

**Doctoral studentship at the Bern Academy of the Arts/Geneva University, 2023–2027**

The Bern Academy of the Arts HKB invites applications for a doctoral studentship as part of the Swiss National Science Foundation project “Helvetia through a Twelve-Note Lens: A 20th-Century History of Swiss Musical Modernism, Progress and Regression”. This project will chart the history of Arnold Schoenberg’s 12-note method of composition in Switzerland from its initial reception in ca 1923 via its heyday in the late 1940s and 1950s to its decline towards the end of the century, as post-Modernism and neo-tonality asserted themselves.

The doctoral student will focus on the Swiss composer Robert Blum (1900–1994), whose archives are held today in the Zurich Central Library. Blum studied with Busoni in Berlin in the early 1920s alongside Kurt Weill and Wladimir Vogel, then rapidly established himself at the forefront of Swiss Neoclassical composers. Before eventually adopting the 12-note method, Blum co-founded the Zurich branch of the ISCM, taught at the Zurich Conservatory for 30 years, became Switzerland’s leading film composer, and even commissioned and conducted Frank Martin’s *Le vin herbé*. However, Blum’s output and impact remain largely overlooked due to the hitherto lack of research. Many musicological approaches to Blum might prove relevant to this project, including music theory, sketch studies, reception history, biography, etc. Once they have familiarised themselves with the sources, the doctoral student is expected to devise their own methodological framework to put Blum into perspective.

The doctoral student will be enrolled at Geneva University and will be jointly supervised by Prof. [Nicolas Donin](#) (Geneva) and Prof. [Chris Walton](#) (HKB). The doctoral thesis may be written in French, English or German.

The studentship will begin on 1 August 2023 and will last for four years. It includes a salary, in line with the regulations of the SNSF, that is intended to cover living and study expenses.

For more information, please contact Chris Walton at [christopher.walton@hkb.bfh.ch](mailto:christopher.walton@hkb.bfh.ch).

Please find the official invitation to apply [here](#).

Applications must be submitted [electronically](#).

Deadline for applications: Friday 28 April 2023.

Interviews will be held in person in Bern on 17 May 2023; there will be an online option for those unable to attend.

**Postdoc position as research associate at the Bern Academy of the Arts, 2023–2027**

The Bern Academy of the Arts HKB invites applications for a postdoc position as a research associate in the Swiss National Science Foundation project “Helvetia through a Twelve-Note Lens: A 20th-Century History of Swiss Musical Modernism, Progress and Regression”.

The postdoc will focus on the life and work of the writer Aline Valangin (1889–1986). She was long regarded primarily as a muse and patron to the male artists with whom she associated, most notably the 12-tone composer Wladimir Vogel. While this project will indeed investigate Valangin’s role at the heart of a network of artists at the forefront of Swiss Modernism, it will concentrate on her own activities as a writer, musician, psychoanalyst and intellectual. This project is implicitly interdisciplinary, and applicants should ideally have a good understanding of French and German and a working knowledge of Italian.

The postdoc will begin on 1 August 2023 and will last for four years. It includes a salary, in line with the regulations of the SNSF, that is intended to cover living expenses.

For more information, please contact Chris Walton at [christopher.walton@hkb.bfh.ch](mailto:christopher.walton@hkb.bfh.ch).

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