

Accessibility Evaluation Report:

Medici.tv

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Conducted by: Accessiblü, LLC

For: Library Accessibility Alliance (LAA)

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Table of Contents

SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS3

KEY FINDINGS 3

Top 3 Issues Identified 3

Disabilities Impacted 4

PAGE-SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND IMPACT ANALYSIS..... 5

Homepage (https://www.medic.tv) 5

Medici.TV Landing Page Screenshot..... 7

Medici.TV Search Results Page (Search for 'Chopin') 8

Medici.TV Search Results Page Screenshot 10

Medici.TV Master Classes Page..... 11

Medici.TV Master Classes Page Screenshot 12

Video Player Page (Master Class Example)..... 13

Video Player Page Screenshot 15

CODE SNIPPETS 16

FINAL THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS..... 18

Recommended Fixes 18

DISCLAIMER 19

Summary of Accessibility Findings

Accessiblü conducted a high-level accessibility evaluation of the Medici.tv streaming platform to assess its usability for individuals with disabilities. The review was conducted using the JAWS and NVDA screen readers, keyboard-only navigation, and manual inspection for conformance to select WCAG 2.2 AA success criteria.

Key Findings

The Medici.tv platform presents significant accessibility challenges that create substantial barriers for users with disabilities. During our testing, we encountered critical issues that prevent users from effectively navigating the site, searching for content, and accessing video resources. These issues severely impact the ability of screen reader users and keyboard-only users to use the platform effectively.

The testing revealed issues such as missing page-level headings (H1), unlabeled landmark regions, missing alternative text for images and icons, inaccessible video player controls, unlabeled form controls and buttons, and inconsistent heading hierarchy. These problems not only hinder platform usability but often render essential functionality completely inaccessible to people with disabilities.

Top 3 Issues Identified

1. Missing H1 Headings and Improper Heading Hierarchy

- **Brief description:** The homepage and tested pages lack H1 headings, with content jumping directly from no H1 to H2 or H3 headings, creating a confusing document structure.
- **Impact:** Screen reader users cannot identify the main topic of the page or navigate efficiently using heading landmarks. This violates fundamental navigation patterns.
- **WCAG Success Criteria:** 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A), 2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)

2. Missing Alternative Text for Images and Icons

- **Brief description:** Multiple images, logos, and icons throughout the site lack alternative text or provide only generic announcements like 'graphic' or 'link graphic' without meaningful descriptions.
- **Impact:** Screen reader users cannot understand the purpose or content of visual elements, including navigation icons, app store download buttons, and promotional imagery. This creates confusion and prevents effective navigation.
- **WCAG Success Criteria:** 1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)

3. Inaccessible Video Player Controls

- **Brief description:** Video player controls are not initially visible or accessible, requiring keyboard tabbing to reveal them. Multiple buttons are unlabeled, announced only as 'unlabeled button,' and there is no clear indication that video content is present.
- **Impact:** Users cannot easily locate, identify, or operate video playback controls. The autoplaying background video on the homepage lacks pause controls, creating a barrier for users with cognitive disabilities and violating WCAG guidelines.
- **WCAG Success Criteria:** 2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A), 2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A), 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)

Disabilities Impacted

Blind and Low-Vision Users

- **Issues:** Missing H1 headings, improper heading hierarchy, missing alternative text for images and icons, unlabeled landmark regions (main content area not identified), unlabeled buttons and form controls, lack of clear video player identification, and insufficient keyboard accessibility for video controls.
- **Impact:** Screen reader users cannot effectively navigate the site structure, understand the purpose of visual elements, or locate main content. The absence of proper semantic structure forces users to tab through every element sequentially, creating an exhausting and inefficient browsing experience. Critical functionality like video playback becomes nearly impossible without extensive trial and error.

Users with Motor Disabilities

- **Issues:** Hidden video controls that only appear on hover or through tabbing, unlabeled buttons that provide no indication of their purpose or function, and insufficient visible focus indicators in some interface areas.
- **Impact:** Keyboard-only users must rely on extensive tabbing to discover hidden controls and cannot rely on mouse hover to reveal functionality. The lack of proper button labels makes it difficult to predict what will happen when activating controls, forcing users to make multiple attempts to accomplish basic tasks.

Neurodiverse Users

- **Issues:** Autoplaying video on the homepage without visible pause controls, inconsistent navigation patterns, unpredictable interface behavior (controls appearing/disappearing), and lack of clear content structure due to missing/improper headings.
- **Impact:** Users with attention disorders and cognitive disabilities face significant challenges from autoplaying media that cannot be easily paused. The lack of clear document structure and unpredictable interface behavior creates cognitive overload, making it difficult to focus on content and understand site organization. Users may abandon the platform due to overwhelming sensory input and confusing navigation.

Page-Specific Findings and Impact Analysis

The following section lists the accessibility findings by page and WCAG violations and describes their impact on users.

Homepage (<https://www.medic.tv>)

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Missing H1 Heading	1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)	The homepage lacks an H1 heading. Screen reader testing revealed no H1 when navigating by headings, with the page jumping directly to H2 content ('Chopin competition prize winners').	Using JAWS heading navigation (H key), the screen reader announces 'No more headings' when attempting to navigate to H1 level.
Missing Alternative Text	1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)	Multiple images and icons lack meaningful alternative text. Screen reader announces only 'graphic' or 'link graphic' without describing the purpose or content of the image.	The Medici.tv logo link was announced as 'Medici.tv-back to Medici.tv visited current page link graphic' without describing the logo. App download buttons announced as 'Download iOS app link graphic' and 'Download Google Play app link graphic.'
Missing Main Landmark Region	1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)	No main content landmark region is programmatically identified. Screen reader users navigating by landmarks found banner, search region, navigation region, and footer, but no main content area.	When navigating by regions using JAWS, the regions announced were: 'Banner,' 'Search region,' 'Navigation region,' and 'Content information' (footer), but no 'Main' region was identified.
Unlabeled Region	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	A region containing the main heading and slider content is identified as a region by JAWS but has no accessible name or label, making it impossible for screen reader users to understand its purpose.	JAWS announced: 'Left-right slider, the best of classical and jazz at your fingertips Vertical Bar Medici.tv.'

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Autoplay Video Without Accessible Pause Control	2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (A)	Video on the homepage autoplays and does not announce presence or active state. It also has no accessible controls.	Video autoplays on the homepage as a background element without easily accessible pause, stop, or hide controls. The video is not announced as a video frame, and controls do not appear until after tabbing through numerous elements.

Impact Summary:

The homepage presents severe accessibility barriers that fundamentally impair the user experience for people with disabilities. The absence of an H1 heading and missing main landmark region make it difficult for screen reader users to understand the page structure or quickly navigate to primary content. Without meaningful alternative text for images and icons, users cannot understand visual navigation elements or branding. The autoplaying background video without accessible pause controls creates immediate barriers for users with cognitive disabilities and violates basic WCAG principles. These combined issues force screen reader users to tab sequentially through every element, turning what should be a simple homepage visit into an exhausting exercise in trial-and-error navigation.

Medici.TV Landing Page Screenshot



Figure 1. The Medici.tv homepage showing the main navigation menu across the top.

Medici.TV Search Results Page (Search for 'Chopin')

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Inconsistent Heading Hierarchy	1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)	Search results display inconsistent heading levels. Some items are properly marked as H3 headings, while others have no heading level announced despite being identified as headings by screen readers.	JAWS announces: "Garrick Olson plays Chopin's piano Concerto's numbers 1 and 2 slide" without announcing a heading level, even though it is indicated as one.
Missing Search Results Announcement	4.1.3 Status Messages (AA)	Search results are not announced to screen readers when the search completes. The number of results ('193' for the 'chopin' search) is displayed visually but not conveyed to assistive technology users.	After submitting the search, screen readers did not announce the results count or indicate that new content had loaded on the page.
Unlabeled Navigation Buttons	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	Multiple buttons lack proper labels, announced simply as 'unlabeled one button' or 'unlabeled zero button.' These likely control result filtering or navigation but provide no indication of their purpose.	During keyboard navigation of the search results, JAWS announced: 'Unlabeled one button' and 'Next slide button,' indicating unlabeled controls that users cannot identify or predict the function of.
Missing Filter Tab Labels	2.4.6 Headings and Labels (AA)	Filter tabs (All, Videos, Collections, Artists, Works, Events) at the top of search results lack proper semantic markup and clear focus indication when navigating by keyboard.	The filter tabs are present in the interface but were not easily discoverable or clearly announced during screen reader testing.
Repeated Unlabeled Link Graphics	1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)	Multiple instances of 'link graphic' announcements with no descriptive text, likely representing thumbnail images for video content. These provide no information about what the linked content contains.	JAWS repeatedly announced: 'Link graphic. Link graphic. Link graphic.' when navigating through search results thumbnails, with no description of the video or performance shown.

Impact Summary:

The search functionality represents a critical pathway for users to discover content on Medici.tv, yet it presents severe accessibility barriers. Screen reader users receive no announcement when search results load, leaving them uncertain whether the search was successful. The inconsistent heading structure makes it impossible to efficiently navigate through results using heading navigation shortcuts. Unlabeled buttons and link graphics provide no context about their purpose or destination, forcing users to activate each element speculatively. The missing filter labels and poor semantic structure of filter tabs make it nearly impossible to refine search results. These combined issues transform what should be a straightforward search process into a frustrating experience of guesswork and wasted time.

Medici.TV Search Results Page Screenshot

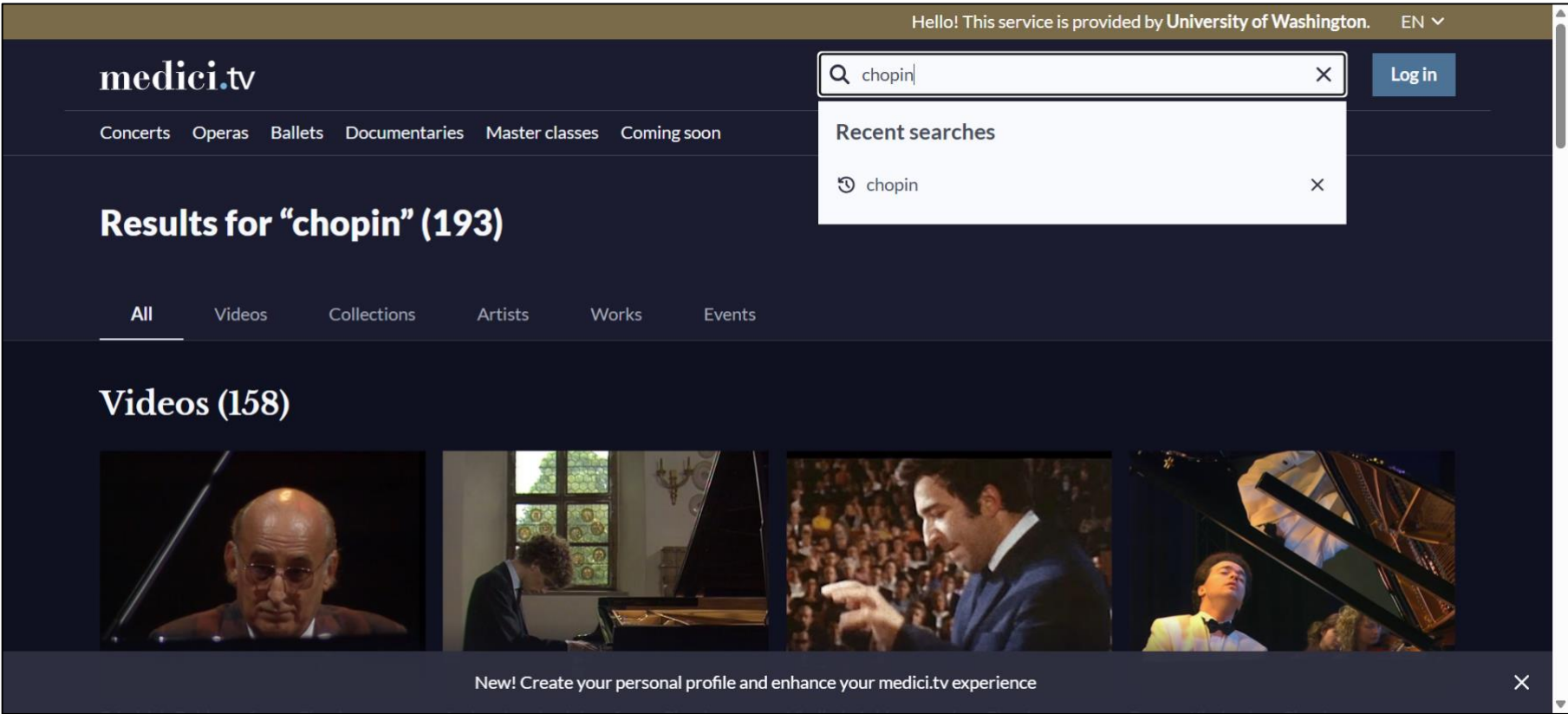


Figure 2. The Medici.tv search results page showing 'Results for "Chopin" (193)' at the top left, with filter tabs below.

Medici.TV Master Classes Page

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Carousel Navigation Issues	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	The Master Classes page features content carousels with 'Next slide' buttons, but the carousel structure lacks proper ARIA labeling and the relationship between slides is not programmatically conveyed.	Multiple instances of 'Next slide button' were announced, but screen reader users had no context for which carousel section they controlled or how many total slides existed in each carousel.
Inconsistent Heading Structure	1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)	Similar to other pages, the Master Classes page lacks an H1 heading and displays content with H2 and H3 headings in an inconsistent hierarchy that does not properly establish document structure.	No H1 heading was identified when testing heading navigation. Content jumped from H2 category headings directly to H3 master class titles.
Missing Thumbnail Descriptions	1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)	Master class thumbnail images lack descriptive alternative text. Screen readers announce only generic 'link graphic' without conveying the subject, instructor, or instrument featured in the master class.	During navigation, multiple 'Link graphic' announcements provided no information about the master classes being promoted or their instructors.

Impact Summary:

The Master Classes page represents premium educational content on Medici.tv, yet accessibility barriers prevent users with disabilities from effectively discovering and navigating this content. The carousel-based interface lacks proper ARIA markup to convey the relationship between slides and navigation controls. Without descriptive alternative text for thumbnail images, screen reader users cannot determine which master classes feature their preferred instruments, composers, or instructors. The persistent absence of proper heading structure forces users to navigate linearly through all content rather than jumping between sections. For educators and students with disabilities seeking to access world-class instruction, these barriers create significant obstacles to educational opportunity.

Medici.TV Master Classes Page Screenshot

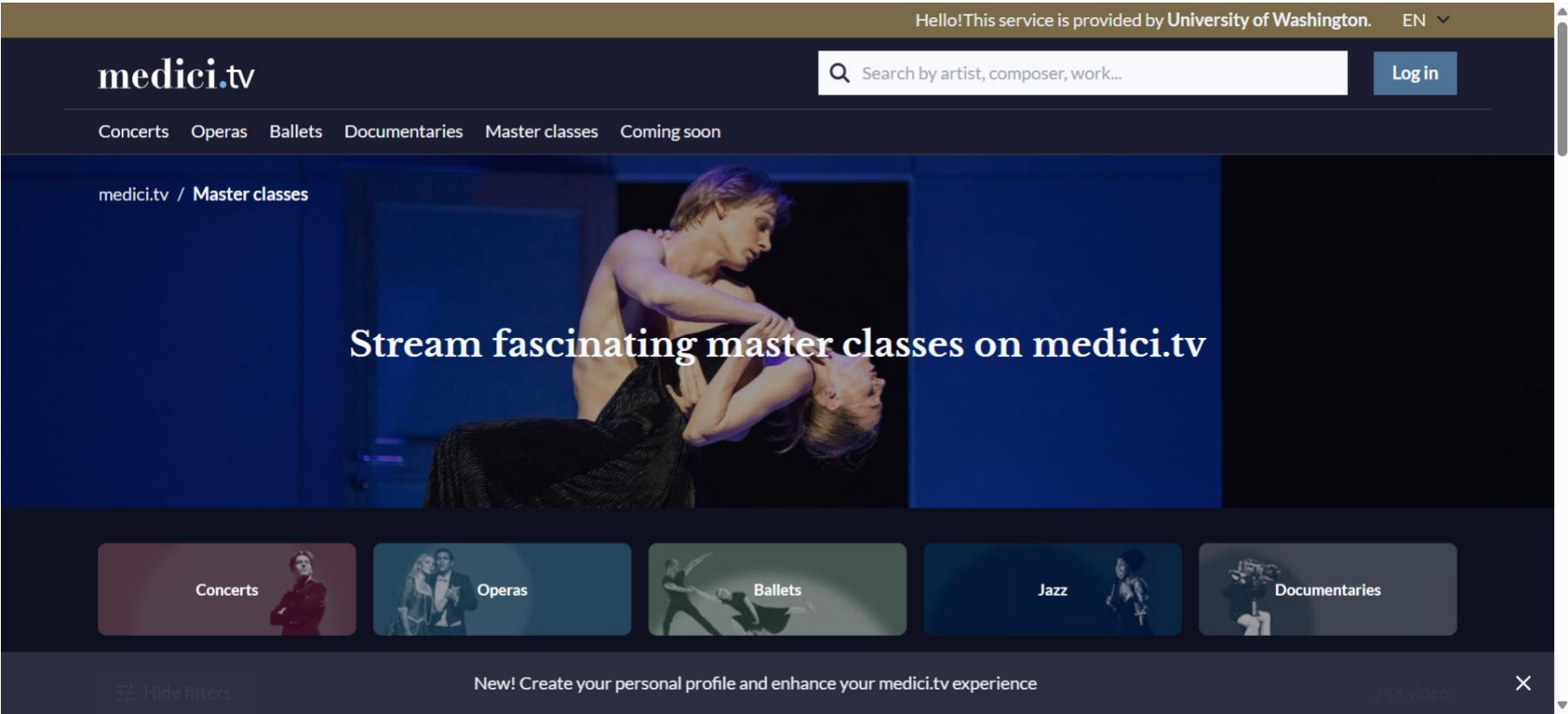


Figure 3. The Medici.tv Master Classes page displaying the heading “Stream fascinating master classes on medici.tv.”

Video Player Page (Master Class Example)

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Missing Video Frame Identification	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	The video player is not announced as a video frame or media element when encountered by screen readers. Users navigating sequentially have no indication that they've reached video content until they happen upon unlabeled controls.	Assistive technology found no video iframe indicator. The video player was only identified after tabbing and coming across controls.
Hidden Video Player Controls	2.1.1 Keyboard (A)	Video player controls are not initially visible and only appear on mouse hover or after extensive keyboard tabbing. This creates a discovery problem for keyboard-only users who must tab through numerous page elements before reaching playback controls.	Controls including play/pause, seek, volume, and settings only became accessible after tabbing past them or after the video was minimized to a corner position while scrolling.
Unlabeled Video Control Buttons	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	Multiple video control buttons lack accessible names, announced only as 'unlabeled one button' or 'unlabeled zero button.' Users cannot determine the purpose of these controls without trial-and-error activation.	JAWS announced: 'Unlabeled one button. 0 of 45 minutes, 7 seconds volume 0%... Unlabeled Lang 5 minutes.' The controls provided time information but no indication of their actual function or context.
Unclear Language Selection Controls	2.4.6 Headings and Labels (AA)	Language selection buttons for subtitles or audio tracks are announced only as 'ES button,' 'FR button,' 'RU button' without context explaining these are language options or what they control.	During testing: 'ES button. FR button. RU button.' No context was provided that these controlled language or subtitle options.
Keyboard Shortcuts Not Accessible	2.1.1 Keyboard (A)	The video player announces, 'Press Shift-question Mark to access a list of keyboard shortcuts,' but this shortcut list is not accessible through screen readers and may not be discoverable by keyboard-only users.	JAWS announced the instruction about keyboard shortcuts, but accessing the shortcut list proved problematic during testing.

Impact Summary:

The video player represents the core functionality of Medici.tv—delivering classical music performances and master classes to audiences. However, severe accessibility barriers make this central feature nearly unusable for people with disabilities. The lack of video frame identification means users may not even realize they've encountered video content. Hidden controls that only appear on hover or after extensive keyboard navigation create an impossible discovery problem. Unlabeled buttons force users into frustrating guessing games to perform basic functions like play, pause, or volume adjustment. The unclear language selection interface prevents users from accessing content in their preferred language or enabling subtitles. These combined issues effectively exclude blind and keyboard-only users from accessing the platform's entire content library, violating the fundamental promise of equal access to digital content.

Video Player Page Screenshot

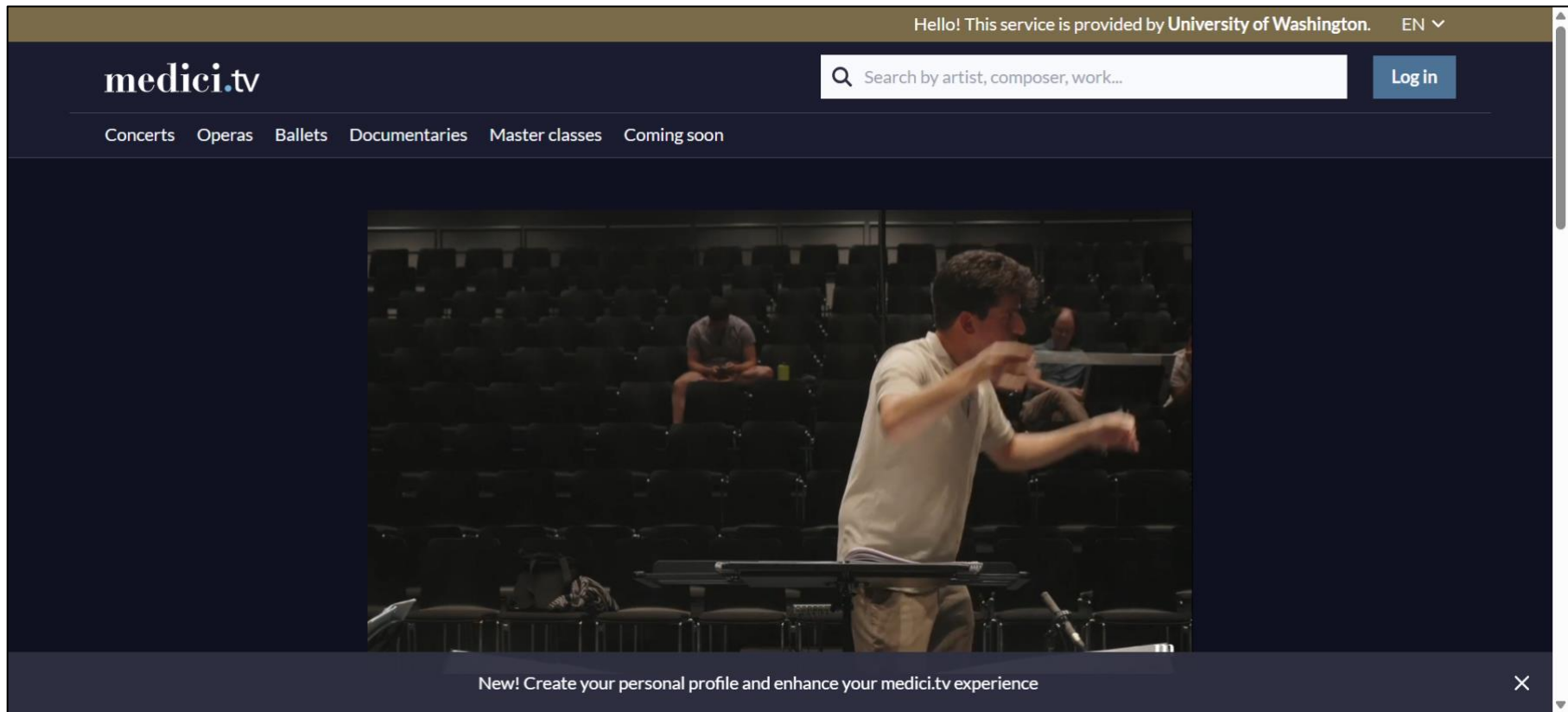


Figure 4. The Medici.tv video player page showing a master class.

Code Snippets

The following code examples demonstrate current problematic implementations and recommended fixes for critical WCAG success criteria violations.

Missing H1 Heading (1.3.1 Info and Relationships)

<!-- Current problematic implementation -->

```
<div class="hero-text">  
  Stream fascinating master classes on medici.tv  
</div>
```

<!-- Recommended fix -->

```
<h1>  
  Stream fascinating master classes on medici.tv  
</h1>
```

Missing Alternative Text (1.1.1 Non-text Content)

<!-- Current problematic implementation -->

```

```

<!-- Recommended fix -->

```

```

Missing Main Landmark Region (1.3.1 Info and Relationships)

<!-- Current problematic implementation -->

```
<div class="content-area">  
  <!-- Page content -->  
</div>
```

<!-- Recommended fix -->

```
<main>  
  <!-- Page content -->  
</main>
```

Unlabeled Button (4.1.2 Name, Role, Value)

<!-- Current problematic implementation -->

```
<button class="play-button"></button>
```

<!-- Recommended fix -->

```
<button class="play-button" aria-label="Play video"></button>
```

Autoplay Video Without Pause Control (2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide)

<!-- Current problematic implementation -->

```
<video autoplay loop muted>
```

```
  <source src="background-video.mp4" type="video/mp4" />
```

```
</video>
```

<!-- Recommended fix -->

```
<video autoplay loop muted controls aria-label="Background video featuring ballet performance">
```

```
  <source src="background-video.mp4" type="video/mp4" />
```

```
</video>
```

Final Thoughts and Recommendations

The Medici.tv platform offers access to a remarkable collection of classical music performances, operas, ballets, and educational master classes. For institutions seeking to provide students, faculty, and patrons with world-class musical content, Medici.tv represents a valuable resource. However, in its current state, the platform presents significant accessibility barriers that prevent many users with disabilities from accessing this content.

The most critical issues identified during testing include the complete absence of H1 headings across tested pages, missing main landmark regions that prevent efficient navigation, inadequate alternative text for images and interactive elements, and severely inaccessible video player controls. These issues are not minor inconveniences—they represent fundamental barriers that prevent screen reader users and keyboard-only users from effectively using the platform.

The good news is that many of these issues follow predictable patterns and could be addressed through systematic remediation. Addressing the document structure issues (H1 headings and landmark regions) would immediately improve navigation for assistive technology users. Adding proper alternative text and ARIA labels would make interactive elements discoverable and understandable. Fixing the video player accessibility would unlock access to the platform's entire content library.

Recommended Fixes

Priority 1: Critical Barriers (Immediate Action Required)

- **Add H1 headings to all pages:** Every page must have exactly one H1 heading that describes the main content or purpose of the page. Ensure heading hierarchy follows proper nesting (H1 → H2 → H3).
- **Identify main content region:** Wrap primary page content in a <main> element or use role="main" to create a programmatic landmark that screen reader users can navigate to directly.
- **Fix video player controls:** Ensure all video player buttons have accessible names using aria-label attributes. Make controls visible by default or ensure they're keyboard accessible without requiring mouse hover. Add proper ARIA labels to the video frame itself.
- **Add meaningful alternative text:** Provide descriptive alternative text for all images, logos, and icons. For thumbnail images, include the performer, work, and composer information. For navigation icons, describe their function.

Priority 2: Significant Usability Issues

- **Implement ARIA live regions:** Announce search results count and dynamic content updates to screen reader users using aria-live regions.
- **Label all form controls and buttons:** Ensure every button, input field, and interactive control has a clear, descriptive label that explains its purpose.
- **Improve carousel accessibility:** Add proper ARIA markup to content carousels including role="region", aria-label, and aria-roledescription. Ensure next/previous buttons clearly indicate which carousel section they control.
- **Add pause controls to autoplay content:** Ensure any autoplaying video or animation has visible, keyboard-accessible pause controls available immediately upon page load.

Priority 3: Enhanced Accessibility

- **Improve focus indicators:** Ensure all interactive elements have visible focus indicators that meet WCAG 2.4.7 (AA) contrast requirements.
- **Add skip navigation links:** While a skip to main content link exists, consider adding additional skip links for repetitive content blocks to improve navigation efficiency.
- **Provide accessible keyboard shortcuts documentation:** If keyboard shortcuts are available for the video player, ensure the shortcut list is accessible to screen reader users and clearly documented.
- **Test with real users:** Conduct usability testing with people who use screen readers and other assistive technologies to identify additional barriers and validate fixes.

Addressing these recommendations systematically would transform Medici.tv into a platform that truly serves all music lovers, regardless of disability. The cultural and educational value of the content deserves to be accessible to everyone, and with focused remediation efforts, that goal is achievable.

Disclaimer

Accessiblū prepared this report as a high-level accessibility evaluation of the Medici.tv platform. The evaluation utilized industry-standard testing methodologies, including screen reader testing (JAWS 2025), keyboard-only navigation, and manual inspection for select WCAG 2.2 AA success criteria.

This report does not represent a comprehensive WCAG compliance audit and should not be seen as a certification of accessibility compliance. While we have identified significant accessibility concerns and usability barriers, this evaluation was limited in scope and may not encompass all accessibility issues on the platform.

No Legal Liability:

Accessiblū offers this report for informational purposes only. It assumes no legal responsibility for accessibility violations or compliance failures resulting from its use. Organizations seeking formal certification should conduct a comprehensive audit and user testing with individuals with disabilities.

Limitations of Testing:

This evaluation was conducted at a specific time, and platform updates may have occurred after testing was completed. Additionally, while automated tools and expert reviews were utilized, real-world users with disabilities determine the true measure of accessibility.