

SUMMER INSTITUTE
for
RENAISSANCE POLYPHONY
UC Berkeley





Thank you for your interest in our 2026 Summer Institute. This brochure includes a description of the course along with information about travel, costs, and the application process. All of us are looking forward to a magical week of music-making this summer. We hope you will apply!

Faculty Directors

Professor Jamie Reuland, Princeton University

Professor Jesse Rodin, Stanford University

Professor Emily Zazulia, UC Berkeley

Ensemble Cut Circle

Sonja Tengblad, soprano

Lawrence Jones, tenor

Bradford Gleim, tenor

Rupert Peacock, bass

Jesse Rodin, director



Summer Institute for Renaissance Polyphony

13–17 June 2026

INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to host the Summer Institute at UC Berkeley in beautiful northern California. It is a privilege to collaborate with one of the finest academic institutions in the United States, where Emily Zazulia, one of our course directors and the producer of two Cut Circle albums, is a professor of music. You'll all benefit from her expertise throughout this year's Summer Institute, along with that of the six other faculty members on staff. This year's course will focus on the music of Josquin des Prez.

This program offers experience and training in seven key areas:

Listening. We want to share with you strategies for listening and for adjusting our performances based on what we hear.

Emotion. We want to invite you to think with us about how to get in touch with—and bring out—the music's expressive power.

Vocal Production. We want to work with you on improving your singing and making your vocal technique more flexible.

Precision and Coordination. We want to help you improve your rhythm, tuning, sight-reading, and overall musicianship, as well as your ability to lock in with other performers.

Repertoire. We want to introduce you to spectacular pieces you have probably not encountered before.

Context and Understanding. We want to offer you insight into the world in which this music was made.

Community. We can't wait to come together as a community of singers—to combine our individual voices with the shared goal of making music together.

Whether you are applying as an individual singer or a standing ensemble, we welcome your application and hope you can join us.

UC BERKELEY

Set between a bustling downtown and the rugged Berkeley hills, UC Berkeley's verdant campus is a hub of intellectual and artistic life. Founded in 1868 and named after the Anglo-Irish philosopher George Berkeley, it is the state's first land-grant university and is the founding campus of the University of California system. Berkeley is home to more than 45,000 students and 1,500 faculty, including twenty-six Nobel Prize winners. For generations early music has been central to Berkeley's prestigious Department of Music, which offers coursework in music studies while maintaining a lively and diverse array of performing ensembles.

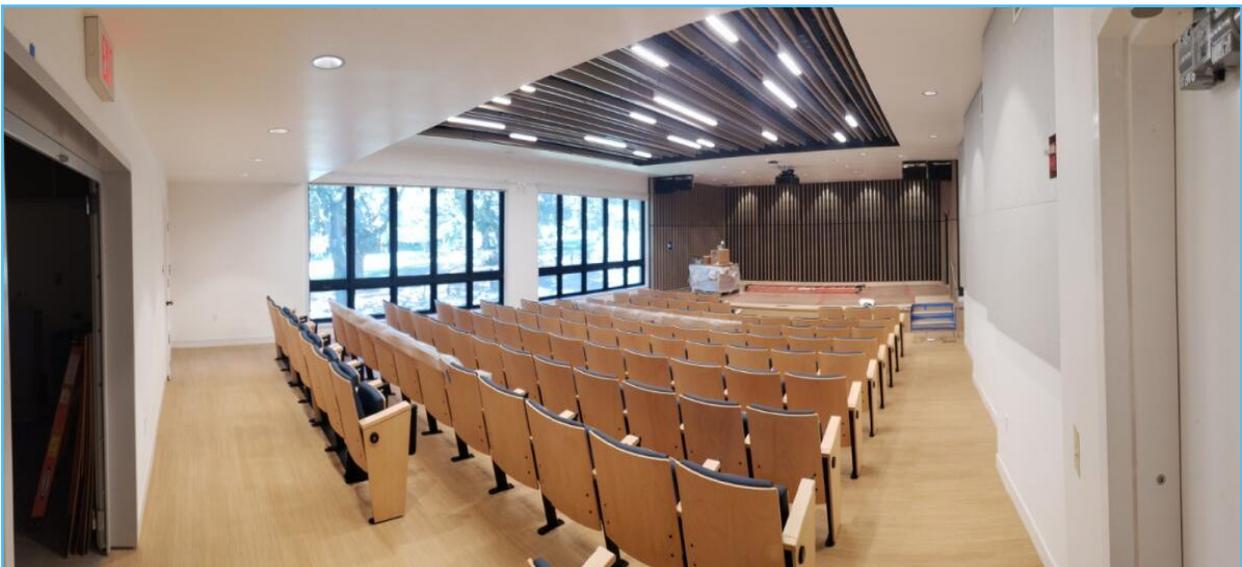
TRAVEL

By air

The closest airports are Oakland (OAK), San Francisco (SFO), and San Jose (SJC). From any of these you can reach the UC Berkeley campus using the BART regional rail system. From OAK the trip takes about 45 minutes; from SFO it takes about an hour. Google Maps is a good way to see what's what.

Train and bus

Amtrak's Capitol Corridor offers service to Oakland from Davis, Sacramento, and San Jose. Greyhound runs buses to Oakland from Sacramento. Bus service is also available from the North Bay (e.g., Santa Rosa). From the Peninsula (e.g., Palo Alto) the Caltrain connects to BART.



Parking

Berkeley is a very walkable city. For those commuting, parking is available in both on-campus and off-campus lots.

For on-campus parking, see <https://pt.berkeley.edu/parking/visitor-parking>

Metered parking is also available on streets around campus and in private garages.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Before you get here

All participants will be sent electronic copies of the music in advance, so you can begin practicing. On arrival we'll have printed copies available for anyone who requests them.

When you arrive

Once everyone is settled in, we'll come together for an introductory session where we'll sing together and assess how we might focus our work during the week. Among other things we'll use this meeting to form well-balanced, mixed-voice ensembles. This will be a great opportunity for us to meet you all and for us to sing together.

During the week



Each ensemble will be assigned a mentor who will oversee the group's progress. We'll begin each morning with a communal warm-up session and sing. We'll also share any announcements. Each day will comprise a mixture of rehearsal and coaching, along with special sessions on vocal technique and various topics related to our repertoire led by members of Cut Circle and our Institute faculty.

Final concert

The Summer Institute will culminate in a concert to be performed on our last day together. The concert will include performances by the individual ensembles, by Cut Circle, and by all of us together. This event represents an opportunity to share your new knowledge and skills in a celebratory atmosphere. We'll conclude with a summer party!

Certificate of completion

At the end of the course, participants will be awarded a certificate of completion detailing their accomplishments.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply for your place at the Summer Institute, please complete and submit an application form and your audition file; we can only consider you once both have been received. Places will mainly be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, although we reserve the right to choose applicants in the interest of having balanced ensembles. Please note that we are only able to accept applications from applicants who will be aged 18 years or over on the first day of the Institute.

Audition tape

Please submit a recording of yourself singing a cappella.

You may sing a folksong, a popular song, or a piece of art music.

If you need inspiration, sing a piece by Josquin. Visit josquin.stanford.edu/performance; from the dropdown menu on the left, choose "Josquin (secure)," then any piece you find there. Aim for 40 measures or so; the passage should traverse a relatively wide range.

In your audition file, we will be listening for intonation, rhythm, sound quality, breath control, and the overall performance. In case you're looking for ideas, there are various Cut Circle recordings available online, including our recent album *Josquin: I. Motets & Chansons*.

[Apply now](#)

Technical information

You may use a smartphone to record (e.g., a Voice Memo on the iPhone). Please upload a sound file or submit a link to the recording. If you encounter any problems submitting your audition file, email us at josquamp@gmail.com. Be sure to keep a copy of the audio file in case of technical problems with the submission.

COURSE COSTS

Basic tuition: \$850. Includes:

- All activities, plus coaching and workshops with our seven faculty members
- Coffee and tea during breaks
- End-of-camp party (17th)
- Welcome pack (course schedule, map, and printed sheet music)

NOTIFICATION AND PAYMENT

- You will be notified by email at the earliest opportunity if your application has been accepted, at which point your place will be held for four weeks pending payment of the non-refundable deposit. Failure to pay within this time frame will result in your place being offered to another applicant.
- Payment terms will be shared with successful candidates on acceptance to the Summer Institute.
- Travel costs are not included in the tuition.
- For cancellation policy and other relevant details please refer to the Terms and Conditions section of the application form.

