



Open call for a Researcher-Assistant in the history of keyboard construction

The Orpheus Institute is an international centre of excellence with its primary focus on artistic research in music: "*research embedded in musical practice and primarily guided by artistic objectives.*"

Position: Full-time Researcher-Assistant either at the pre-doc or post-doc level; at the pre-doc level, a doctoral degree may be pursued in conjunction with this position at one of the partner universities of the Orpheus Institute.

Duration: 2 years

Remuneration: € 33,000 - € 38,000 gross salary/year, commensurate with experience.

Position objective: This open call is directed to a doctoral-level researcher who has strong research, organizational and writing skills, who has a technical interest in the making of pianos, and who is ready to take on a key role in a collaborative project to reconstruct and manufacture an early nineteenth-century piano of historical and artistic significance.

The researcher will be integrated in the Research Cluster "[Declassifying the Classics](#)" under the supervision of Prof. Tom Beghin and in collaboration with historical keyboard maker Chris Maene.

The successful candidate will be required to live in Ghent during the full term. S/he will participate actively in the various activities of "Declassifying the Classics," as well as other events at the Orpheus Institute (<http://www.orpheusinstituut.be>) and at Pianos Maene (<http://www.maene.be>).

The candidate should:

- be fluent in English (written and spoken);
- have a Master's Degree in organology or a related discipline, such as engineering, historical musicology, or historically informed performance;
- demonstrate a willingness to study the history of keyboard technology;
- have an interest in developing keyboard-construction skills, from drawing a plan to regulating parts of a piano action;
- have an interest in developing methods of measuring and quantifying mechanical aspects and statistically analyzing these data;
- share the creativity to link aspects of organology with performative-artistic questions, or to link a builder's perspective with that of the pianist;
- have the organizational skills to assist in preparing a conference and publication (book, website, DVD);
- write in a clear and engaging style and in scholarly fashion (in English).

We expect the successful candidate:

- to be a constructive member of a research team;
- to carry the responsibility of documenting various aspect of a historical-piano construction project;
- to learn and participate in certain keyboard-maintenance or – constructing tasks;
- to engage in cross-disciplinary research on technology & historical performance;
- to assist in absorbing the pertinent scholarly literature and assist in tracking down the newest information;
- to assist in the preparation of a multi-participant conference and multi-author publication;
- to contribute to such a publication with a thorough and well-written report.

Application process

- Application materials must be submitted **before May 1, 2015, 23:59h CET**.
- Applications will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary panel of experts, scholars, and artist-researchers.
- Shortlisted applicants will be required to be available for an interview **in the period of May 15-30, 2015**.
- The successful candidate will be expected to start the position on **August 15, 2015**, or earlier (if schedules allow).
- **Send your complete application via e-mail or We Transfer to Ms. Heike Vermeire, Office Manager at the Orpheus Institute** (heike.vermeire@orpheusinstituut.be); please no zip, no Dropbox, no subfolders; single documents only with your full name as the first part of the title.

Required application materials

The application materials must include:

1. a cover letter explaining your motivation and qualifications;
2. a current curriculum vitae;
3. two writing samples, either published or unpublished, preferably on the topic of historical keyboards (construction, organology, history, performance practice);
4. a copy of transcript of your Master's and/or Doctoral Degree;
5. the names and contact information of two referees.

More information & questions

If you have further questions about this open call, please contact

Heike Vermeire
(heike.vermeire@orpheusinstituut.be).