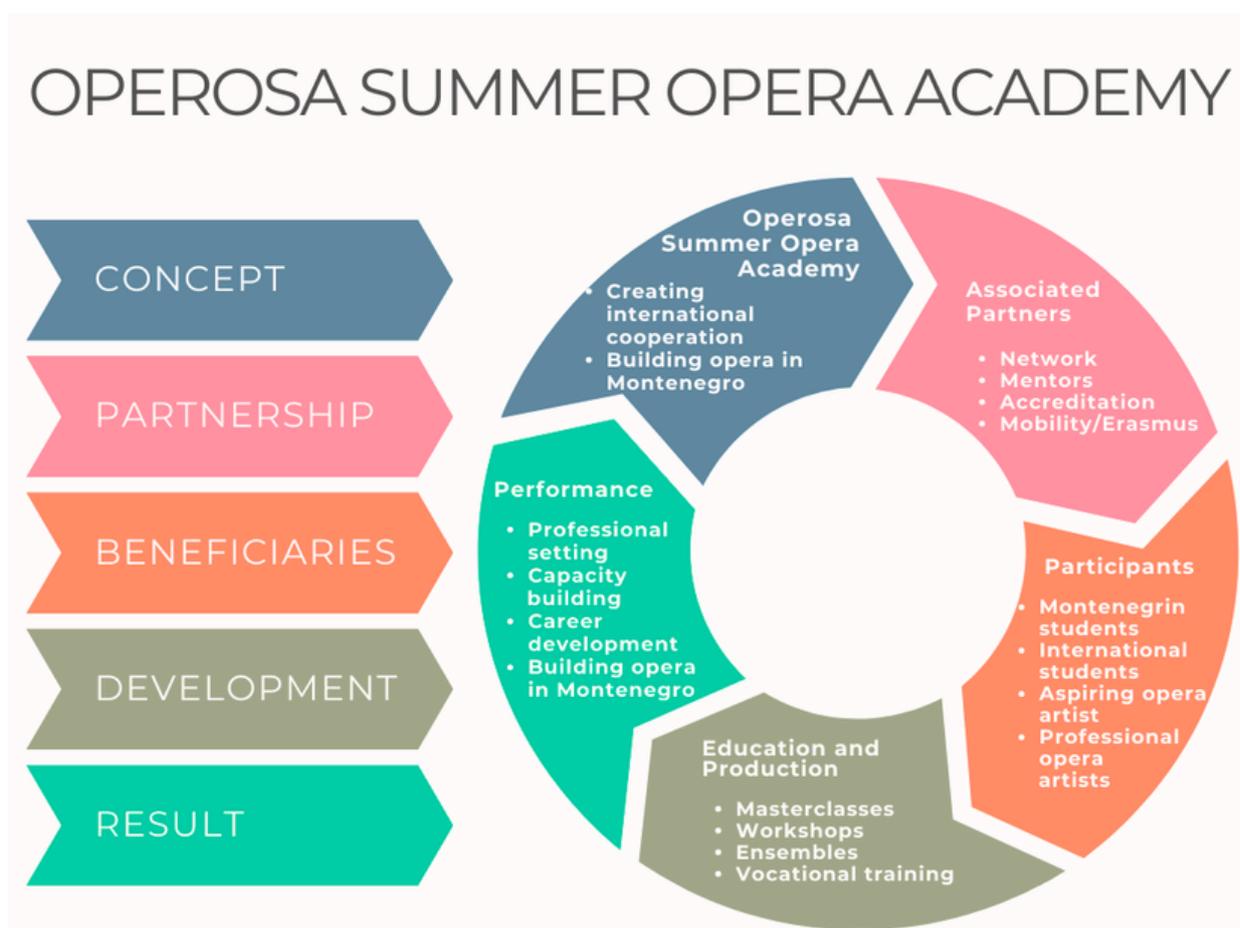


## The Participants

The Summer Academy is open to Montenegrin and international opera and classical music students and aspiring artists. International mobility cooperation through the Erasmus program is especially promoted with European partner Music Academies that are members of the **Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen** (AEC).

Participating students from select partner Music Academies are eligible for ECTS credits, or similar applicable in each respective country. Music Academy applicants should seek guidance about Erasmus and credits from their respective Academy administrators, or alternatively, by emailing the Operosa Summer Opera Academy. Independent artists are also welcome to apply according to the eligibility criteria.

The Operosa Summer Opera Academy also offers active and passive participation opportunities to students from secondary-level music high schools in Montenegro who are in their final years of study. Such opportunities include access as an audience at the masterclasses, as well as active participation, and possible selection to participate in the main production.



## Benefits to Participants

- **For singers:** weeks 1-2 in intense master class program with renowned voice teachers, leading to staged production with industry professionals in weeks 2-4.
- **For opera production students:** weeks 1-4 working in fully staged opera production with international stage director and design team
- **For orchestra instruments:** starting in week 3, intense master class program with leading teachers and week 4 in rehearsal with conductor and full ensemble.
- **For all:** week 4 in staged opera production of “L’Elisir d’Amore” for performances at the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival and the Royal Theatre Zetski Dom in Cetinje.

## Additional Opportunities and Benefits to Participants

Select international agents, artist managers, and casting professionals will be invited to attend the activities. They will make presentations with early-stage career guidance for participating artists during the Operosa Cetinje Summer Opera Academy. Audition opportunities will also be made available during this time.



## Call for students and artists

- Singers
- Repetiteurs
- Orchestra instrument players
- Set, costume and lighting designers
- Stage directors
- Stage managers

## Eligibility

Student applicants will be selected by a panel consisting of the Summer Opera Academy Partners and Mentors. All accepted artists will be offered to participate in the fully staged production.

Student instrument players will join professional players in the Operosa Festival Camerata, and singers will be allocated soloist and chorus roles during the course, according to the assessment of the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival artistic directors and supported by the Summer Academy Panelists.

- Age: 18 - 35
- Under-18-year-olds are accepted only with parental presence; students younger than 16 are not accepted.
- Applicants over 35 are considered based on merit and are requested to submit an additional personal statement letter of motivation.



## 2026 Theme

The theme and repertoire of the 2026 Operosa Summer Opera Academy and the masterclasses will be Bel Canto and music by composers of this period and style. The opera production which will be performed at the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival will be a chamber version of “L’Elisir d’Amore” by G. Donizetti.

## Dates

- 14.03.2026: Open call
- 13.04.2026: Application deadline
- 17.04.2026: Confirmation of selected students and scholarships
- 27.04.2026: Deadline for payment of tuition and accommodation fee

## Start of the Operosa Summer Opera Academy in Cetinje

- 15.07.2026: for singers, répétiteurs, costume and stage designers, directors and managers.
- 27.07.2026: for orchestra instrument players.



## Timeline: From Masterclass to Production

### Week 1:

- Masterclasses for voice, staging and design, career guidance

### Week 2:

- Masterclasses for voice, stage & piano

### Weeks 3 & 4:

- Masterclasses for instruments, ensembles with a conductor
- Sitzprobe
- Stage and dress rehearsals
- Performances of “L’Elisir d’Amore” at the Royal Theatre Zetski Dom and at the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival

## Tuition and accommodation costs

The Operosa Summer Opera Academy is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Media of Montenegro, Operosa Sponsors and Benefactors, and the project Partners.

Montenegrin national applicants:

- Tuition is free of charge.
- Full period accommodation with meals: EUR 950.00.
- Half-period accommodation with meals: EUR 475.00 (orchestra instrument players only).
- Limited scholarships toward accommodation are available upon request.

Regional applicants:

- Tuition is fully supported by Operosa scholarships.
- Full period accommodation with meals: EUR 950.00.
- Half-period accommodation with meals: EUR 475.00 (orchestra instrument players only).
- Limited scholarships toward accommodation are available upon request.

International applicants:

- Full period tuition: EUR 2,000.00.
- Full period tuition with a part-scholarship: EUR 1,000.00.
- Half-period tuition: EUR 1,000.00 (instrument players only).
- Half-period tuition with part-scholarship: EUR 500.00 (orchestra instrument players only).
- Full period accommodation with meals EUR 950.00.
- Half-period accommodation with meals: EUR 475.00 (orchestra instrument players only).

**Scholarships are granted at the discretion of the Academy selection panel and with the support of Operosa Benefactors, and all requests must be accompanied by a letter of motivation and at least one form of reference.**

## Additional information:

- Administration fee at the time of application for all: EUR 50.00.
- Tuition payments are payable in full upon confirmation of selection and attendance.
- All tuition payments are non-refundable. Requests for cancellation and reimbursement are accepted only in case of Force Majeure circumstances and must be accompanied by official documentation or certificates. Considerations are accepted until the 1st of June 2026.



### What's included

- Online introduction of allocated music/role with the conductor
- Individual vocal/instrument training in a masterclass setting
- Role and repertoire study
- Access to rehearsal rooms
- Individual consultation with a professional career expert
- Performance at the International Opera Festival
- Shared accommodation and board, including meals for the full course periods in Cetinje and Herceg Novi

## Required documentation at the time of application

- Copy of passport
- Proof of payment of the administrative fee
- CV
- Recording or portfolio presenting their work
- A letter of reference (teacher, industry professional, institution of study)

## Payment details

### International:

Operosa Foundation Montenegro  
BANK: Crnogorska Komercijalna Banka / OTP group  
IBAN: ME25510000000020411750  
SWIFT: CKBCMEPG

### Domestic:

Operosa Foundation Montenegro  
BANK: Crnogorska Komercijalna Banka / OTP group  
Account number: 510-000000204117-50

Reference: Operosa Participation Fee 2026



## The Operosa Summer Opera Academy Management Team

### Katherine Haataja, Operosa Founder

Mezzo soprano, vocal pedagogue, opera producer, and founder of the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival and Academia, Katherine Haataja is passionate about opera, the voice, the performing arts, the creative digital industries, and education, about exploring diversity and discovering ways of bringing people closer to the art of opera.

Of Swedish and Finnish descent, Katherine was born to the Hannikainen family of composers and authors, active in the cultural life of Finland since 1845. Following her Baccalaureate at the Sibelius Lyceum in Helsinki, she initiated her vocal studies with a Bachelor's in *Chant Lyrique* at the Conservatoire National de Paris and completed her FTCL/MA in Opera Performance at Trinity College of London. She also obtained an MAEd in Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David with a specialisation thesis "*The vocal development and appropriate training of young voices in opera*". Immersed in her passion for the art of opera, Katherine recently initiated her PhD studies at the University of Brighton's Art, Media and Digital Cultures department, researching the preservation of opera as cultural heritage through digital innovation and games-based learning.

Katherine is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) and a Mentor at the RSA Young Fellows Mentoring Programme in London, as well as a Mentor in the Momentum Programme at the University of Brighton, and the Santander Employability Programme in the United Kingdom.



Katherine is a recording artist, and her work as a professional opera singer has ranged from Handel and Mozart to Wagner and Strauss, performing at opera houses, concert venues and festivals across Europe, including Garsington Opera Festival, Royal Albert Hall, and Queen Elizabeth Hall in the UK. Katherine works as a vocal pedagogue, teaching at master classes and as a private coach for select students. She contributes as a speaker at various conferences, such as Opera Europa, and acts as a jury member at international singing competitions.

Katherine founded the Operosa Foundation and Academia in 2006, which supports young opera and classical music artists and promotes opera as a modern form of entertainment for wider audiences. Following 13 years of resolute development of the art of opera in Montenegro, Katherine designed the Operosa Cetinje Summer Opera Academy concept in cooperation with the Cetinje Music Academy. Launched in 2026, the course intends to advance opportunities for young aspiring opera artists in Montenegro, as well as welcome and promote classical music and opera artists from all over the world.

## The Operosa Summer Opera Academy Management Team

### **Tatjana Krkeljić,** **Dean of the Cetinje Academy of Music**

After graduating from the "Slobodan Škerović" High School and the "Vasa Pavić" Secondary School, in 1991, Tatjana Krkeljić enrolled at the Music Academy in Podgorica, instrumental department, majoring in flute. She won the "December 19" award in 1993 as the most successful student at the Academy and graduated in 1994 in the class of Prof. Miodrag Azanjac with an average of 9.64. Tatjana enrolled in postgraduate studies at the Academy of Music in Cetinje in 1998 and obtained her Master's degree in 2002. As a scholarship holder of the "Open Society Foundation", she completed a one-year specialization in 2003 at the "Doppler Music Institute" in Budapest (Hungary) in the class of Prof. Janoš Balint. She was also a scholarship holder of the Italian Government, studying in Como, Italy, at the "Giuseppe Verdi" Conservatory in the class of Prof. Vincenzo Galla.

She has made notable performances at numerous festivals in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Bar, Kotor, Como and Trieste (Italy), St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), Opole (Poland), and Hangzhou (China).

In addition to engagement in the artistic field, a significant part of her engagement is also within scientific research activities, with special interest in the history of music pedagogy and the influence of pan-Slavism on the music scene of Montenegro.



Tatjana is also engaged as a researcher within the MusiH project in the field of Music Therapy. As an exhibitor, she actively participates in scientific and professional meetings in Montenegro and abroad and publishes scientific papers in relevant scientific journals indexed on SCI and Scopus lists. Furthermore, Tatjana is a co-author of accredited professional training programs for teachers at the Institute of Education and a member of the Commission for developing subject programs in Montenegro.

From 1993, she worked as a flute professor at the "Vasa Pavić" SOMO until 1999, when she transferred to the Music Academy in Cetinje, where she was engaged as a lecturer in the courses of "Development of Musical Instruments and History of Performance", "Methodology of Teaching Wind Instruments", and "Methodology of Scientific Work". In 2016, she was engaged in the duties of Vice Dean for Teaching, and in 2019, in the position of Vice Dean for International Cooperation. Since November 2022, she has been the Dean of the Academy of Music of the University of Montenegro.

## The Operosa Summer Opera Academy Management Team

**Mirjana Radić**

Production & Administration

**Silvia Stoyanov**

Online Project Support

**Nataša Jovović**

Academic Community Coordinator

**Stevan Karanac**

Artistic Production Planning

**Bojana Tomašević**

PR & Partnership Development

**Magdalena Vlajić Glavonić**

Production Design

The team of artistic leaders at the Operosa Summer Opera Academy consists of professionally renowned international industry experts identified for their excellence and reputation for nurturing upcoming talent and understanding of long-term development.

The complete list of Teachers and Mentors in the listed disciplines, as well as Guest Experts, will be announced following the open call.



## The Operosa Summer Opera Academy Teachers and Mentors 2026



### Martin Lloyd-Evans, Stage Director

Martin studied Physics at Manchester University and Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall College.

Martin is Resident Producer for the opera course at the Guildhall of Music and Drama, and has taught and mentored for many institutions, including The Royal Opera House, Finnish National Opera, Berlin Opera Academy, British Youth Opera, and enoa at the Operosa Academia.

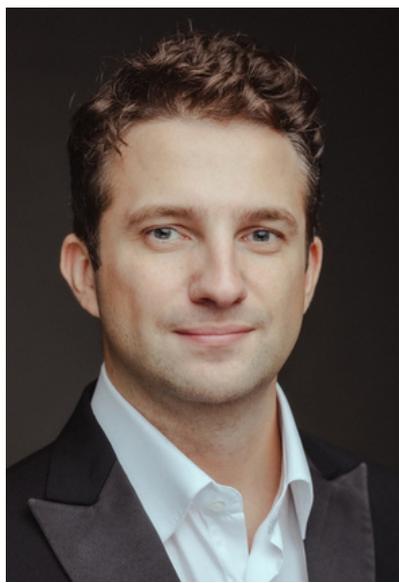
Productions for GSMD include *Pinocchio*, *The King Goes Forth to France*, the British premiere of Dove's *The Little Green Swallow*, the UK premiere of *The Aspern Papers* (RPS Award nominee), and many productions for Garden Opera.

A long-standing director for Opera Holland Park; Martin's credits include *Don Giovanni*, *Stiffelio*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Andrea Chenier*, *The Queen of Spades*, *L'amore dei tre Re*, *La Gioconda*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *La Wally*, *I gioielli della Madonna*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Il tabarro*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La rondine*, *Isabeau*, *Margot la Rouge / Le Villi*, *Pagliacci* and most recently *La fanciulla del West*.

Other productions include *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Il Trovatore* (Scottish Opera), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Barbican), *Mitridate Re di Ponto* (Classical Opera Company at Sadler's Wells and Buxton Festival), *Don Giovanni*, *Falstaff*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La bohème*, *Rigoletto* and *La traviata* (Mid Wales Opera), *Il matrimonio segreto*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Flight*, *Così fan tutte* (BYO), as well as *Roméo et Juliette*, *Così fan tutte* and *Carmen* (Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival).

World premieres include the fully-orchestrated version of Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park* (The Grange Festival), Lliam Paterson's *The Angel Esmeralda*, and Julian Philips' *The Tale of Januarie and Stephen McNeff's A Star Next to the Moon* (GSMD). Theatre work includes *The Russian Doctor* (Mass MoCa), *The Articulate Hand* (The Wellcome Trust and TEDMED), *Wallace and Gromit: Alive on Stage* (on tour and the West End).

## The Operosa Summer Opera Academy Teachers and Mentors 2026



### **James Henshaw, Conductor**

James Henshaw is an Olivier-nominated opera, choral and orchestral conductor and winner of the 2024 Kussewitzky International Conducting Competition. Based in Berlin, he works internationally as a conductor and coach.

He studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a choral scholar and prize-winning conductor and pianist, before training as a répétiteur at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Having graduated from Guildhall with Distinction, he immediately went on to assist Mark Wigglesworth at the Aldeburgh Music Festival and at the Proms with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

That same year, he was Chorusmaster for Monteverdi's *Orfeo* at the Bayerische Staatsoper with Ivor Bolton. From 2016–2020, he served as Chorus Director at English National Opera, where the chorus won both an Olivier Award and the International Opera Award for Best Chorus.

James has worked at many of the world's leading opera houses, including Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Hamburgische Staatsoper, English National Opera, and L'Opéra de Rouen. He has conducted performances for companies including English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Garsington Festival Opera, English Touring Opera, and Longborough Festival Opera.

James runs his own orchestra, The Outcry Ensemble, based in London. The Orchestra performs new music in each one of its concerts and has performed works by Kate Whitley, Joel Rust, Laurence Osborn, Josephine Stephenson, and Freya Whaley-Cohen. In 2021, they performed a complete cycle of Beethoven Symphonies to raise money for young freelance musicians and in 2025, they became a recognised and unionised orchestra, joining the Association of British Orchestras.

## The Operosa Summer Opera Academy Teachers and Mentors 2026



**Snežana Nena Brzaković, Voice Mentor**

An internationally recognized mezzo-soprano and vocal pedagogue with a distinguished artistic and teaching career, Snežana studied opera and concert singing in Belgrade and Berlin and has performed as a soloist on numerous European stages.

Since 2015, she has been engaged as a vocal coach at the Staatsoper Berlin, where she works with young soloists and children choir.

She is the founder of the Institute for Singing and Breathing Training in Berlin (2006). She serves as associate professor of singing at the Brandenburg University and at Humboldt University in Berlin, as well as Berlin Institute of Musical Arts (BIMA). She is the Artistic Director of the international opera course and festival Oper Oder Spree in Germany.

Snežana has given masterclasses and lectures in Germany, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Mexico, Singapore, and Malaysia. She regularly serves as a jury member at international singing competitions and collaborates with numerous opera agents and institutions as an artistic advisor.



**Edita Garčević Koželj, Voice Mentor**

An internationally respected concert and opera singer, vocal pedagogue, and leading authority in vocal education, Edita serves as Senior Music Advisor for Vocal Pedagogy, Professor of Singing at the Ljubljana Conservatory of Music and Ballet, and Assistant Professor of Vocal Technique at the Academy of Music, University of Ljubljana.

Educated in law at the University of Belgrade, she pursued professional vocal studies in Ljubljana and Vienna at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien. Her operatic career flourished at the Slovenian National Theatre Opera and Ballet Ljubljana, and she has appeared as a guest artist in major opera houses alongside an extensive concert career throughout Europe and the United States.

Edita is a recipient of the University of Ljubljana's highest artistic honor, the Škerjančeva Diploma, and the prestigious national Fran Gerbič award. She is a sought-after masterclass leader, jury member at international competitions, and advocate for vocal pedagogy.

## The Operosa Singing Teachers' Symposium, 27th of July 2026

The Summer Opera Academy features the Voice Teachers' Symposium of Montenegro, a day dedicated to classical voice professionals from Montenegro and from around the world, engaging in discussions and lectures for the benefit of their students. During the Symposium, all participating vocal professionals are invited to attend the Summer Opera Academy activities and production rehearsals led by leading guest industry Mentors.



### Volunteering

Applications for volunteers carrying out organisational tasks at the Operosa Cetinje Summer Opera Academy are also open during the time of the call for artists. ECTS credits or certificates may be applied. More information is available upon request.

### Professional opportunities

The Operosa Cetinje Summer Opera Academy production and Festival performances will also include professional engagements for specific project and production roles which require professional level experience and qualifications. More information is available upon request at [operosa.org](http://operosa.org).

## About the organisers

### Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival

Operosa was founded in 2006 by mezzo soprano Katherine Haataja, and it has supported young Montenegrin and international opera talent and produced international opera productions in Montenegro since 2013. It is the only institution in Montenegro dedicated to opera. The Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival aims to focus on repertoire ideally suited for young opera singers while working with leading international guest artistic directors and showcasing opera as a modern form of art and entertainment.

The annual summer festival features exciting international co-productions and guest performances as well as opera productions and concerts, created and performed by emerging talent and renowned professionals. It has been awarded the EFFE label of Remarkable European Festivals since 2015 and cooperates with numerous international opera industry partner institutions, including The Royal Opera House in London, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, National Opera of Holland, La Monnaie, Warsaw National Opera, Opera Stuttgart, as well as Music Academies around the world.

The historical Old Town and surrounding fortresses in Herceg Novi on the Adriatic coast are the summer home to the Operosa Montenegro Opera Festival. The Operosa Summer Opera Academy opera performances are hosted by the Festival in the Forte Mare and Kanli Kula fortress venues. The combination of rich cultural heritage, the stunning fortress venues, with breathtaking sea views, and the unique performances of international talent attracts audiences and media from all over the world.

The inaugural Operosa Winter Opera Festival was opened in Cetinje in February 2026.





## **The Academy of Music in Cetinje of the University of Montenegro**

Established in 1980, the Academy of Music in Cetinje was founded in 1980 in Podgorica (at the time Titograd) as one of the faculties of the University of Montenegro “Veljko Vlahović”. Today, its seat is located in Cetinje. As the largest and most significant music education institution in Montenegro, the Academy of Music provides a curriculum that follows contemporary trends in music pedagogy and achievements in the field of musical arts. It educates young and highly qualified professionals capable of contributing to the musical and cultural development of their country and the wider region, in line with modern European standards.

The mission of the Faculty of Music is to expand and advance knowledge and skills, while maintaining cooperation with other local and international institutions and partners. The Academy offers undergraduate and master’s degree programmes in fields such as general music pedagogy and performing arts, including the disciplines of piano, string instruments, wind instruments, guitar, and accordion.

The Academy of Music in Cetinje maintains continuous collaboration with renowned artists and institutions from the region and across Europe, and participates in the cultural life of Montenegro through the organization of concerts, music workshops, and festivals. Its students have the opportunity to gain not only theoretical knowledge but also valuable practical experience through numerous performances and projects during their studies. In November 2006, the Academy became a full member of the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC).



## CONTACT

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ЗЕТСКИ ДОМ  
НА ЦЕТИЊУ



JU DOM UČENIKA  
I STUDENATA  
CETINJE

[www.operosa.org](http://www.operosa.org)

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