

GRAFENEGG ACADEMY

CALL FOR MUSICIANS

10/07 – 19/07/2026



SUMMARY

The Grafenegg Academy is an international orchestral residency for exceptional young professional musicians. In 2026, participants will work closely with composer **Georg Friedrich Haas** and conductor **Ilan Volkov** on the **world premiere of a major new orchestral work** by Haas, and perform it alongside music by **Ludwig van Beethoven** and **Anton Webern**. Selected participants receive **full financial support**, including accommodation, meals, travel reimbursement and a financial allowance of approximately €850.

ABOUT THE GRAFENEGG ACADEMY

The Grafenegg Academy brings together exceptional young professional musicians, internationally renowned mentors and leading artistic personalities to form a vibrant artistic community. Set in the inspiring environment of Grafenegg Castle, participants find the freedom to move beyond routine and explore music in depth.

Since its relaunch in 2021, the Academy has built a strong international reputation. Through a competitive selection process, outstanding musicians from around the world are invited to form the Grafenegg Academy Orchestra, a temporary collective of outstanding international quality.

The Academy promotes artistic exchange, advanced development and freedom in collective music-making. Outside the constraints of professional concert life, musicians are encouraged to take risks, search for new musical ideas and grow as individual artists within an exceptional ensemble.

ARTISTIC FOCUS & CONCERT PROGRAMME 2026

In 2026, the Grafenegg Academy centres on a major orchestral project with Georg Friedrich Haas, one of the most influential composers of our time. At its heart is the **world premiere of Hyena II**, a large-scale new work developed in collaboration with the Academy musicians and conducted by Ilan Volkov.

Alongside the new work, the programme includes music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Anton Webern, generating a **musical dialogue across styles and eras** that invites musicians to reflect on how different musical languages can express **tension, crisis and renewal**:

- ANTON WEBERN
Im Sommerwind
- LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Leonore Overture No. 3 op. 72a
- GEORG FRIEDRICH HAAS
Hyena II (World Premiere, commissioned
by the Grafenegg Festival)



This programme forms the core of a full concert day dedicated to the presentation of Haas's complete **Hyena Trilogy**, exploring how music can transform biographical experience into artistic expression and engaging with themes of self-destruction and reinvention:

Concert day schedule

18/07/2026

- **02.00 pm · Film**
Hyena I (Recording of the 2016 premiere by Klangforum Wien)
- **03.15 pm · Public Panel Discussion**
Axel Brüggemann · Moderation
- **06.00 pm · Evening Concert I**
Grafenegg Academy Orchestra
Webern / Beethoven / Haas: Hyena II (World Premiere)
- **09.00 pm · Evening Concert II**
Haas: Hyena III for storyteller and four microtonally tuned pianos
(World Premiere, commissioned by the Grafenegg Festival)

Throughout the residency, participants will also engage with **workshops, lectures, discussions and excursions** that open artistic and cultural perspectives and encourage them to explore interpretation, identity and the societal role of the artist today.

ARTISTIC TEAM 2026

Conductor

Ilan Volkov / internationally recognised for his versatility and his commitment to contemporary music. He will lead the Academy Orchestra and guide the musical work with the participants throughout the residency.

Composer

Georg Friedrich Haas / one of the most influential composers of our time. The 2026 Academy centres on the world premiere of Hyena II, developed in collaboration with the composer, who will work directly with the musicians.

Storyteller / Librettist

Mollena Lee Williams-Haas / writer, performer and artistic collaborator in the Hyena Trilogy. She will appear as storyteller in Hyena II and Hyena III.



Mentors

The mentors of the Grafenegg Academy 2026 are experienced musicians with broad stylistic expertise. They are drawn from leading international ensembles and orchestras that specialise in contemporary music. They will work closely with participants in sectional rehearsals and provide artistic guidance throughout the residency and orchestral preparation.

Dramaturg

Axel Brüggemann / journalist, moderator and dramaturg. He joins the Academy to shape the conceptual framework of the project and to lead the public panel discussion during the concert day.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Professional musicians and advanced music students (minimum bachelor's degree or equivalent completed)
- Age limit: 35 years
- Working language: English

Successful applicants will be highly talented young professional musicians with a strong artistic curiosity and a desire to develop beyond purely technical performance. Openness to new ideas and an ambition to shape the musical landscape of tomorrow are valued qualities.

Selected participants must be in residence for the full eight days of the Grafenegg Academy and be available for intensive rehearsals, preparing the repertoire in depth with a focus on the music and the collective process.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

Participation in the Grafenegg Academy is **free of charge**, and all selected musicians receive **accommodation, meals, local transport and a financial allowance**.

The following positions are available:

Instrument	Details	Available pos.
Violin	1 st and 2 nd Violins	22
Viola		8
Cello		6
Double bass		5
Flute	including Piccolo	2
Oboe	including Cor anglais	2



Clarinet	including Eb-Clarinet and Bass clarinet	4
Bassoon	including Contrabassoon	3
Horn		4
Trumpet		2
Trombone		2
Tuba		2
Percussion	including Timpani	3

Interested musicians should submit a completed application via MUVAC by **Tuesday, 20 January 2026** at:

muvac.com/profile/grafenegg/vacancies

A complete application includes:

- 1 / **Curriculum vitae** in English (maximum two pages)
- 2 / **List of up to 10 contemporary works already performed** (orchestral, chamber or solo literature)
- 3 / **Audition videos** (each work recorded in one separate, unedited take – no splicing or audio enhancements):
 - One piece composed in the 21st century (complete or excerpt, max. 8 minutes)
 - One additional piece of your choice (complete or excerpt, max. 8 minutes; any style or period)
 - One standard orchestral audition excerpt of your choice

These selections should demonstrate stylistic versatility, musical personality and orchestral proficiency. Applicants are encouraged to choose contrasting pieces that show different aspects of their playing.
4. **Letter of motivation** in English, answering the following questions:
 - Why do you want to participate in the Grafenegg Academy, and what interests you most about it?
 - What exciting or unusual projects have you participated in recently?
5. **Letter of recommendation** from a professional orchestra, a manager/promoter of classical music concerts, or a recognised personality in the classical music field.

There is NO application fee. Please note that all documents must be uploaded via MUVAC. Only complete applications will be considered.

The Artistic Team will review applications and recordings. Successful candidates will be contacted by **Wednesday, 25 February 2026** with further information.



The Grafenegg Academy residency includes daily orchestral rehearsals, sectional rehearsals with mentors, Music Lab lectures and workshops, round table discussions, social gatherings, and other collaborative formats.

10/07 · Arrival Day
11/07–18/07 · Residence
18/07 · Concert Day
19/07 · Departure Day

Participants should arrive on **Friday, 10 July** and depart on **Sunday, 19 July**.

GENERAL CONDITIONS, ACCOMMODATION & TRANSPORT

Each position in the Grafenegg Academy is **fully funded** by Grafenegg and includes:

- Accommodation (twin rooms) in the Grafenegg Cottages
[grafenegg.com/cottages](https://www.grafenegg.com/cottages)
- All local transport to and from Vienna
- All meals during the Academy residency
- A **financial allowance of approximately €850** for the full duration of the Grafenegg Academy

Travel expenses will be **reimbursed** fully or partially up to a fixed amount, depending on the point of origin. More information will be provided after confirmation of participation.

INFORMATION & APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

Further information: [grafenegg.com/call-for-musicians](https://www.grafenegg.com/call-for-musicians)

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