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Date: August 11-17 , 2026
Location: Berlin Carl Bechstein Saal

(Brunsbütteler Damm 132-142 • 13581 Berlin, Germany)



2026

BERLIN-BECHSTEIN SUMMER ACADEMY

<https://berlinbechsteinsummer.com>



About the Bechstein Stiftung



The purpose of the Carl Bechstein Foundation is to promote piano playing on a broad level. The foundation is particularly committed to the musical development of children and young people. You can learn why this is so important under The Philosophy.

The foundation is named after the visionary piano maker, company founder, and patron of music and musicians Carl Bechstein (1853–1900). With his grand and upright pianos, he gave a voice to the pianists of his time—above all Franz Liszt. He also established concert halls where great artists of his time—such as Hans von Bülow and Johannes Brahms—performed. You can read more about Carl Bechstein here.

The non-profit Carl Bechstein Foundation was founded at the end of 2012 by Kuthe GmbH (represented by Mr. Stefan Freymuth), private donors Berenice Küpper and Karl Schulze, and the C. Bechstein Pianoforte Factory AG. Learn more about The Founders and the Board of Directors.

All major decisions are made by the foundation's board, which consists of the three founding individuals as well as cultural manager Gregor Willmes. The board is advised by a competent advisory council, which includes Prof. Christian Höppner (Chairman of the Advisory Board), Wolfram Nieradzik (Deputy Chairman), Theo Geißler, and Prof. Linde Großmann.

Organizer: Project Zero



Project Zero was officially established in 2020 in Berlin, Germany, although its activities began sporadically as early as 2014. The company also has a branch in Taipei, Taiwan. It operates in multiple countries worldwide, with clients and collaborators spanning the globe. Over the past year, the company has taken on both private and public projects in locations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Greece, Italy, France, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Japan, China, Malaysia, Singapore and more, in addition to Taiwan and Germany.

Project Zero has been organizing classical music charity performances and international cultural exchange events. Between 2014 and 2025, the charity concerts it has organized or been invited to participate in have raised over €76,792 for disadvantaged groups and food banks.

During the 2020–2021 pandemic, Project Zero launched Concert Hall 0, a digital platform that hosted over 30 online performances and reached audiences in 50 countries. Featured artists included Michael Barenboim, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Alexander Gadjiev, Iskandar Widjaja, Isang Enders, Haruma Sato, among others.

In terms of international cultural exchange, Project Zero UG has long collaborated with renowned performers. In 2019, they invited young musicians and prominent figures such as Friedemann Eichhorn, the Artistic Director of the Kronberg Academy, and Máté Szűcs, the former principal violist of the Berlin Philharmonic to perform at the Berlin Philharmonie. They also invited French cellist Aurélien Pascal for performances in Macao, Taichung, and Kaohsiung in 2019. In 2020, they invited violinist Albrecht Menzel to perform in Taoyuan and Taichung (Taiwan). In 2025, violinist Yamen Saadi, pianist Julien Quentin, and violinist Simon Zhu were invited for concerts and master classes in Taiwan and Macau.

Professors



Piano

Ilja Scheps (Köln, 08.11-08.17), Gerrit Zitterbart (Hannover, 08.11-08.17), Konrad Maria Engel (Hanns Eisler Berlin, 08.11-08.17), Markus Groh (UdK Berlin, 08.11-08.17), Eldar Nebolsin (Hanns Eisler Berlin, Online)

Chamber Music / Accompanying

Boris Kusnezow (Leipzig, 08.11-08.14)

Violin, Viola & Cello

Mark Gothoni (Violin - UdK Berlin, 08.11-08.17), Boris Garlitsky (Violin - Paris/Folkwang, 08.11-08.17), Tomasz Tomaszewski (Violin - UdK Berlin, 08.11-08.17), Keiko Urushihara (Violin - Tokyo), Stephan Picard (Violin - Hanns Eisler Berlin, Online), Eszter Haffner (Violin/Viola - Wien, 08.12-08.16), Hartmut Rohde (Viola - UdK Berlin, Online), Troels Svane (Cello - Lübeck/Hanns Eisler, 08.11-08.14), Konstantin Heidrich (Cello - UdK Berlin, 08.11-08.14)

Conducting

Ulrich Windfuhr (Hamburg, 08.11-08.17)

Orchestra

Berliner Symphoniker | Berlin Academy Chamber Orchestra (led by Prof. Tomasz Tomaszewski) | Neue Sinfonieorchester Berlin

Professors

Markus Groh, Piano



Piano Professor at the Universität der Künste Berlin

1st prize winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition

Student achievement: Success at international competitions such as Busoni, Telekom Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Aarhus, with recordings on major labels including Sony Classical and Naxos.

Markus Groh gained international recognition after winning First Prize at the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels in 1995, becoming the first German laureate. Since then, his distinctive sound and remarkable technique have established him among the leading pianists of his generation. In 2019, Sony Classical released a recording featuring him performing Danny Elfman's Piano Quartet with members of the Berlin Philharmonic. His solo recordings have received major awards, including Editor's Choice (Gramophone), Stern des Monats (Fonoforum), Recording of the Month (MusicWeb International), and the Supersonic Award (Pizzicato).

Over a career spanning three decades, Groh has performed with more than 140 orchestras worldwide. In North America, these include the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and National Symphony Orchestra. In Europe, he has appeared with the London Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and leading German orchestras under conductors such as Iván Fischer, Neeme Järvi, Fabio Luisi, Kent Nagano, Jonathan Nott, and David Robertson. He performs regularly as a recitalist in major cities including Berlin, London, Paris, New York, Vienna, and Tokyo.

In addition to performing, Markus Groh is founder and artistic director of the Bebersee Festival, a chamber music festival near Berlin known for innovative programming in a former aircraft hangar. He studied with Konrad Richter and Hans Leygraf and is currently Professor of Piano at the University of the Arts in Berlin. His students have won numerous prizes at international competitions and released recordings on labels including Naxos and Sony Classical.

Professors

Ilja Scheps, Piano



Piano professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln

Jury of the International Competition

Student achievement: Sony Classical and Universal Records Artists

**Online lessons are available*

The Russian pianist Ilja Scheps studied under Prof. Lev Vlassenko and Prof. Ewgeni Schenderowitsch at the famous Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, where he later taught himself. From 1982, he performed for ten years as a soloist with the Moscow Philharmonic, appearing both as a soloist and with many prominent singers and instrumentalists. Numerous guest appearances have taken Ilja Scheps to the USA, Australia, China, Israel, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, Spain, Turkey, Hungary, among others.

Since 1992, Ilja Scheps has lived in Germany. He taught for a long time at the universities of music in Rostock and Dortmund, as well as at the Music Academy in Darmstadt. Since 2003, he has been a professor at the University of Music in Cologne/Aachen, leading numerous international masterclasses for pianists. Additionally, Ilja Scheps has been appointed as a visiting professor at several universities in China. Students of Prof. Scheps have won prizes at numerous piano competitions and have been signed exclusively to record companies such as “Sony” – Classic and “Universal” Records.

Prof. Ilja Scheps is a sought-after jury member at major international piano competitions such as “Top of the world” and “Grieg” Piano Competition in Norway, Shenzhen Piano Concerto Competition, and China Int. Among others.

In addition to earlier recordings with companies such as “Melodia”, “MCA” (USA), and “Le Chant du Monde” (France), Ilja Scheps has added new CDs with companies such as “Deutsche Welle – classic”, “Coriolan” (Teldec), “EMC-Records”, and “CPO”.

Professors

Gerrit Zitterbart, Piano & fortepiano



Former Piano/Fortepiano Professor at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover

Recipient of the “Choc” award from Le Monde de la Musique, France. 5-time recipient of the ‘Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik’ (Trio).

Student achievement: Success at the prestigious competitions such as Tchaikovsky, Geneva and Rubinstein competition.

**Online lessons are available*

Gerrit Zitterbart (born in Göttingen in 1952) was trained in Hanover, Salzburg, Freiburg and Bonn. His concert career began with international competition successes in Switzerland (Zurich, Geneva), Belgium, among others.

Gerrit Zitterbart has distinguished himself as a soloist and chamber musician (including 41 years in the Abegg Trio) in almost 4,000 concerts in 50 countries. His extensive repertoire is documented on over 75 LPs and CDs (with piano concertos, solo works, chamber music and lieder) – on modern and historical grand pianos alike. A recording of early piano concertos by Mozart was awarded the “Choc” (Le Monde De La Musique) in France.

His Abegg Trio with Ulrich Beetz and Birgit Erichson received important awards (Colmar, Geneva, Bonn, Bordeaux, Hanover, Zwickau), and recorded 30 CDs, including the complete works for this instrumentation by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Gade, Schumann, Brahms, Dvorák, and Shostakovich. Five recordings received the coveted “Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik”.

Since 2003 Gerrit Zitterbart has also been giving concerts on fortepianos from around 1750 to around 1900. Furthermore he is a member of the Board of Trustees that advises the Carl Bechstein Foundation on their collection of historical instruments.

From 1981 to 2022, the pianist led a piano class at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media, and has been a professor since 1983. His students have taken part in important international competitions in Paris, Moscow (Tchaikovsky), Geneva, Bergen (Grieg), and Tel Aviv (Rubinstein) successfully.

Professors

Konrad Maria Engel , Piano



Piano Professor at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin

Prize winner at the Bach Competition Leipzig, and First Prize at the International Chopin Competition in Hanover.

Student Achievements: Prizewinners at the Sendai (Japan), Aarhus (Denmark), and Mendelssohn (Berlin) competitions.

With nearly forty years of stage experience, Konrad Maria Engel's concert career has taken him across Europe, Asia, and North America. He has appeared as soloist with many renowned orchestras at leading international festivals.

Born close to Frankfurt/Main, he grew up in a scientifically oriented family. However, his musical vocation became evident during his early childhood by winning first prizes at youth competitions. His artistic development was furthermore confirmed by international awards, including the Bach Competition Leipzig, a first prize at the International Chopin Competition Hanover and the German Academic Scholarship Foundation. Yet, seeking for a broader intellectual horizon by studying more than only music has always been a heritage from his parental home. Like Hanns Eisler once said: „Whoever understands nothing of music but music, does not understand that either.“

Konrad Engel completed his „Konzertexamen“ with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling in 2006 after almost 20 years of working together. Masterclasses and lessons in Positano, Berlin, Salzburg and more with Gráinne Dunne, Antje Weithaas, Wolfgang Boettcher and John O'Connor where also having highly inspiring impact on his musical education.

Over the past two decades, Konrad Engel has increasingly focused on teaching. Following to a professorship in Hanover, he was appointed Professor of Piano at Hanns Eisler University in 2017 and served as head of department at Musikgymnasium C.P.E. Bach until 2023. Many of his students are prizewinners at international competitions like Sendai, Sydney, Bartok/Budapest, Schumann/Düsseldorf and Aarhus.

Professors

Boris Kusnezow, Piano Chamber Music /Accompanying



Piano Chamber Music Professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig

Official Pianist of the Queen Elisabeth, ARD, and Joseph Joachim competitions

Student Achievements: Prizewinners at the International Chamber Music (Leipzig), and Lyon (France) competitions.

Boris Kusnezow is one of the most sought-after collaborative pianists of his generation, performing with eminent instrumentalists and singers worldwide. His concerts have taken him to major venues, including Carnegie Hall in New York, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Wigmore Hall in London, and the Berlin Philharmonie.

His artistic work is documented in 17 CDs and numerous radio recordings, several of which have been nominated for prizes such as the Opus Klassik and the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik. Kusnezow is regularly invited as official pianist for leading international competitions, including the ARD Competition in Munich, the Joseph Joachim Competition in Hannover, the Stuttgart International Violin Competition, and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels.

Born in Moscow, Kusnezow began his musical education at the Gnessin Academy and moved to Germany at age eight. He completed his studies in Hannover under Bernd Goetzke and subsequently won first prize at the German Music Competition, as well as international awards including a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and scholarships from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben and the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes.

In addition to performing, he founded the Chamber Lab piano academy in Montecastelli, Italy, serves as artistic director of the International Music Academy for Soloists (IMAS) and the Schaumburger Schlosskonzerte, and volunteers with the Loewe Foundation. Teaching has become central to his career: in 2020 he was appointed Professor of Piano Chamber Music at the University of Music and Theatre “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” Leipzig.

Professors

Boris Garlitsky, Violin



Violin Professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, Folkwang Universität der Künste

1st prize winner of the Paganini Competition

Student achievement: 1st prize winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition

***Online lessons are available**

In 1982, Boris Garlitsky won the Italian Paganini Competition and began his career as a soloist. Since then, he has played, among others, with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Radio Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia as well as the Milan based Giuseppe Verdi Orchestra and the British Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Mr. Garlitsky is an active participator in several international music festivals, such as the Pablo Casals Festival in France, Mostly Mozart in New York, the London Proms, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and Gidon Kremer's Chamber Music Festival at Lockenhaus in Austria. Also, Mr Garlitsky performs for the BBC, Radio France as well as a number of radio stations in Italy, Russia and the United States. He has recorded for RCA, Naxos, Chandos and Polymnie. Garlitsky is an outstanding chamber musician and member of the Hermitage String Trio.

Born in Russia, Mr. Garlitsky received his first music lessons from his father. He studied with Professor Yankelevich at the Moscow Conservatory, and afterwards worked as the Concertmaster for the Moscow Virtuosi and the London Symphony Orchestra, the Covent Garden Opera, the Vienna ORF Orchestra, the Hamburg Philharmonic and many more.

Today, Mr. Garlitsky holds a chair at two outstanding music Institutes, the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris and the Folkwang Universität der Künste, Essen (Germany). In addition, Mr. Garlitsky offers master classes on a yearly basis at the most renowned music institutions including the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Hanns Eisler Musikhochschule in Berlin and Kronberg Academy.

Professors

Tomasz Tomaszewski, Violin



Violin Professor at the Universität der Künste Berlin

Student achievements: Concertmaster and member of the Berliner Philharmoniker; 1st prize winner of the Paganini Competition

***Online lessons are available**

Tomasz Tomaszewski studied with Tadeusz Wronski and Stanislaw Kawalla at the Fryderyk Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw. He received his Master Diploma in 1976. Between 1980 and 1982, he studied once again with Wolfgang Marschner in Freiburg.

Between 1974 and 1979 he was the second violinist of the Polish Quartet. The ensemble received many prizes e.g. I prize at the International Competition in Belgrad (1975) and III prize at the ARD Competition in Munich (1976). Since 1980 Tomasz Tomaszewski has been living in Germany. From 1982 to 2017 he was the first concertmaster of Deutsche Oper Orchestra in Berlin. He worked with such famous conductors as Barenboim, Sinopoli, Stein, Rattle, Tielemann, Abbado, Gergiev among others. Since October 1983 he has been working at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. He received the Professorship of UdK in 2002.

Tomasz Tomaszewski performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician. Since the beginning of his music career 35 years ago he has worked in various chamber groups. Tomasz Tomaszewski is being regularly invited to be a member of jury of national and international competitions.

Recently, he has received an extremely prestigious award - PREIS DER DEUTSCHEN SCHALLPLATEN KRITIK - for the CD 'Poland Abroad' recorded with 'Polish String Quartet Berlin', considered the best production of 2019 in the Chamber Music genre. In 1998 Tomasz Tomaszewski received the Golden Cross of Merit from the President of Poland for his outstanding artistic achievements and promotion of Polish culture abroad. In the same year he received the title of Kammervirtuose from the Senator of Culture in Berlin.

Professors

Mark Gothoni, Piano



Violin Professor at the Universität der Künste Berlin

Jyväskylä Arts Festival “Debut of the Year” (1991)

Student Achievements: Prizewinners at the Ibolyka Gyarfás (Berlin), Anton Rubinstein (Düsseldorf), and Karol Lipiński (Poland) competitions

Mark Gothoni is from Finland and studied with Ana Chumachenco, Shmuel Ashkenasi, and Sandor Végh. After winning prizes at international competitions, he began his versatile concert career with the distinction “Debut of the Year” at the Finnish Jyväskylä Arts Festival. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has gained recognition on all continents, performing in major concert halls such as the Berlin Philharmonie, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Lincoln Center New York, Wigmore Hall London, and Kioi Hall Tokyo, as well as at festivals ranging from Kuhmo in Finland to the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico.

Since 2004, he has been first violin of the Orpheus Quartet and a member of the Mozart Piano Quartet, with which he holds an exclusive recording contract with MDG – Dabringhaus & Grimm. From 1996 to 2004, he served as concertmaster with orchestras including the Munich and Zurich Chamber Orchestras. From 2004 to 2008, he was Musical Director of the European Union Chamber Orchestra.

His teaching career has included positions at McGill University in Montreal and the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, before being appointed Professor of Violin at the University of the Arts Berlin. He also gives masterclasses worldwide, including at the Tokyo University of the Arts, Liceo in Barcelona, Western University of Ontario, and Campos do Jordão, Brazil.

From 1998 to 2011, Gothoni was artistic director of the “Festivo” Music Festival in Rauma, Finland. Since 2001, he has led the chamber music courses at the Savonlinna Music Academy.

Professors

Keiko Urushihara, Violin



Violin professor at Toho Gakuen College

1st prize winner of the Wieniawski International Violin Competition

Keiko Urushihara won the first prize as well as six other prizes at the 8th Wieniawski International Competition at her age 18 as the youngest ever and the first Japanese winner while she was still a student of the high school attached to the Tokyo University of Arts. She started her career as a violinist next year at the same as she entered the Tokyo University of Arts. In 1986, as a member of the Halley String Quartet she won the first prize in the chamber music division and Hideo Saito Prize at the Min'on Music Competition.

Keiko Urushihara has toured in Japan and abroad, appeared on TV, performed in major international music festivals and many master classes. Among the conductors and orchestras she has performed with are Vladimir Spivakov, Ervin Lukacs, Jiri Belohlavek, Hungarian National Symphony Orchestra, Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, and Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. She also appeared in many recitals and chamber music concerts winning high acclaim.

She has released many CDs, among which J.S. Bach unaccompanied violin solos for Japan Acoustic Records won "Most Recommended CD". Also, "Unaccompanied violin duos" recorded with her sister Asako Urushihara for the same label attracted great attention winning "The National Arts Festival Excellence Award" of the Arts Festival sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Active in the front lines, her constantly high-level performance has gained her the trust not only of music lovers but of conductors and musicians of orchestras. Currently Keiko Urushihara is a visiting professor with Kunitachi College of Music and special-appointment professor with Toho Gakuen College.

Professors

Eszter Haffner, Violin/Viola



Violin/Viola Professor at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien

Golden Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria

Student Achievements: Members of the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Dresden Philharmonic.

Eszter Haffner is one of the most respected violinists of her generation. For over 25 years, she has captivated audiences worldwide with her rich sound, superb musicianship, and expressive interpretations. In 2021, her dedication to the arts was recognized with the “Golden Decoration of Honor” for services to the Republic of Austria. She is also highly sought-after as a viola player.

Since 2002, she has been Professor of Violin at the KUG University of Music Graz, since 2010 at the Royal Academy of Music Copenhagen, and holds a professorship at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. She regularly gives masterclasses worldwide, including at the Royal College London, Sibelius Academy Helsinki, Yale University, Eastman School of Music, and Toho University Tokyo.

Born in Budapest in 1969, Haffner studied at the Liszt Ferenc Academy with Andras Kiss, Ferenc Rados, and György Kurtag, then in Vienna with Gerhard Schulz and Josef Sivo, graduating with unanimous distinction. She completed postgraduate studies in Holland with Viktor Libermann and Philip Hirschhorn.

A prizewinner of competitions including Concertino Praha and the Koncz Violin Competition, she has performed at festivals such as Menuhin Festival Blonay, Prussia Cove, and Casals Festival France, collaborating with Clemens Hagen, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Alexander Lonquich, Arto Noras, and Stefan Vladar.

Haffner plays the 1750 “ex Hamma Segelmann” violin by Nicola Bergonzi, on loan from the Austrian National Bank, and records extensively with the Haffner Trio and Haffner Strings.

Professors

Troels Svane, Cello



Cello professor at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler“ Berlin, Musikhochschule Lübeck

Student achievement: Prize winners at the Tchaikovsky Competition, ARD Competition, Geneva Competition; Berliner Philharmoniker member

***Online lessons are available**

Troels Svane studied with David Geringas at the Musikhochschule Lübeck, Germany. He graduated from the soloist class with distinction and the highest grade in all subjects.

After finishing high school, he was appointed co-principal cellist of the Copenhagen Philharmonic at the age of 18. He won prizes at prestigious national and international competitions and received numerous scholarships.

As a soloist he has performed with most Danish orchestras and with orchestras in England, Germany, Holland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Switzerland. As a recitalist and a chamber musician Troels Svane played concerts all over Europe, Australia, Asia, South America and the United States.

He has recorded more than 40 CDs including the complete works for cello and piano by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Reger. Troels Svane was the assistant to David Geringas for 11 years before he was appointed professor for violoncello at the Musikhochschule Lübeck in 2004.

Furthermore, he has a cello class at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin. He was a jury member at international competitions.

His students are prize winners at prestigious international competitions (ARD, Feuermann, Geneva, Isang Yun, Rostropovich, Tchaikovsky) and members of renowned chamber music ensembles and orchestras such as the Armida Quartett, the Berlin Philharmonic and the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks.

Professors

Konstantin Heidrich, Cello



Cello professor at the Universität der Künste Berlin

Student achievement: International competition prize winners; members of the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic; orchestra academy members and principals in major orchestras.

Konstantin Heidrich is the cellist of the Fauré Quartet and Professor of Cello at the Berlin University of the Arts. His musical development was strongly influenced by his father, violinist and composer Peter Heidrich. He studied with Thomas Grossenbacher in Lübeck, Martin Ostertag in Karlsruhe, and Frans Helmerson in Cologne, and received important artistic impulses from Steven Isserlis, Misha Katz, and Anna Galvez. Further guidance came from master classes with Young Chang Cho and David Geringas.

The Fauré Quartet has been the center of Heidrich's musical life since its founding 25 years ago. With its unchanged lineup, the ensemble has become one of the most internationally successful piano quartets, performing throughout Europe as well as in Asia and North and South America. The Strad praised the quartet, writing: "They achieve superlatives wherever they go!"

As a soloist, Heidrich has collaborated with conductors including Andrea Marcon and Kristjan Järvi and has appeared with orchestras such as the MDR Symphony Orchestra and the Duisburg Philharmonic. Prior to his appointment in Berlin, he was principal cellist of the Kammerakademie Potsdam and guest principal of the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin. From 2006 to 2009, he taught at the Dresden University of Music "Carl Maria von Weber."

Heidrich is artistic advisor and faculty member of the International Summer Academy for Chamber Music Niedersachsen and serves on the board of the Paul Hindemith Society in Berlin. Together with pianist Markus Groh, he directs the Crescendo Festival at the Berlin University of the Arts. His students hold leading positions in major orchestras and are prize winners in international competitions.

Professors

Ulrich Windfuhr, Conducting



Conducting professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg

Student achievement: Prize winners at the Malko Competition, La Maestra, and Fitelberg Competition; conductors of the Vancouver Symphony and major European orchestras.

Ulrich Windfuhr stands as a distinguished figure in the contemporary classical music landscape, embodying a rare synthesis of profound artistic excellence and dedicated pedagogical leadership. His formidable musical foundation was established through rigorous studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln, followed by transformative periods of mentorship under legendary maestri. He refined his craft in Italy with Franco Ferrara and participated in elite masterclasses led by Leonard Bernstein and Carlo Maria Giulini—experiences that deeply informed his interpretive depth and technical precision.

Windfuhr's professional career is defined by high-profile leadership appointments across Germany's most prestigious cultural institutions. During his tenure as General Music Director at the Theater Kiel from 1998 to 2003, he achieved international renown for his visionary programming, particularly his celebrated interpretations of Richard Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" and a comprehensive Richard Strauss cycle. These achievements earned him a prestigious nomination for "Conductor of the Year" by the authoritative journal *Opernwelt* in 2002. His versatile career also includes significant tenures as First Kapellmeister in Hannover and as a regular guest conductor at the Deutsche Oper Berlin between 2006 and 2011.

Beyond the podium, Windfuhr is a pillar of European musical education. Since 2013, he has served as Professor of Conducting and Orchestral Direction at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, where he shapes the next generation of maestri in partnership with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra. An acclaimed recording artist, his discography has been honored with the Diapason d'Or, cementing his reputation as a master.

Professors (Online only)

Eldar Nebolsin, Piano



Piano professor at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin

Sviatoslav Richter International Piano Competition First Prize and Gold Medal

Student achievement: Prize winners at the Chopin Competition, ARD Competition, Geneva Competition

Considered “one of the best Chopin interpreters of his generation” (BBC Music Magazine), “a virtuoso of strength and poetry, rivaling Rubinstein” (Gramophone), even “the Richter of his generation” (American Record Guide), pianist Eldar Nebolsin is one of today’s most outstanding musicians.

His international career began in 1992 after his triumph at the Paloma O’Shea Santander International Piano Competition where, at only 17 years old, he won the Grand Prize. In 2005, he was also awarded the prestigious Sviatoslav Richter Prize in Moscow.

Eldar Nebolsin has performed with major international orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, DSO Berlin, Orchestre de Paris, Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, and Sydney Symphony Orchestra under the direction of conductors such as Mstislav Rostropovich, Riccardo Chailly, Leonard Slatkin, Charles Dutoit, and Vladimir Ashkenazy, among others. A passionate performer of chamber music, Eldar is a member of the prestigious Ensemble “Spectrum Concerts” of the Berlin Philharmonic.

In the 2024-25 season, some of his most outstanding projects include performances with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra in Bucharest, with the Royal Symphony Orchestra of Seville, recitals at the Bilbao Philharmonic with Asier Polo, at the Juan March Foundation, and at the Rafael Orozco Festival in Cordoba.

Since 2013, Eldar Nebolsin has been a professor of piano at the prestigious Hochschule “Hanns Eisler” in Berlin.

Professors (Online only)

Stephan Picard, Violin



Violin professor at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin

First Prize at the Maria Canals International Music Competition

Student achievement: Prize winners at the Queen Elisabeth Competition, member of the Berliner Philharmoniker

Stephan Picard is dedicated to guiding violin students toward becoming independent musicians. Since 1995 he has been Professor of Violin at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler” in Berlin, after teaching at the music academies of Mainz, Münster, and Aachen. Many of his students have gone on to careers as professors, orchestra musicians, chamber performers, and soloists. He regularly gives masterclasses at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, CNSM Paris and Lyon, Conservatoire de Genève, Conservatorio Real de Madrid, Royal Northern College Manchester, Tokyo University of Arts–Geidai, and Yonsei University Seoul, as well as international summer academies including Vienna, Keshet Eilon, and Bowdoin.

Picard studied with Saschko Gawriloff, Wolfgang Marschner, Rami Shevelov, and Roman Nodel, winning competitions including the Deutscher Musikwettbewerb, Maria Canals, and Rodolfo Lipizer. He has performed concertos with German orchestras such as NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, Beethovenhalle Bonn, Bremen Philharmonic, and Munich Chamber Orchestra.

An active chamber musician, he has performed with the Michelangelo String Quartet and Mendelssohn Trio Berlin, and appeared at Berlin Philharmonie, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Tonhalle Zurich, Salle des Champs-Élysées, and Wigmore Hall London. He has led the Stadttheater Aachen opera orchestra and Munich Chamber Orchestra, freelanced with the Berliner Philharmoniker, and served as head of the string department at Hanns Eisler for over ten years.

Stephan Picard plays a 1715 Petrus Guarnerius violin from Mantua.

Professors (Online only)

Hartmut Rohde, Viola



Viola professor at the Universität der Künste Berlin

Student achievements: Member of the Berliner Philharmoniker; winners of the Max Rostal Competition and Prague Spring Competition

Hartmut Rohde became soon after winning 1.st. Prize at the Deutsche Musikwettbewerb and prizes at the Naumburg Competition NY.

Hartmut Rohde performs as a soloist with conductors such as Kent Nagano, Paavo Järvi, among others. In addition, he is a regular guest artist at Carnegie Hall New York, Wigmore Hall in London, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Salzburg Festival, Moritzburg Festival, the Seoul International Music Festival in Seoul Arts Center, among others.

Hartmut Rohde's chamber music partners include Heinrich Schiff, David Geringas, Lars Vogt, Daniel Hope, Janine Jansen, among others. His Mozart Piano quartet received the OPUS Klassik Award in October 2018.

He has been a professor at the Berlin University of the Arts since 1993, and is also an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in London. His students' successes include leading positions with the Berlin and Munich Philharmonic, with all radio orchestras, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, London, Paris, Rome etc. as well as numerous prizes in competitions such as Banff, ARD Munich, Young Concert Artists NY, Geneva competition, ECHO Klassik Prize winners, among others. He is since 1998 the artistic director of the International Max Rostal Competition Berlin.

Further CD recordings are available from EMI Classics, Decca, BMG / Sony, MDG and Naxos. In 2003 he received the Supersonic Award. Hartmut Rohde plays an instrument by Ivo Luliano (2016) and a Giuseppe Fiorini (1899).

Professors

Alexej Gorlatch, Piano



Piano Professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim

1st prize winner of the ARD competition , prizewinner at the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition

Student Achievement: Prizewinner at the ARD Competition in Munich

[Sign up to be notified of the dates for Prof. Alexej Gorlatch's 2027 masterclass.](#)

Alexej Gorlatch is Professor of Piano at the Mannheim University of Music and Performing Arts. From 2016 to 2020, he held a professorship at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. He previously taught at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts and at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media.

He studied at the Berlin University of Arts with Martin Hughes and at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling and Bernd Goetzke, where he graduated with the Konzertexamen. His victory at the International ARD Music Competition, where Alexej Gorlatch received first prize, was preceded by a remarkable musical career – within just six years, he received first prize at nine renowned international piano competitions, including the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition, as well as being awarded the Silver Medal at the 2009 Leeds International Pianoforte Competition.

Alexej Gorlatch gave highly acclaimed performances at the world's most prestigious concert venues. He went on concert tours in Germany, Japan, South Korea, Italy, South Africa, Ireland, and the USA. As soloist Alexej Gorlatch appeared with numerous orchestras, such as the Hallé Manchester, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Stuttgart Radio Symphony, Camerata Salzburg, RTÉ National Symphony Ireland, leading orchestras of Japan – NHK, Japan Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, among others.

For his latest CD on Sony Classical Alexej Gorlatch recorded works for piano and orchestra by Igor Stravinsky with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin conducted by Alondra de la Parra.

Orchestra

Berliner Symphoniker



The Berliner Symphoniker has been a vital pillar of Berlin's cultural landscape for over five decades. Established as an orchestra for all citizens following German reunification in 1990, it has built a reputation for musical excellence and accessibility. While primarily based in the prestigious Berliner Philharmonie, the ensemble performs across a variety of venues, including the Konzerthaus Berlin, the University of the Arts, and the Berlin Cathedral, as well as at regional sites like the Chorin Abbey.

As esteemed cultural ambassadors, the Berliner Symphoniker maintains a significant international presence through extensive tours across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Their repertoire is remarkably diverse, spanning beloved classical masterpieces, contemporary compositions, and rediscovered musical rarities. The orchestra is particularly distinguished by its pioneering commitment to music education; it was the first in Berlin to develop a dedicated profile for school and family concerts, fostering a deep connection with younger audiences. Under the leadership of renowned chief conductors throughout its history, the ensemble has produced numerous acclaimed CD recordings and television broadcasts. Today, the Berliner Symphoniker continues to enrich the German orchestral tradition, combining artistic rigor with a mission to bring high-quality symphonic music to a broad and inclusive public both at home and abroad.

Orchestra

**Berlin Academy Chamber Orchestra
under the leadership of Concertmaster
Prof. Tomasz Tomaszewski**



Prof. Tomasz Tomaszewski is a cornerstone of the Berlin musical establishment, celebrated for his dual legacy as a premier soloist and a visionary leader. Since 1982, he has served as the First Concertmaster of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, providing the artistic foundation for one of the world's most prestigious opera houses. Throughout his tenure, he has collaborated with legendary conductors, including Daniel Barenboim and Sir Simon Rattle, shaping the distinct sound of Berlin's orchestral tradition.

His leadership extends into the realm of elite chamber music as the founder and director of the Kammersolisten der Deutschen Oper Berlin. Leading an ensemble of top-tier professional Berlin musicians, Tomaszewski has earned international acclaim for performances that marry technical precision with profound expressive depth.

As a Professor at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), he bridges professional mastery and academic mentorship. His guidance of the academy's chamber initiatives is instrumental, as he integrates seasoned professional players with emerging talent, ensuring the rigorous standards of the Berlin school are preserved. Tomaszewski's career remains a testament to the power of collaborative excellence and dedicated musical leadership.

Orchestra

Neue Sinfonieorchester Berlin



The Neues Sinfonieorchester Berlin (NSOB) stands as a prominent fixture in the German capital's cultural landscape. Founded in 2003 by musicologist and intendant Lutz Daberkow, the ensemble has cultivated a reputation for artistic versatility and social dedication. Under the guidance of Chief Conductor Stefan Diederich, the orchestra has developed an expansive repertoire spanning from the Baroque era to the masterworks of the 20th century, with a specialized focus on the Romantic symphonies and operatic giants of the 19th century, including Schumann, Brahms, Wagner, and Verdi.

Central to the NSOB's identity is its residency at the Rotes Rathaus, where it has performed over forty acclaimed concerts featuring the Japanese violin virtuoso Yoshiaki Shibata. Beyond the grand concert hall, the orchestra is deeply committed to community engagement, frequently performing in social institutions, churches, and clinics. This social mission is complemented by a robust educational program; the NSOB hosts dedicated student concerts and maintains a long-standing partnership with the "Hanns Eisler" School of Music Berlin to train the next generation of orchestral talent. Whether appearing on television, at major public events, or through its various chamber music configurations, the Neues Sinfonieorchester Berlin continues to bridge the gap between rigorous professional excellence and broad public accessibility.

Master Class, Concert Venue

Carl Bechstein Saal (Aug. 11-17)



A New Venue for Music in Spandau: On the site of the old Kaiser's coffee roastery, alongside the collection of historical keyboard instruments, a new concert hall has been created: the Carl Bechstein Saal.

The facility is modern, the hall is filled with natural light, and the acoustics are perfect for small ensembles. Fans of historical performance practice will also find something to enjoy here: In combination with the adjacent collection of historical keyboard instruments, particularly interesting concerts on instruments from the 18th to the 21st centuries are possible.

The hall accommodates up to 200 guests, who can experience chamber concerts, piano evenings, and recitals multiple times a year, often with a guided tour of the collection beforehand.

Collaborations with renowned organizers like Klassik in Spandau and the Brandenburg Summer Concerts, as well as concerts hosted by the Carl Bechstein Foundation, guarantee an unforgettable evening of music.

Concert Venue

Palais Lichtenau



Palais Lichtenau is a classical building located at Kurfürstenstraße 40 in Potsdam, Germany. It was constructed between 1796 and 1797 during the reign of King Frederick William II. The palace is considered an outstanding monument of early classical architecture in Germany.

The palace was most likely built as a dignified residence for the financial administrator Johann Friedrich Ritz. Countess Lichtenau lived near the “Dutch facility” at the Kavalierhaus (Cavalier House) until the death of King Frederick William II on November 16, 1797.

Before being sold in 2007, the palace served as a venue for small performances by the Hans Otto Theater Potsdam. On January 14, 2005, the play Jenny Treibel by Theodor Fontane premiered here, with Katharina Thalbach in the lead role. After several years of disuse and the bankruptcy of the previous owner, Viola Hallman, the palace was restored between 2011 and 2013. It is now used as a medical aesthetics clinic, operated by the current owners, and the banquet hall continues to be used for events. Some productions by Arte TV and Sony have been recorded here.

Concert Venue

Schloss Friedrichsfelde (August 12th)



Friedrichsfelde, originally known as Rosenfelde, was first documented on 2 April 1265, though it likely existed decades earlier, founded during the German eastward expansion under Margraves John I and Otto III of Brandenburg.

In 1682, the Great Elector Frederick William granted an unused estate in Rosenfelde to Benjamin Raule. Following Raule's downfall, the estate returned to Elector Frederick III, who renamed the village and palace to Friedrichsfelde on 25 January 1699.

In 1713, King Frederick William I gifted the vacant palace to his uncle, Margrave Albrecht Friedrich of Brandenburg-Schwedt. In 1762, Prince August Ferdinand of Prussia acquired the palace as a summer residence. The estate was sold in 1800 to Princess Catherine of Holstein-Beck, who redesigned the palace and hosted grand events attended by royalty, including Queen Louise and King Frederick William III. In 1806, Napoleon's troops occupied the palace, and he reviewed his forces there before advancing eastward.

Post-World War II, the palace served various purposes, including housing refugees and functioning as a workers' retreat. Since 2009, the Förderverein von Tierpark und Zoo Berlin e.V. has managed the palace's museum operations and organized events.

Concert Venue

Zitadelle Spandau (August 14th)



The medieval Spandau Castle was built in the 12th century. Its first written mention dates to 1197, identifying it as a structure belonging to the Margraves of Brandenburg from the House of Ascania. The area at the confluence of the Havel and Spree rivers was strategically vital and had been protected by a Slavic wood-and-earth fortification as early as the 11th century.

Constructed upon these ancient layers, the citadel was also intended as a place of refuge for the princes living in Berlin. It endured a siege and significant destruction during the Wars of Liberation against Napoleon in the spring of 1813. From 1874 to 1919, the “Imperial War Treasure“ was stored within the Julius Tower. During the National Socialist era, the citadel housed chemical warfare laboratories.

Following the end of World War II, the British Army took over the Spandau district, and with it the citadel, from the Soviet occupation. British military administration handed the fortress over to German authorities in 1948. Since then, the site has been used exclusively for civilian purposes. For more than three decades, parts of the complex housed a construction trade school. After the Spandau Local History Museum moved into the Palas in 1960, cultural use grew increasingly important. Today, as an island of culture and history, the citadel is a major Berlin attraction offering a diverse range of activities.

Concert Venue

Schloss Britz (August 15th)



Schloss Britz (Britz Castle) is actually a manor house, as historically, no royal family members ever resided here. A manor house legally refers to a property that enjoys certain privileges, such as tax exemptions or the right to participate in regional councils. Individuals holding the title of “knight“ automatically had political appointment rights, which distinguishes it from a typical country house.

In the medieval period, this moated manor house was owned by the Britz family. The building first appeared in the Land Register of Emperor Charles IV in 1375. Until 1945, the rooms of the manor house were rented out to private individuals, the park became a public green space, and the manor served as a municipal estate until 1957. From 1945 to 1953, the house was used as a refugee and orphanage, and then, until the early 1980s, it was used as a children’s home by the Neukölln district office.

In 1971, Schloss Britz was listed as a heritage-protected building. It opened to the public in 1989. With this permanent exhibition, a small concert hall and a special exhibition area on the first floor were also established.

Since then, the Carl Bechstein Foundation has ensured the continued cultural program in the castle, park, and the “Cultural Barn“ event hall.

Guest Concert Venue

Piano Salon Christophori (August 17th)



Piano Salon Christophori is one of Berlin's most distinctive cultural venues, located in the city's Wedding district. Set within the Uferhallen—a 1926 tram depot—it uniquely merges a historic piano restoration workshop with an intimate concert hall. Founded by neurologist and piano enthusiast Christoph Schreiber, the salon originated from his passion for restoring grand pianos.

Schreiber's collection includes around 120 concert grand pianos from 1799 to 1987, with a focus on French instruments. Performances often feature rare and historically significant instruments, such as Érard pianos from the 19th century, a 1950 Steinway D, a 1943 August Förster Quattrocord, and Bösendorfers spanning a century.

Concerts take place almost daily and range from classical chamber works to jazz, in a relaxed, immersive atmosphere. Audiences sit close to performers on mismatched chairs amid antique piano parts, enhancing the intimate experience. With its exceptional acoustics and global artist roster, Piano Salon Christophori has earned a reputation as a cultural gem in Berlin's dynamic music scene.

Conducting Master Class Orchestra Rehearsal Venue

Kirche am Hohenzollernplatz (Aug. 11-17)



The Kirche am Hohenzollernplatz, located in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, stands as a premier monument of Brick Expressionism and 20th-century modern religious architecture. Designed by Ossip Klarwein under the leadership of Fritz Höger—the architect of Hamburg’s famous Chilehaus—the church was constructed between 1930 and 1934. Its striking exterior is defined by dark clinker bricks and a slender, 66-meter-high tower that serves as a dominant landmark for the urban landscape. The building’s most breathtaking feature is its interior, which utilizes thirteen massive, pointed parabolic arches made of reinforced concrete to create a cavernous, 20-meter-high nave. This design represented a radical departure from traditional ecclesiastical forms, merging industrial materials with a Gothic-inspired sense of verticality. The church’s history is marked by the tragedy of the era; Klarwein, who was Jewish, was forced to flee Germany shortly after completion. During World War II, the structure was severely damaged by Allied bombing in 1943, destroying the original organ and interior. Post-war reconstruction preserved the architectural integrity while later additions, such as the vibrant stained-glass windows by Achim Freyer, added a modern artistic dimension. Today, as a protected monument, the church remains a cultural center known for its exceptional acoustics and “NoonSong” choral liturgies, symbolizing the innovative spirit of the late Weimar Republic.

Conducting Master Class/Orchestra Concert Venue

Ernst Reuter Saal (August 16th)



Located in the heart of Berlin-Reinickendorf, the Ernst-Reuter-Saal is a prominent cultural venue within the district's historic town hall complex. Named after West Berlin's iconic post-war mayor Ernst Reuter, the hall was inaugurated in 1957 and reflects the modernist architectural style of the post-war period. Before the construction of the Berlin Philharmonie in 1963, the hall was among the important venues used for concerts by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, which performed at the opening ceremony under the direction of Herbert von Karajan.

Designed as a multifunctional concert hall within a side wing of the Reinickendorf town hall, the venue quickly became a cultural center for the northern districts of West Berlin. At the time of its opening, it was widely regarded for its excellent acoustics, achieved through careful architectural planning and acoustic testing during the design process.

Renowned for its warm and balanced sound, the hall features a spacious interior suited for both orchestral and chamber music performances. With a capacity of approximately 725 seats, it has hosted classical concerts, jazz performances, and cultural events for decades. Today, the Ernst-Reuter-Saal continues to serve as an important concert venue in Berlin.

SCHEDULE

■	August 10th	Arrival, hotel check in
■	August 11th	Opening ceremony, location tour, forte piano lecture, Q&A sessions with professors about their experiences in international competitions, master classes
■	August 12th–16th	Master classes, Berlin day trip, concerts
■	August 17th	Closing Gala, Guest Concert
■	August 18th	Departure

A DETAILED ACADEMY SCHEDULE, INCLUDING THE CONDUCTING ACADEMY, WILL BE UPDATED IN THE "SCHEDULE" SECTION OF OUR MAIN WEBSITE.

REGISTRATION

PIANO & STRINGS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 15TH

● €500 (full session)

-Two Castle Concerts: Featuring either one 10-minute piece in a single concert or one 5-minute piece Performed across two concerts.

-Class Concerts: Performance opportunity for each professor's studio.

-Practice Time: 20 hours of free practice room access. All piano applicants have priority for grand piano rooms.

-Piano Accompanist: Included for string students. If a student chooses to bring their own accompanist or does not require one, €150 will be deducted from the registration fee. This must be communicated via email.

or

● €300 (half session)

-Castle Concerts: These performances are reserved for higher-ranked applicants, selected based on the quality of the videos provided in the application.

-Class Concerts: Performance opportunity for each professor's studio.

-Practice Time: 10 hours of free practice room access.

-Piano Accompanist: An additional fee of €150 applies for string students requiring an accompanist. For students who do not pay the full €150 fee but would like to have a pianist for their class concert performance, The cost is €50 per performance (5–10 minute piece), including a 30-minute rehearsal, or €30 if performed with a student pianist.

or

● Chamber Ensemble (Duo €600 • Trio €750 • Quartet €900 • Quintet €1,000)

-Castle Concerts: The length of each performance will be determined by the final overall program.

-Class Concerts: Performance opportunity for each professor's studio.

-Practice Time: 10 hours of free practice time per member (e.g., 20 hours for a Duo, 30 hours for a Trio, etc.).

*If additional practice time is required, extra hours may be booked directly through the Artbnb platform. Rates for the House for Music are €13.20 per hour for a grand piano room and €6.60 per hour for an upright room, while rates at the Bechstein Saal are €10per hour for a grand piano room and €5 per hour for an upright room.

or

● €30 (online lesson)

The online lesson registration fee is €30 for Summer Academy students only. If you are not enrolled in the Summer Academy but wish to apply for online lessons, the cost is €50. An assistant will help set up your session and check connections before your first lesson. This fee covers the first lesson; for each subsequent lesson, there will be an additional administrative cost of €20.

+

● Lesson: €150/per lesson (45-60min)

€100/per lesson (Prof. Keiko Urushihara); €200/per lesson (Prof. Markus Groh)

Chamber music lesson (1.5 hours): €150/ per lesson with Prof. Boris Kusnezow.

+

● Observer/Guardian: €200 (if applicable)

(Participants under the age of 16, whether active or passive, must be accompanied by a guardian.)

REGISTRATION

CONDUCTING ACADEMY WITH PROF. WINDFUHR

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
MAY 31TH**

Location: Kirche am Hohenzollernplatz, Berlin

Orchestra: Berliner Symphoniker

Final concert venue: Ernst Reuter Saal

No age limit.

Scholarship opportunities are available.

Business exchange option available (see below).

REGISTRATION

Registration fee: €50 (non-refundable).

The registration fee must be paid within 7 days of submitting the application form.

Application deadline: **May 31th**.

Results will be announced before mid-June 2026.

After acceptance, confirmation of participation and payment of the participation fees must be completed within 7 days of receiving the notification. If you have any financial concerns or are unable to pay within 7 days of receiving the invoice, you may email concerthall0@aol.com to inquire about installment payment options or to discuss an alternative payment date.

PARTICIPATION CATEGORIES AND FEES

(The following fees are to be paid after confirmation of placement.)

● Active participant: €1950 (10 conductors)

Each active participant will receive:

- 3 individual lessons with Prof. Windfuhr
- 60 minutes of podium time with the Berliner Symphoniker
- An additional 60–90 minutes of podium time may be available with another academy orchestra under certain conditions. This will be discussed and confirmed around early May.

● Passive participant: €450 (5 conductors)

Each passive participant will receive:

- 1 individual lesson with Prof. Windfuhr
- 5 minutes of podium time with the Berliner Symphoniker

Feedback sessions will be offered after podium time.

Any additional lesson with Prof. Windfuhr will be charged at €250 per lesson.

● Observer: €200

Observers may attend all lessons, rehearsals and concerts.

REGISTRATION

CONDUCTING ACADEMY

PROGRAM

Concertos

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

Felix Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

(or Robert Schumann: Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129)

Overtures

Ludwig van Beethoven: Overture to "Coriolan", Op. 62

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro"

Gioachino Rossini: Overture to "The Barber of Seville"

Felix Mendelssohn: The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave), Op. 26

VENUE

All lessons and rehearsals will take place at Kirche am Hohenzollernplatz, Berlin.

VIDEO RECORDING

A high-resolution professional video recording will be provided for the final concert.

BUSINESS EXCHANGE OPTION (COST REDUCTION)

If a conducting student already has a connection with another professional orchestra and is able to invite one of our collaborating soloists to perform with that orchestra, a reduction of the participation fee may be discussed individually. The application may be given priority, but the confirmation of the collaboration needs to be finalized and the deposit paid before 1 June 2026.

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31TH | RESULTS ANNOUNCED BY EARLY JUNE

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION TYPES

ORCHESTRAL SOLOIST

This program offers selected participants the opportunity to perform as a soloist with a professional Berlin orchestra: the Berliner Symphoniker, the Berlin Academy Chamber Orchestra (under the leadership of Concertmaster Tomasz Tomaszewski), or the Neue Sinfonieorchester Berlin.

The concert with the **Berliner Symphoniker** will take place at the end of the academy with conducting academy students. The repertoire for this concert will be **Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37, Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64, or Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129**. Performances with the Berlin Academy Chamber Orchestra or the Neue Sinfonieorchester Berlin allow applicants to choose their own concerto repertoire.

Performance Fees & Guidelines: Please note that the fee for a single-movement concerto starts at €1,000–€2,000, while a full concerto performance starts at €3,000–€6,000. Please refer to the Concerto Repertoire & Orchestra Categories page for details; higher categories require more orchestra members, and therefore higher fees. Applicants should ensure that they have the appropriate budget before applying, as a higher performance standard is required for full concerto placements. Final invoices will be issued after all applications have been processed and placements have been finalized.

Applicants who wish to apply only for this performance opportunity, without taking lessons or participating in other academy/castle concerts, are required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of €150, with the remaining balance payable after placement confirmation in May. We aim to accommodate as many students as possible. To ensure applicants meet the minimum standard for the orchestra, please email a performance video for pre-screening before applying. Note: Applications may close early if capacity is reached.

ORCHESTRAL TUTTI MEMBER FELLOWSHIP (FINANCIAL HELP)

A limited number of positions are available for selected string students to perform within the sections of a professional Berlin orchestra (Berliner Symphoniker, Berlin Academy Chamber Orchestra, or Neue Sinfonieorchester Berlin). Selected students can waive a portion of their total fees through this fellowship. Results will be announced before mid of June; if a student is selected, the refund will be processed upon the student's arrival or via bank transfer (available only for EU residents or those with a Wise account).

STUDENT PIANO ACCOMPANIST ASSISTANTSHIP (FINANCIAL HELP)

This assistantship is for selected piano students who will be compensated at an hourly rate to accompany string students during the academy.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31TH | RESULTS ANNOUNCED BY EARLY JUNE

ORCHESTRAL SOLOIST

CONCERTO REPERTOIRE & ORCHESTRA CATEGORIES

Category 1: Concertos for Chamber Orchestra

Piano

- * Bach: All Keyboard Concertos (BWV 1052–1065)
- * Haydn: Keyboard Concerto No. 11 in D Major
- * Mozart: All 27 Piano Concertos (especially Nos. 11, 12, and 13)
- * Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major
- * Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major
- * Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major (famously transparent)
- * Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor
- * Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor
- * Mendelssohn: Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor
- * Mendelssohn: Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor
- * Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No. 1 (Piano, Trumpet, and Strings)

Violin

- * Bach: Violin Concertos in A minor and E Major
- * Bach: Double Violin Concerto in D minor
- * Vivaldi: The Four Seasons (and all other violin concertos)
- * Haydn: Violin Concertos in C, G, and A Major
- * Mozart: All 5 Violin Concertos (K. 207, 211, 216, 218, 219)
- * Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D Major
- * Beethoven: Romances No. 1 and No. 2
- * Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor
- * Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in D minor (Early work for strings)
- * Schubert: Konzertstück in D Major

Viola

- * Telemann: Viola Concerto in G Major
- * Stamitz: Viola Concerto in D Major
- * Hoffmeister: Viola Concerto in D Major
- * Hummel: Potpourri (Fantasy) for Viola and Orchestra
- * Hindemith: Trauermusik (Viola and Strings)
- * Hindemith: Der Schwanendreher
- * Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola (K. 364)

Cello

- * C.P.E. Bach: Cello Concertos in A Major, A minor, and B-flat Major
- * Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major
- * Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major
- * Boccherini: All 12 Cello Concertos
- * Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor
- * Tchaikovsky: Variations on a Rococo Theme (Original Version)

ORCHESTRAL SOLOIST

CONCERTO REPERTOIRE & ORCHESTRA CATEGORIES

List 2: Concertos for Full Symphony Orchestra (also feasible with a medium-sized chamber orchestra)

Piano

- * Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor (The first "Symphonic" one), No. 5 "Emperor"
- * Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor
- * Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 1 and No. 2

Violin

- * Wieniawski: Violin Concerto No. 1 in F-sharp minor, No. 2 in D minor
- * Paganini: Violin Concertos No. 1 through 6
- * Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 and Scottish Fantasy
- * Dvořák: Violin Concerto in A minor
- * Lalo: Symphonie Espagnole

Viola

- * Schnittke: Viola Concerto

Cello

- * Dvořák: Cello Concerto in B minor
- * Elgar: Cello Concerto in E minor
- * Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1 and No. 2
- * Lalo: Cello Concerto in D minor

List 3: Concertos for Full Symphony Orchestra

Piano

- * Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 and No. 2
- * Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1, 2, and 3
- * Rachmaninoff: Piano Concertos No. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- * Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 2, 3, and 5

Violin

- * Brahms: Violin Concerto in D Major
- * Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D Major
- * Sibelius: Violin Concerto in D minor

Viola

- * Bartók: Viola Concerto
- * Berlioz: Harold in Italy (Viola and Large Orchestra)
- * Walton: Viola Concerto

Cello

- * Dvořák: Cello Concerto in B minor
- * Strauss: Don Quixote
- * Prokofiev: Sinfonia Concertante

Other instruments, repertoire, and new works by composers are also welcome for discussion regarding performance possibilities.

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION TYPES

CHAMBER MUSIC PLACEMENT

For Piano and String participants who are not part of a pre-formed group but wish to study and perform chamber music, we offer a dedicated placement and matching service.

Program Overview We aim to foster artistic collaboration by matching individual applicants into ensembles. While we strive to accommodate your preferences, please note that successful matching is subject to participant enrollment and repertoire compatibility and cannot be guaranteed.

- **Ensemble Sizes:** We facilitate groups ranging from Duos to Quintets, with the possibility of forming larger ensembles, such as Octets, should there be sufficient interest and balanced instrumentation.
- **Application Deadline:** **May 31**

Coaching & Lesson Fees

Fees for chamber music sessions are shared equally among all members of the assigned ensemble.

- **Prof. Boris Kusnezow:** 90-minute sessions at €150 per session (split between members).
- **Other Faculty:** 60-minute sessions at their standard hourly rate (split between members).

FINANCIAL HELP

INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Installment payment options are available; applicants may request this via email.

FULL SCHOLARSHIP

At least two full scholarships are available for this session, covering the €500 registration fee and three lessons (€150 per lesson). This offer is exclusive to full-session applicants who have not previously received a full scholarship. Results will be announced at the closing gala. The deadline for full scholarship applications is **June 30th**.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION SCHOLARSHIP

The first 20 students who apply before **March 30th** will receive an 'early bird application scholarship'; the amount will depend on their video submission ranking. Please note that this is only available for full session applicants. Depending on the total number of students, we may provide additional 'early bird' application scholarships. Results will be announced at the closing gala.

Applicants who receive the Full Scholarship, Orchestral Tutti Member Fellowship or the Student Piano Accompanist Assistantship are not eligible for the Early Bird Application Scholarship. However, applicants who take part in the Orchestral Soloist may also receive the Orchestral Tutti Member Fellowship or the Student Piano Accompanist Assistantship at the same time.

APPLICATION FORM

NEARBY ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Please refer to the website for real-time pricing;
more budget-friendly options can be found via [Airbnb](#) or [CouchSurfing](#).



Landhotel Waldschänke

- The cheapest nearby option takes about 30 minutes by bus (with one transfer) to reach the Carl Bechstein Saal.

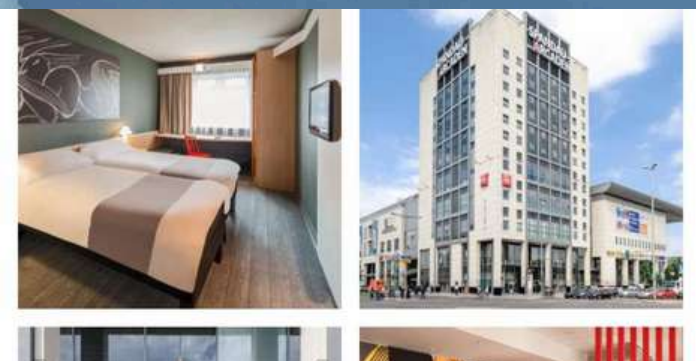
€40-50/night



Hotel am Wasserturm

- The closest hotel is a 12-minute walk from the Carl Bechstein Saal. Rooms are limited. Group rate: €115 per night (regular rate: €160).

€115-125/night



Ibis Hotel Berlin Spandau

- The Carl Bechstein Saal is 12 minutes away by bus. The hotel is at the main station, with shops and restaurants nearby.

€80-90/night



Garner Hotel Berlin - Spandau by IHG ★★★★

- It takes about 20 minutes by bus to get to the Carl Bechstein Saal.

€93/night

Optional Activity

€40/per day per person

Berlin Guided Tour (Option 1.)



- Berlin Philharmonie (Berliner Philharmonie)

Introduction: This is one of the most iconic concert halls in Berlin and the home of the world-renowned Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (Berliner Philharmoniker). The building, designed by Hans Scharoun, is famous for its golden tent-like exterior and exceptional acoustics. Guided tours are available to explore the architecture and history of the hall.

Recommended duration: Depending on the schedule, we suggest 2–3 hours.

- Berlin Historical Axis (Berliner historische Mitte)

This central axis links Berlin's most iconic historical landmarks, including the Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden Boulevard, Berlin Cathedral, and Museum Island. The route not only witnesses the grandeur of the Prussian Kingdom but also deeply reflects the rise and fall of German history.

- State Opera (Staatsoper Unter den Linden)

Introduction: This historic opera house is one of Germany's most important opera institutions. Originally built in 1742, it has undergone multiple reconstructions and restorations. Today, it serves as the main venue for conductor Daniel Barenboim. The opera season is rich, covering works from the Baroque period to contemporary pieces. The opera house itself is a magnificent Baroque-style building.

Recommended duration: Depending on the schedule, we suggest 2–3 hours.

- Berlin Wall Memorial (Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer)

The Berlin Wall Memorial is a key site for understanding the history of the Cold War and the division of East and West Germany. It preserves a section of the original Wall structure and the "Death Strip," and features an open-air exhibition, viewing platforms, and a memorial chapel. This site vividly portrays the harsh reality of the separation of families and cities, and it serves as a place to reflect on freedom, unity, and human rights.

Recommended duration: Approximately 1–1.5 hours.

Optional Activity

€40/per day per person

Berlin Guided Tour (Option 2.)



- Visit Potsdam

Potsdam is located about 40 kilometers southwest of Berlin and is the capital of Brandenburg. The city has a long history and was once the summer residence of the Prussian kings. It is renowned for its palaces and gardens and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

- Sanssouci Palace (Schloss Sanssouci)

Sanssouci Palace was built by Frederick the Great in 1745 as a summer palace. The name “Sans souci” is French for “without worries,” reflecting the relaxed nature of the place. The Rococo-style palace blends art and nature, with its famous terraced vineyards and the beautiful Sanssouci Garden. Inside, you can explore the royal bedrooms, study, and exquisite murals, showcasing the opulence of the Prussian royal family.

Recommended duration: About 1.5–2 hours.

Tip: The palace and the entire Sanssouci Park are very expansive, so it’s recommended to wear comfortable walking shoes.

- Historic City Center of Potsdam (Historische Innenstadt Potsdam)

The old town of Potsdam features a blend of German and Dutch architectural styles, with the most famous landmark being the Dutch Quarter (Holländisches Viertel). This area is made up of four rows of red brick Dutch-style houses, built in the 18th century by Dutch craftsmen. The atmosphere here is leisurely, ideal for walking, with cafés, art shops, and local life to explore.

Recommended duration: About 1 hour.

- Wannsee

Wannsee is a lake located on the border of Berlin and Potsdam, known for its natural beauty and historical significance. The area has a beach resort that serves as a popular summer getaway. The Wannsee Villa, located by the lake, is also famous for being the site of the Wannsee Conference (1942), where Nazi leaders discussed the “Final Solution.”

Recommended duration: About 45 minutes.

- Cecilienhof Palace (Schloss Cecilienhof)

This Tudor-style palace was the last royal residence of the Hohenzollern family. It is most famous for being the location of the Potsdam Conference in 1945, where U.S. President Harry Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (later replaced by Clement Attlee), and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin met to discuss the post-war future of Germany and Europe. The palace has since been converted into a museum, preserving the original setting of the conference.

Recommended duration: About 1 hour.

Optional Activity

€40 per person, per day (Leipzig train tickets not included)

Leipzig Guided Tour (Option 3.)



- Berlin → Leipzig City Tour | Historical Landmarks and Musical Sanctuaries
- Völkerschlachtdenkmal (Monument to the Battle of the Nations): This monument commemorates the victory of the anti-Napoleon coalition in the 1813 Battle of Leipzig. Standing at 91 meters, it is one of Europe's largest war memorials. Visitors can climb to the top for a panoramic view of the entire Leipzig city. Recommended duration: 2 hours
- Lunch recommendation: Near the City Hall, try traditional Saxon cuisine.
- Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Church)/Bach-Museum Leipzig: Experience the legacy of Johann Sebastian Bach at Thomaskirche, where the legendary Thomaskantor composed, performed, and is now buried. After soaking in the church's solemn atmosphere—still a premier venue for live cantatas and organ recitals—head directly across the street to the Bach-Museum Leipzig. There, you can explore original manuscripts and interactive exhibits that bring his creative process to life. Total Recommended Duration: 2.5–3 hours
- Mendelssohn-Haus Leipzig: Located in the city center, this was the last residence of Felix Mendelssohn. It is now a memorial museum and small concert venue. The museum houses exhibits like pianos, letters, manuscripts, and portraits, and sometimes hosts concerts.
- Schumann-Haus Leipzig: Located in the city center, this was the first home of Robert Schumann and Clara Schumann after their marriage. It preserves many documents and artifacts related to their musical lives.

Contact Information

Email:

concerthall0@aol.com

What's app:

wa.me/886922508449

