

# Séminaire du GREAM

Misha - Salle Europe

Vendredi 7 décembre 2018

9h30 - 11h00

**Thomas Seedorf**  
**(Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe)**

*Between and behind the Notes.*

*Manuel Garcia on the Performing Practice of  
Italian Opera*



Based on the instance of Italian opera from the early 19th century, the lecture will investigate the thesis, that there are „hidden messages“ in the notation of 19th century music, which are claimed to be decoded. Manuel Garcia’s „Traité complet de l’art du chant“ will serve as the main source of reference, the second part of it, published in 1847, dealing with performance instructions.

After discussing numerous single aspects, Garcia demonstrates his explanations by means of several elaborate examples taken from the Opera and Oratorio repertoire. The voice part is notated twofold: once the way the composer wrote it down and again in Garcia’s performance version, which exhibits many aberrations from the original tone pitches and rhythms as well as numerous annotations concerning timbre, tempo modifications and different ways of placing breathing cesuras. Garcia’s explanations are a verbose proof for the thesis of „hidden messages“, which is to be illustrated in detail on the basis of one of his given examples.

*Thomas Seedorf, born 1960 in the North-German town Bremerhaven, studied music education, musicology and German literature in Hanover. After his PhD on Mozart reception in the music of the early 20th century he worked at the University of Freiburg. Since 2006 he teaches as professor of musicology at the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe.*