

**56th International Organ Course Romainmôtier (CH)
July 10 – 28, 2024**



**LUDGER LOHMANN
DANIEL ROTH**

**GUY BOVET
MICHEL JORDAN
VINCENT THÉVENAZ**

**EMMANUEL LE DIVELLEC
TOBIAS WILLI**

**Organised by Les Concerts de Romainmôtier
Artistic direction: Association Jehan Alain**



The **International Organ Course in Romainmôtier** exists since 1969. During its long existence, more than 600 participants and 40 professors attended the course that takes place in magnificent historical surroundings.

Romainmôtier, a Clunisian site with one of Europe's most beautiful Romanesque churches, is located at about 20 miles from Lausanne, in a region with an ideal blend of mountains, plains, lakes and forests. Four remarkable instruments

can be used for the teaching.

We want our course to be also an opportunity for meeting, sharing and exchanging ideas; in addition to the lessons, we also organize common meals and concerts.

The lessons are given in various languages, as needed. English, German and French are standard.

COURSE PROGRAM

1. Practical course for church organists and introductory course to harmonium playing (July 10-12)

Professors: **Guy Bovet (Neuchâtel)**
 Michel Jordan (Romainmôtier)
 Vincent Thévenaz (Geneva)

Successfully organized since several years by the Jehan Alain association in cooperation with the Reformed Church, the parish of Romainmôtier and the Association of Organists, this three-day session is designed for non-professionals, and will give them a simple basis for liturgical improvisation, hymn accompaniment and some advice for their choice of repertoire and how to perform it. Group lessons and individual lessons according to the number of participants.

During the three days, there will also be a course about harmonium playing (Vincent Thévenaz) on the magnificent Mustel instrument of the Alain family, offered in 2023 to the Alain association by Aurélie Decourt and considerably enriching the collection of instruments at the Maison de la Dîme. The handling of this precious instrument will be explained, and the course allows to discover an original, less well-known repertoire. Course topics: Handling of wind and expression, registration, overview of the solo and chamber music repertoire, basics of harmonium building, adaptation of harmonium pieces to the organ.

NB: According to the number of participants and their demands, either two courses can be organised simultaneously in different places or one single course for all participants can cover both topics.

Repertoire :

Organ: Italian and French baroque music, Bach: chorals from Orgelbüchlein, Jehan Alain: easier pieces.

Harmonium: Lefébure-Wély: L'organiste pratique, choice of harmonium pieces; Franck: 5 pièces pour harmonium op. 23, Quasi marcia op. 22, L'Organiste; Boëllmann: Heures mystiques; Vierne: Pièces en style libre. Possibility to talk about other harmonium collections by Boëly, Guilmant, Karg-Elert, Tournemire, Letocart, Fleury, Langlais etc.

2. Improvisation Course (July 15 – 20)

professors: **Emmanuel Le Divellec (Hanover)**
 Tobias Willi (Zurich)

This one week course, open for everybody, is an important feature of our Academy. A tangible result is guaranteed for each participant, regardless of level or preparation. However, the course requires total involvement and 5 to 6 hours of work per day (in two daily class lessons and one daily individual lesson, besides the personal practice time). The teachers work in full cooperation, and personalized attention is given to each student. On Saturday evening at the end of the week (July 20), the participants will play a little improvisation concert.

NB: The number of participants is limited to 12 persons in order to ensure maximum attention. Admissions will be accepted in the order of application.

3. Interpretation Course (July 22 – 27) – « Autour » de Jehan Alain

Professors: **Ludger Lohmann (Germany)**
 Daniel Roth (France)

The interpretation course is intended for organ students, professional organists or very advanced amateur musicians. It is divided into two sessions of three days each; it is also possible to choose one session only. A team teaching-session will link the two courses, allowing a fascinating artistic dialogue between the two involved professors and the participants.

July 22 – 24: **Ludger Lohmann:** Jehan Alain; Bach, Buxtehude; Mendelssohn, Liszt

July 24 – 27: **Daniel Roth:** Jehan Alain; J.S. Bach; Boëly, Franck, Saint-Saëns

Detailed lists of repertory for both sessions will be available on the website www.jehanalain.ch from *December 1st, 2023*.

NB: The number of participants is limited to 12 persons. Admissions will be accepted in the order of application.

Course fees and inscription details are listed on the inscription form.

COURSE INSTRUMENTS

- The **Alain family organ** (4 manuals, 45 stops), built from 1910 to 1971 by Jehan and Marie-Claire Alain's father, Albert Alain, restored and installed in one of the buildings of the former Abbey of Romainmôtier.
- **Organ by the famous organ builder Georges Lhôte** (4 manuals, 36 stops) in the **Abbey Church**.
- The **house organ** of the famous Italian organist and musicologist **Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini** (1929 – 2017), built by Orgelbau Kuhn in the style of Swiss organ builder Aloys Mooser (3 manuals, 12 stops), located since 2017 in the Saint-Michel chapel.
- **Harmonium Mustel** (2 manuals) of the **Alain family**, installed since 2023 at the Maison de la Dîme.

Many smaller study organs in the surrounding villages: easiest to reach by car or bicycle. Public transportation is also possible for certain destinations (but less convenient).



Concerts scheduled during the course (4 pm: Alain organ, 5 pm: Abbey)

Sunday, July 14: Emmanuel Le Divellec (Alain organ) & Tobias Willi (Abbey church)

Sunday, July 21: Ludger Lohmann (both instruments)

Sunday, July 28: Daniel Roth (both instruments)

PRATICAL INFORMATIONS

ARRIVAL

The nearest railway station is Croy-Romainmôtier where we can pick you up if you indicate your precise arrival time. The station is located at a walking distance of about 25 min to the village.

Participants for the improvisation or the interpretation week are asked to arrive on Sunday, July 14 (or 21), before 3 pm; please contact us if you need to arrive earlier or later in the day. There will be the opening concerts at 4 pm on the Alain organ and at 5 pm in the Abbey church, and after that the group will go to a mountain chalet (with a spectacular view on the Swiss plains and the Alps, weather permitting of course) for a traditional Swiss fondue.

ACCOMMODATION

Lodging possibilities in Romainmôtier are good, but relatively limited. It is therefore important that you book your accommodation long time in advance.

Common residence “Champbaillard”: We are renting a house above the village, built for groups and equipped with a well-organized kitchen and a common dining room, where residents can prepare their own meals. There are six rooms with two to six beds, mattresses and bed sheets. Residents will have to bring their own towels.

The price includes lodging, a daily residence tax, the house cleaning, electricity and, in case, the replacement of broken dishes.

If you chose this option, please indicate it on the inscription form.

Hotels: There are two hotels in Romainmôtier: the Saint-Romain (+41 24 453 11 20), and the Maison Junod (<https://maisonjunod.ch>). Their number of rooms is limited. There are hotels in other villages, but people staying outside Romainmôtier must provide their own transportation, which is inconvenient without a vehicle.

Lodging in private houses or camping: There are several possibilities for comfortable lodging in “bed & breakfast”-type houses in the village and immediate vicinity. There is also a camping site with a swimming pool. Information and reservation: www.romainmotier-tourisme.ch

COMMON MEALS

We organize a daily common breakfast and a common lunch in the Parish Center; the inscription for the meals can be done on the application form.

COURSE ORGANISATION

Participants will get all the practical information about course schedules, practice instruments etc. during an organisation session on the first day of every course module at 9 a.m.

COURS INTERNATIONAL D'ORGUE DE ROMAINMÔTIER

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