France has long had a major presence on the world musical scene. In 1669, Louis XIV founded the Royal Academy of Music, and, since the 19th century, Paris has been a major concert venue for the greatest piano virtuosi of Europe (Liszt, Chopin, others). In the second half of the century, France was the world's leading venue for lyric opera. In 1966, seven years after André Malraux became France's first minister of culture, an office of music was created under the leadership of Marcel Landowski, whose support for the popularization of music bore fruit (in June 1982) in the form of the first Fête de la Musique, which has since spread to 120 countries and 350 cities.

Musicians are trained in conservatories at the regional, departmental, and communal levels. Only two conservatories are national: the national conservatories of music and dance in Paris and Lyon. Arts Education Clusters are also accredited by the Ministry of Culture to confer degrees. The clusters operate in partnership with conservatories, universities, centers for the training of music and dance teachers, and centers for higher education in music and dance. The programs offered by the clusters are harmonized with the European degree system (bachelor, master, doctorate). Admission decisions are made by individual institutions. Certain private schools grant credentials that are listed in the French national registry of occupational certifications (RNCP).

Depending on their training and their instrument, musicians and singers may choose the stage (orchestra, ensemble, or soloist), the recording studio (film scores, advertising, etc.), or the classroom. Age requirements vary with instruments, levels, and specializations.
To apply online:
- CFA Opéra National de Lorraine: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/399
- Université de Versailles: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1096
- Université Côte d’Azur: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/808
- Université de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1025
- Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/399

> Nearly 30 universities offer licence programs in the broad fields of arts, letters, and languages; humanities and social sciences; and science and technology. Specializations include music and musicology; musical heritage; music and the visual arts; history and analysis of music; acoustics and sound arts; orchestral performance; musical presentation; performance of ancient music; choir direction; theory and practice of the language and arts of music; sound engineering; and music therapy. The MEEF master in music education is offered at five institutions.

To apply online:
- Université de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/447
- Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/809
- Université de Versailles (UVSQ): www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/649

Institution-specific master’s degrees (M2 + 1, 2, or 3 years of higher education)

> Some 20 universities offer music-related masters in the broad fields of arts, letters, and languages; humanities and social sciences. Various majors are possible, including music and musicology and development of musical structures.

To apply online:
- www.campusart.org - Find your program

The master in contemporary performance and composition (COPECO master) is offered jointly by four European partner institutions: Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (Tallinn), Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (Hamburg University of music and theater), Kungliga Musikhögskolan (Royal College of Music of Stockholm), and the CNSMD of Lyon.

To apply online: www.campusart.org - Find your program