

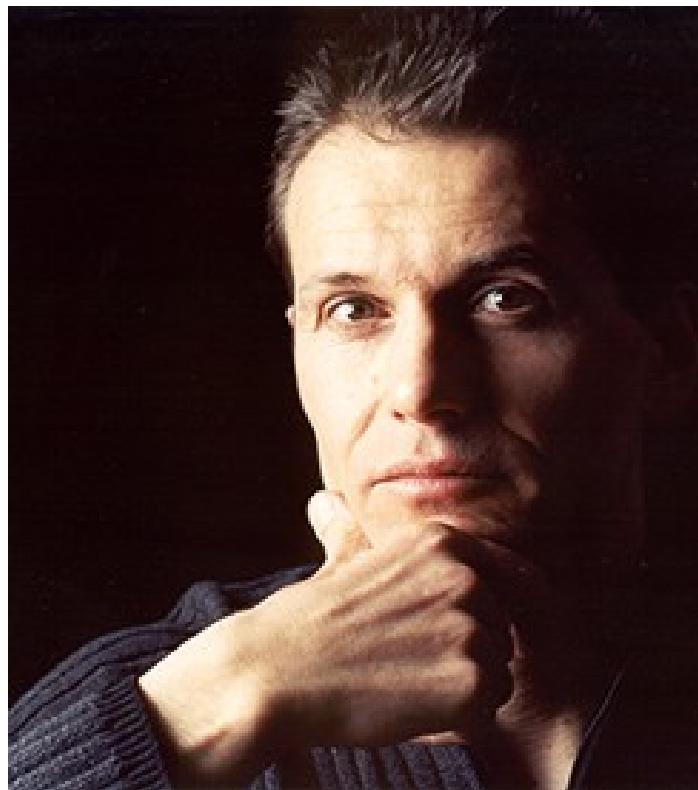


ASSOCIAZIONE MOTOCONTRARIO

**FESTIVAL CONTRASTI 2026**  
**INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS**

**MARCO STROPPA**

18 – 23 August 2026  
TRENTO - ITALY



**MotoContrario**  
**ensemble**





Motocontrario organizes, within the **Festival Contrasti 2026**, an **international composition masterclass** held by **Marco Stroppa**, acclaimed as one of the most significant authors in the contemporary musical creation panorama.

The masterclass is open to composers of all ages and nationalities and is scheduled along six days and includes:

- **individual and collective composition classes**,
- **a public lecture** held by **Marco Stroppa**,
- **five concerts** held by Quartetto Maurice, Ensemble Nuove Musiche, MusikFabrik and Ensemble MotoContrario,
- **reading session**, by MotoContrario Ensemble, of the scores of the selected composers,
- **final concert** with students works by Ensemble MotoContrario





## MASTERCLASS SCHEDULE (provisional)

18 - 23 August 2026

### TUESDAY 18 AUGUST

13.30 - 17.30 Composition classes and activities  
20.30 Concert - ***MotoContrario ensemble***

### WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST

10.00 - 13.00 Composition classes and activities  
14.30 - 17.30 Composition classes and activities  
20.30 Concert - ***Quartetto Maurice***

### THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

10.00 - 13.00 Composition classes and activities  
14.30 - 17.30 Composition classes and activities  
20.30 Concert - ***Ensemble Nuove Musiche***

### FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

09.00 - 17.30 *Reading session* - MotoContrario ensemble  
18.00 - 19.30 *Public lecture* by **Marco Stroppa**

### SATURDAY 22 AUGUST

09.00 - 13.00 Composition classes and activities  
20.30 Concert - ***MusikFabrik***

### SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

17.30 Final Concert - ***MotoContrario ensemble***



## REGISTRATION RULES

### **EFFECTIVE STUDENTS** (10 places): € 400\*

The attendance fee includes **individual and collective composition lessons and activities with Marco Stroppa** and all the events included on the masterclass schedule. Instructions for registration as an effective student can be found at the bottom of the page.

\*For attendance, each effective student is asked to join Motocontrario as associate member (subscription period: 1 year). We remind that Motocontrario is a regularly registered, apolitical, non-denominational and non-profit cultural association, whose sole purpose is the study and divulgation of contemporary music. **The membership quote is included in the attendance fee for the masterclass.**

### • **AUDITORS**: 80 €

Auditors are guaranteed **access to all the events** of the masterclass (including individual lessons for effective students) they wish to attend.

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Classes and all the events will take place in TrentoLab Space, via Gianantonio Manci, 2 - 38122 - Trento – Italia.

To register for the selection as an effective student, the following documentation must be sent **WITHIN 23:59 (UTC+2) OF 12 APRIL 2026**:

1. link to at least two (2) scores for different instrumentation (solo, chamber ensemble, big ensemble...) in pdf format uploaded online;
2. link to the recordings of the scores (NOT mandatory)
3. artistic and academic curriculum vitae

**NB: The files will not be downloaded immediately, so it is essential that the links and the possibility of downloads remain active!**

**The documentation must be sent exclusively by filling in the Google Form at the following link:**

<https://forms.gle/DWfHkGjx6duHQ3gB6>



The selection, personally supervised by the guest teacher, will take place **by 30 APRIL 2026**.

All participants will be notified of the results by e-mail and at the same time will receive information for the payment of the registration fees which, under penalty of loss of place, will be completed **by 8 days from confirmation**.

Each candidate can choose to register as an effective student and, in case of non-selection, can consequently communicate the decision to participate as an auditor.

**To participate as an auditor**, an application for participation should be submitted to the email address:

[masterclass@motocontrario.it](mailto:masterclass@motocontrario.it)

**by the day before the start of the activity in which you want to participate.**

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## READING SESSION

One day of the masterclass will be dedicated to a reading session held by **Motocontrario Ensemble**. The session is reserved for effective students, but open to all participants of the masterclass.

Following the selection, each effective student will plan with the ensemble a piece with an organic from **1 to 7 instruments** (to be chosen among flute, clarinet, sax, trumpet, viola, cello and piano – **with or without conductor**) to work on.

The reading session is intended as a moment of confrontation between the ensemble, the teacher and the composer interested in developing some specific ideas about a particular piece or instrument. In this sense, the composer can also choose to work individually with only one instrumentalist of the ensemble or instead request a full reading of the piece, where possible.

**Each student will be guaranteed 40 minutes of time.**

The entire reading session will be video recorded and the material will then be made available to students for educational purposes at the end of the masterclass.



## FINAL CONCERT

During the course and the reading session, the guest teacher and the members of the ensemble will select, among the compositions presented by the effective students, those that will be performed during the final concert. The concert will take place the last day of the masterclass (23 August).

## ORGANIZATION

The Motocontrario organization board will provide effective students and auditors with all the information useful for staying in Trento and instructions for reaching the host locations of the masterclass. Participants will have to provide their own accommodation during the days of the masterclass. For more information, write to the address [masterclass@motocontrario.it](mailto:masterclass@motocontrario.it)

## CERTIFICATES

At the end of the masterclass, each effective participant will be given a certificate of participation. Auditor students can indicate the wish to have a certification in the email containing the application form.

## PRIVACY

The personal data provided by the participants will be processed in accordance with the provisions of Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003, communicating them to third parties solely and exclusively for reasons relating to the event covered by this announcement. The Data Controller of personal data and documentation will remain: Motocontrario Association - C.so Buonarroti 109 - 38122 Trento.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Organization assumes no responsibility for any technical, IT or natural problem or mishap that prevents the uploading, receipt and evaluation of the materials sent by participants for registration.



## MARCO STROPPA

Composer, researcher, and teacher Marco Stroppa (Verona, 1959) studied music in Italy, specializing in piano, choral music and conducting, composition, and electronic music. He furthered his studies at MIT's Media Laboratory, focusing on computer science, cognitive psychology, and artificial intelligence. From 1980 to 1984, he worked at the Centre for Computational Sonology in Padua, where he composed *Traiettoria*, a work that immediately achieved considerable success and continues to be regularly performed.

In 1982, Pierre Boulez invited him to join IRCAM in Paris, starting a collaboration that has been pivotal to his musical development.

As a highly respected educator, Stroppa founded the Workshop of Composition and Computer Music at the International Bartok Seminar in Szombathely, Hungary, where he taught for 13 years. In 1999, he was appointed full professor of composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts (Musikhochschule) in Stuttgart. He has also taught at the Paris and Lyon Conservatoires of Music (CNSMD).

Stroppa's catalogue includes numerous works for orchestra, traditional instruments, electronic instruments, radio operas, theatrical music and context-dependent pieces, e.g., his score for the performance piece *Race* by Pascal Rambert, premiered at the October Festival in Normandy in 1997. Among his major works are: *Traiettoria* (1982-84) for piano and computer, *Hiranyaloka* (1993-94) and *Ritratti senza volto* (2007) for orchestra, *Zwielicht* (1998) for double bass, two percussion players, and electronics, *Perché non riusciamo a vederla?* (2008) for 24-part choir and alto, the trios *Hommage à Gy.K.* (2004) and *Osja: Seven Strophes for a Literary Drone* (2005), *Come play with me* (2018), a concerto for solo electronics and orchestra, and a series of concertos for instruments and spatialized orchestra or ensemble inspired by the poems of W.B. Yeats (*Upon a Blade of Grass*, *From Needle's Eye*, *Let Me Sing into Your Ear*).

His first opera, *Re Orso*, based on a text by Arrigo Boito, premiered to great acclaim in May 2012 at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

His most recent major commissions include *Lance dei crepuscoli* (2022-2023) for electroacoustic totem and ambisonic system by IRCAM-Centre Pompidou and *Come play with me* (2016) for solo electronics and orchestra by SWR Symphonieorchester.



## MOTOCONTRARIO

**MotoContrario** is a composers and performers collective, based in Trento, which focuses its artistic and research interest on 20th century music and contemporary music.

Since 2014, the collective curates **Festival Contrasti**. Through concerts and cultural meetings dedicated to new and 20th century music, the Festival was born with the aim of shedding light on the many sides of the multifaceted contemporary musical reality.

Guests of the various editions of the Festival were prestigious ensembles and musicians such as l'Arsenale, Interensemble, Collettivo\_21, Imago Sonora, Icarus, Azione\_Improvvista, Taller Sonoro, Windkraft, SuonoGiallo, mdi ensemble, Opificio Sonoro, Schallfeld, Curious Chamber Players, Juliet Fraser, Hannah Weirich, Guido Facchin, Roberto Abbondanza etc.

**MotoContrario ensemble** is a flexible group that embraces repertoires ranging from duos to large ensemble, allowing it to curate performances of several composers from all around the world.

In addition to works by early and late twentieth-century composers, the ensemble has curated performances (including world and Italian premieres) of pieces by living contemporary composers, such as Francisco Quintero, Andrea Nicoli, Karlheinz Essl, Fausto Sebastiani, Antonio Agostini, Giorgio Colombo Taccani, José Sanchez-Verdù, Cesar Camarero, Pierluigi Billone, Stefano Gervasoni, Marco Momi, Malin Bång and Carola Bauckholt, collaborating closely with each of them.

The ensemble has also collaborated with several Italian conservatories (Trento, Udine, Castelfranco Veneto, La Spezia), holding seminars on contemporary instrumental technique, composition workshops, and concerts.

The ensemble has been invited to perform in seasons such as the Cluster Festival (Lucca), Incò\_ntemporanea Festival (Piacenza), Concerts at the Museo del Novecento (Milan), Il Suono Festival (Perugia), Encuentros Sonoros (Seville), Polifonie Festival (Como), La Spezia Concert Society, Bolzano Contemporary Music Festival, Sound Space Festival (Malmö), Savona Music Festival, ZZM Klagenfurt etc.