

Edition voice

MECHELEN INTERNATIONAL MASTERCLASSES

with Don Marrazzo (USA) and
Aaron Wajnberg (BE)

15 - 21.03.2026

Conservatorium
Mechelen

21.03.2026

concert at the
Predikherenkerk

More information and registration:

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**CONSERVATORIUM
MECHELEN**



Welcome to the first edition of this exclusive masterclass at the **Stedelijk Conservatorium van Mechelen**. We are honored to welcome our guest teacher, **Mr. Don Marrazzo (USA)** – an esteemed vocal teacher internationally recognized for his evidence-based approach to vocal training – and musical coach **Mr. Aaron Wajnberg (BE)** – one of the most revered musicians of his generation, recognized for his deeply poetic sensibility, exceptional musical intelligence, and unparalleled artistry.

Don Marrazzo’s method enables singers to build a healthy, sustainable technique rooted in scientific research and a deep anatomical understanding of the voice. Whether you’re an experienced performer or an emerging artist, this masterclass offers a unique opportunity to learn from one of the most forward-thinking and respected voices in the world of vocal pedagogy.

Aaron Wajnberg’s career took a significant leap forward with his Carnegie Hall debut in 2011, after which he has graced some of the world’s leading venues, including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Kölner Philharmonie, BOZAR, Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro, Veronica Hagman Hall Danbury, Palau de les Arts Valencia, Joseph Keilberth Saal Bamberg, Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, and the Dutch National Opera, among others.



First edition

15th of March 2026

Arrival singers
Gathering at 18pm
Dinner

16th of March 2026

Start masterclass

21st of March 2026

Concert at De Predikheren

22nd of March 2026

Departure singers

Budget

€ 400





DON MARRAZZO

Don Marrazzo possesses extensive experience as a voice teacher and arts management professional in the areas of voice pedagogy and voice science; executive management; artistic administration; programming and casting; young artist program development; and community engagement.

Mr. Marrazzo joined the SUNY Fredonia School of Music as Director of Opera Studies, Hillman Opera Producer, and Assistant Professor of Voice in 2023. In addition to his work at Fredonia, he is the voice teacher for the Resident Artist Program at Detroit Opera and for the Baumgartner Studio Artist Program at Florentine Opera. Previously, he enjoyed tenures as Head of the Vocal Studies Department and Professor of Voice at the Musical Horizons Conservatory (MHC) in Athens, Greece, where he created the first training program of its kind in Greece, and as Head of the Classical Voice Department and Professor of Voice at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam (CvA) where he reinvigorated the department with a new curriculum and created important collaborations with the Holland Festival, the Grote Zangers Recital Series, and OPERA2DAY.

Mr. Marrazzo has maintained a teaching studio since 2002 and his students have performed with opera companies, orchestras, concert venues, and Broadway and Off-Broadway theaters internationally including the Metropolitan Opera; the Lyric Opera of Chicago; Santa Fe Opera; The Glimmerglass Festival; The Dallas Opera; Wiener Staatsoper; Festival d'Aix-en-Provence; the Dutch National Opera; the Teatro Comunale di Bologna; the Teatro Regio di Parma; the Festival Puccini Torre del Lago; Staatsoper Stuttgart; Deutsche Oper am Rhein; Staatstheater Nürnberg, Teatro Nacional de São Carlos; Nationaltheater Mannheim; Oper Dortmund; Theater Hagen; Opéra de Lyon; Oper Bonn; Tiroler Festspiele Erl; The Grote Zangers Series at the Muziekgebouw; the Concertgebouw Orchestra; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; the Philadelphia Orchestra; L'Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano; the American Globe Theatre; and the Richard Rodgers Theatre. They have been accepted into opera studio/training programs including the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center, L'Opera de Montreal's Atelier Lyrique, Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Artist Program, Wolf Trap Opera Studio, the Georg Solti Accademia, and The Opera Academy at the Royal Danish Opera; and they have won awards and honors from the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition;

the George London Foundation; The Sullivan Awards; The Hnatyshyn Foundation; the Alumni Enterprise Awards from The Music Academy of the West; the International Vocal Competition of s' Hertogenbosch (IVC); the Ferruccio Tagliavini International Competition for Opera Singers; the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition; the Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges; and the Anna Sosenko Assist Trust.

Prior to his career in academia, Mr. Marrazzo enjoyed tenures in senior artistic and executive management positions. As Director of Casting and Artistic Operations for Glimmerglass Opera, he revitalized the company's mainstage casting, raised its acclaimed young artist program to an unprecedented level of achievement, and created collaborations with the New York Festival of Song (NYFOS), The Morgan Library and Museum, and the Bavarian State Opera. As Executive Director of Astral Artists, he oversaw and managed all aspects of the organization including its finances, concert series and outreach programming, development, marketing, human resources, and general operations. A strong advocate of arts education, he has created and managed over 300 community engagement events that have educated people of varying backgrounds about classical music and helped them connect with the repertoire in meaningful ways.

Mr. Marrazzo has served as a judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, presented masterclasses for the Manhattan School of Music; the Royal Danish Academy of Music; the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard College Conservatory of Music; the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS); Opera Viva!; Red River Lyric Opera; and Penn State University and Temple University, and has served as a presenter and panelist for singer training forums with OPERA America.

A native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Marrazzo holds a B.M. in Voice Performance from the Curtis Institute of Music, a Professional Studies Diploma in Voice from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, as well as an M.M. in Classical Voice Pedagogy and Performance and an M.F.A in Voice Pedagogy for Musical Theatre from Penn State University.

**Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance:
Curtis Institute of Music**

**Professional Studies Diploma in Vocal Performance:
Conservatorium van Amsterdam**

**Master of Music in Classical Voice Pedagogy and Performance:
Penn State University**

**Master of Fine Arts in Voice Pedagogy for Musical Theatre:
Penn State University**



AARON WAJNBERG

Praised for his expressive depth and musical insight, Aaron Wajnberg ranks among the foremost Lieder pianists of his generation, performing alongside many of the world's leading singers as Jeanine De Bique, Roberto Alagna, Rolando Villazón, Christoph Prégardien & Ian Bostridge.

His career took a significant leap forward with his Carnegie Hall debut in 2011, after which he has graced some of the world's leading venues, including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Kölner Philharmonie, BOZAR, Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro, Veronica Hagman Hall Danbury, Palau de les Arts Valencia, Joseph Keilberth Saal Bamberg, Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, and the Dutch National Opera, among others.

Mr. Wajnberg's upcoming engagements will feature collaborations with esteemed artists such as Axelle Fanyo, Rolando Villazón, Sir Bryn Terfel, Roberto Alagna, Ian Bostridge, Christoph Prégardien, Tineke Van Ingelgem, Pumeza Matshikiza, Shannon Keegan, Samantha Hankey, Jeanine De Bique, Sophie Karthäuser, Chen Reiss, Allison Cook, and Charlotte Wajnberg.

He has also distinguished himself as a highly sought-after chamber musician, collaborating with notable musicians including Michael Barenboim, Artiom Shishkov, Marc Sabbah, Sindy Mohamed, Sary Khalife, Annelien Van Wauwe, Julien Hervé, and Roman Patocka, as well as chamber music ensembles such as Quatuor Enesco and Quatuor Danel.

He was the accompanist for international masterclasses and recitals by great singers such as Ann Murray, James Newby (rising star series), Samuel Hasselhorn, Matthew Rose, Karen Vermeiren, Héloïse Mas, Edith Wiens, Maxim Mikhailov, Shadi Torbey, Charlotte Wajnberg, Ferdinand von Bothmer, Thomas Allen, Sergei Leiferkus, Gary Jankowski, Danylo Matvienko, Yuriy Hadzetsky, Coline Dutilleul, Sooyeon Lee and he was an accompanist at the International Queen Elisabeth Competition for Voice in Brussels, 2018 & 2023.

He studied in under the tutelage of distinguished professors Leonid Margarius, Victor Makarov (both students of Regina Horowitz) & Levente Kende. He specialized in Lied accompaniment with Lucienne Van Deyck, Jozef De Beenhouwer, Helmut Deutsch and Roger Vignoles.

In February 2023, Mr. Wajnberg received an invitation from the legendary soprano Renée Fleming to participate in Carnegie Hall's SongStudio.

Acclaimed for his nuanced interpretations of contemporary music, he has presented world premieres of compositions by L. Van Hove, A. Besses, R. Groslot, and A. Van Parys, as well as the Belgian premiere of songs by Iain Bell in collaboration with Rolando Villazón at BOZAR in Brussels.

In addition to his performance career, Wajnberg is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of pianists & singers. He frequently presents masterclasses and workshops in New York, Paris, and Frankfurt and holds the position of Professor Lied at the Royal Antwerp Conservatoire. Since 2019, he has also served as the co-Artistic Director of Antwerp LiedFest and since 2025, he is appointed the Artistic Director at the Municipal Conservatory of Mechelen, further exemplifying his dedication to fostering musical excellence within the community.

Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance: Curtis Institute of Music

Professional Studies Diploma in Vocal Performance: Conservatorium van Amsterdam

Master of Music in Classical Voice Pedagogy and Performance: Penn StateUniversity

Master of Fine Arts in Voice Pedagogy for Musical Theatre: Penn State University

LOCATION

The Stedelijk Conservatorium van Mechelen has a rich tradition of music education dating back to the late Middle Ages, when the Sint-Rombouts Cathedral established a choir school for talented boys. Though the original school was abolished during the French occupation, the city's commitment to music education was revived in 1842 with the founding of the Ecole de Chant. Over time, the curriculum expanded to include a wide range of disciplines such as instrumental training, vocal studies, chamber music, and later also theatre and dance. Renamed the Stedelijk Muziekconservatorium in 1921, the institution became a leading center for performing arts education in Flanders. Today, it offers high-quality programs in music, word, and dance to students of all ages, supported by a passionate and professional teaching team, and continues to grow as an inclusive and dynamic hub for artistic development in Mechelen.



CONCERT VENUE: HET PREDIKHEREN

The 17th-century Baroque Predikheren Monastery in Mechelen, rich in history and architecture, has been transformed into a vibrant 21st-century library and cultural hub. Originally founded by Dominican friars fleeing the Protestant north in the 1600s, the monastery served as a missionary training center and a base for Catholic Counter-Reformation efforts. Despite their vows of poverty, the friars lived in grandeur, supported by aristocratic patrons and alms. After the French Revolution, the building's function shifted repeatedly—from a hospital to a military barracks—until its abandonment in 1977. Declared a protected monument in 1980, it was eventually restored and repurposed as a public library featuring a restaurant, café, performance spaces, and co-working areas, reconnecting it with the community and giving it a dynamic new life.



