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.

**International**

Claude Debussy, Hector Berlioz, Pierre Boulez, Pierre Henry, Maurice Ravel, Erik Satie - these are just a few of the French musicians who have set rather than followed trends. Many French musicians and composers are recognized abroad for their unique musical mark, among them Michel Petrucciani, Pierre Boulez, Daft Punk, Air, Indila, Woodkid, Matthieu Chédic… Over the past 20 years, France’s Export Bureau has launched and supported the international careers of more than 300 French artists and professionals.

Countless foreign musicians have lived in France while pursuing an international career. Examples include Frederick Chopin (Poland), Jacques Offenbach (Germany), Yuri Boukoff (Bulgaria), Joel Cohen (United States), Ayo (Nigeria), Feist (Canada), Stromae (Belgium), and Ibrahim Maalouf (Lebanon). Anna Sulikowska-Migoń (Poland) won in March 2022 the first prize of the Maestra, Competition International Conductors, organized by the Philharmonie de Paris and the Paris Mozart Orchestra. The Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris has been ranked as the fourth best performing arts education institution in the world by the QS Performing Arts 2022. Music festivals, supported by the national Export Bureau, have gained national and international recognition. They illustrate France’s musical diversity: classical, baroque, jazz, rock, electronic, metal, and so on. Examples include the International opera festival in Aix-en-Provence, the Musica creative festival in Strasbourg, Folle Journée (crazy day) in Nantes, the Ambrogy and Beaune festivals, the Chorégies d’Orange, and, for contemporary music, the Printemps de Bourges, the Francofolies in La Rochelle, the HellFest in Clisson, and the Transmusicales in Rennes.

**Useful links**

- Bureau Export-CNM: www.lebureauexport.fr
- Campusart, art, design, music, architecture, … degrees online application: www.campusart.org
- CDMC, Contemporary music documentation center: www.cdmc.asso.fr
- CFFM, Centers for professional training in music: www.cffmfrance.com
- CNM-IRMA, center for information and resources on contemporary music: www.irma.asso.fr
- Culturethèque - Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
- IRCAM, Acoustic research and coordination institute/mu-sic: www ircam.fr
- La Maestra: www.lamaestra-paris.com
- Music Festival: https://fetedelamusique.culture.gouv.fr
- Ministry of culture: www.culture.gouv.fr
- RNCP, national register of professional certifications: www.francecompetences.fr

**Useful statistics:**

- 26.4 million tickets to contemporary musical and variety performances.
- 2.3 million attendees at operas, ballets, orchestral concerts (2019)
- 234,700 jobs in the music world, up more than 3% in 2 years (2020)
- 316 M€ in export revenues for the French music sector
- 80.5 M€ of export revenues for the performing arts market of which 13.5% for classical music (2019)
- 990 M€ in ticket sales (2019)
- 456 conservatories
- 1,377 music students in Paris and 654 in Lyon (2020)

Sources: INSEE - MC - MESRI
DIPLÔME NATIONAL D’ORIENTATION PROFESSIONNELLE DE MUSIQUE (DNOP)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA
The DNOP, offered in about 40 conservatories, requires 2–4 years of study. It prepares students for the first year of postsecondary education.

DIPLÔME DES MÉTIERS D’ART (DMA)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
120 ECTS credits
DMA programs in fabrication of musical instruments train future artisans.

DIPLÔME D’UNIVERSITÉ (DU) IN MUSIC EDUCATION
2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
Some 10 centers and institutes offer a 2-year DU in music education. The degree recognizes the competence of graduates to teach and perform at the elementary and pre-school levels.

DIPLÔME D’ÉTAT (DE) IN MUSIC EDUCATION
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
Students are qualified as music instructors after 3 years of study at one of 15 centers for instrumental and vocal training (classical, ancient, traditional, jazz), music education, accompaniment, and direction of instrumental and vocal ensembles.

DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR PROFESSIONNEL DE MUSICIEN (DNSPM)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
The DNSPM, representing the full undergraduate cycle of 180 ECTS credits, is offered in 10 institutions, with specializations in musical creation (instrumental composition, arranging), direction (of instrumental and vocal ensembles), or performance (instrumental, vocal, ancient, jazz). The degree permits students to receive a licence in music and musilology in partnership with cooperating universities.

LICENCE
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
Nearly 30 universities offer licence programs in the broad fields of arts, letters, and languages and humanities and social sciences. Various majors are possible, including music and musilology and development of musical structures.

MASTER
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
Some 20 universities offer music-related masters in the broad fields of arts, letters, and languages; humanities and social sciences; and science and technology. Specializations include music and musilology; 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 universities.

To apply online:
Université de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1096
Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1097
CEFEDEM de Normandie: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1098

DIPLOMA FROM THE CONSERVATOIRE (CNSMD) OF LYON AND PARIS
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
The CNSMD in Paris and Lyon offer a 2-year degree. Students follow a curriculum that reflects their personal goals. The program develops their capacity for research, their autonomy, and their readiness for professional work. Various upper-level specializations are possible—among them song, jazz, instrument, ancient music, and chamber music. The upper-level programs are open to students who complete the first two years at the conservatory or who hold a DNSPM in the area they wish to pursue. Other applicants undergo a competitive selection process.

SOUND ENGINEER DIPLOMA
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
The CNSMD in Paris offers a 4-year degree in sound consisting of a common core (music, science, practice) and a professional specialization (classical or contemporary). Applicants must be under 26 and have completed 2 years of higher education in science, attained the DEM level in a conservatory, and have B2 proficiency in French.

MUSIC EDUCATION DIPLOMA
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
The CNSMD in Paris and Lyon offer a 2-year degree in music education that prepares graduates to teach music in public schools. The degree can be earned over a period of 5 years. The program admits applicants who have earned a baccalaureat and either a DE in music education, a Certificat d’ Aptitude in music education, a DNSPM, or another degree specifying completion of undergraduate study in music. Students may also be admitted for the purpose of completing a bachelor’s or European Master’s (in the discipline and, if applicable, the field and option of the credential desired).

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

DIPLOMA MASTER COPECO, CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE AND COMPOSITION
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
The Master in contemporary performance and composition (COPECO master) is offered jointly by four European partner institutions: Estonian Academy of Music and Theater (Estonia), Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (Hamburg university of music and theater), Kungliga Musikögskolan (royal college of music of Stockholm), and the CNSMD of Lyon

INSTITUTION DIPLOMA
1, 2, OR 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

> 1-year programs in contemporary repertory performance and composing/arranging are offered by the CNSMD in Paris and Lyon. Admission is competitive. Applicants must hold a master or equivalent in song, instrument, chamber music, or similar specialization and seek to pursue a career of high-level performance coupled with completion of an original artistic project in performance, composition, arranging, or distribution.

> 1- and 2-year programs in composing film scores are open by competitive selection to holders of a master’s or equivalent degree in composition, writing, jazz, or sound design. Applicants must write music at an advanced level and seek to specialize in composing film scores. The career-focused curriculum enables students to focus on specific aspects (constraints, project ergonomics, and techniques) and encourages direct collaboration between directors and composers.