

Music in Italy

3 credits

Part B: The great tradition of the Italian opera: from Rossini to Puccini.

Teacher responsible: tbd

Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage (University of Pavia – Cremona)

DESCRIPTION:

This module will present some masterpieces of the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Italian opera masters: Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi, and Puccini. Of each opera the teacher will illustrate the circumstances of the genesis, the relationship with their literary source (which can range from Beaumarchais and Schiller to Victor Hugo and Shakespeare), the structure of the libretto and music, the role of the singers, the relevant aspects of the staging, both historic and of present age.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will learn to recognize the main literary and musical structures of the operas presented, and will then be able to attend with increased awareness at theater performances.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

The classes will make use of audio-visual materials: high-level recordings and filming of prominent theatre staging of the operas. The teacher will also provide a list of readings useful to deepen the topics discussed in the class.

FINAL EVALUATION:

The students will submit a short paper commenting one or more of the operas presented in the module. The paper will be discussed during an oral exam.