

27th July – 2nd August
2026

Vienna, Austria



The World String Music Festival



World String Music Festival

This is a one-of-a-kind string music festival in the world!

Here, you will find invaluable masterclasses!

Here, you will meet top international experts and competitions!

Here, you can experience the charm of the world's music capital!

Participants will have the honor of performing on the stage of the world-renowned Vienna Golden Hall!





World String Music Festival: One- of- a- Kind Celebration of String Music

"The World String Music Festival" will be held in Vienna, the world's music capital, from 27th July to 2nd Aug, 2026. The World String Music Festival is an international festival aimed at promoting the development of string music.

The festival offers participants a series of rich and diverse activities including performances, exchanges, master classes, competitions, lectures, forums, and visits. Whether you are an individual, an ensemble, or a string orchestra, whether you play classical string instruments such as Violin / Cello or ethnic string instruments from various countries, the World String Music Festival warmly welcomes you!





01

Organizations



Patronage:

The World Council for String Music and Education /
The World Organization for Music and Arts Education

Organizers:

ICT Management GmbH / Master Music International

Supported by:

House of Strauss / The Vienna Institute for Strauss
Research / Mozart Haus / Johann Sebastian Bach Music
School / Johannes Brahms Music School / Beijing Eurasia
International Culture Co., Ltd. / World Orchestra Festival

Sponsors:

Thomastik-Infeld / Haffnerbows





The World Council for String Music and Education



The World Council for String Music and Education

is an international organization dedicated to promoting the development of string music worldwide. The council's mission is to promote string music performance, education, and related industries, bringing together the world's top string musicians, educators, and industry professionals to jointly foster the prosperity of string music.

The World Council for String Music and Education is chaired by Prof.Dr. Clemens Hellsberg, former President of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Chairman of the the International Fritz Kreisler Violin Competition, who serves as Honorary Chairman. The council's President is Univ.- Prof. Anton Sorokow, Head of the Fritz Kreisler Institute at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Concertmaster of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. The executive board consists of renowned string musicians, educators, composers, conductors, and other professionals from various countries.

The World Council for String Music and Education welcomes string musicians, educators, composers, conductors, music teachers, and other professionals from around the world to join in and to promote the development of string music and education!



02

Greetings



World String Music Festival 2025



Prof. Dr. Clemens Hellsberg

Violinist, Musicologist, Writer

President of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (1997-2014)

Honorary Chairman of the World Council for String Music and Education

Chairman of the Fritz Kreisler International Violin Competition

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to extend my warmest welcome to all of you at the Vienna World String Music Festival. Music has always been a bridge between cultures, generations, and hearts, and this festival stands as a testament to its unifying power.

As the concertmaster and former president of the Vienna Philharmonic, I have witnessed firsthand how the beauty of string music transcends boundaries. It is not just about technical mastery or tradition—it is about storytelling, passion, and human connection. This festival brings together musicians from around the world, fostering a spirit of exchange and inspiration that is at the very heart of Vienna's musical legacy.

I encourage each of you to embrace this experience, to listen, learn, and share. May this festival leave you with unforgettable memories, new friendships, and a deeper love for the art we all cherish.

Welcome to Vienna—let the music bring us together!

Best regards,
Prof. Dr. Clemens Hellsberg

7. Februar 2025



World String Music Festival 2025



Univ.-Prof. Anton Sorokow

Violinist, Educator

First Violinist of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra

President of the World Council for String Music and Education

Head of the Fritz Kreisler Institute at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you to the Vienna World String Music Festival. As a violin professor and head of the String Department at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, I am honored to invite musicians and ensembles from around the globe to gather in the heart of Austria, where music lives and breathes in every corner.

This festival is not merely an event—it is a celebration of connection, where the universal language of music transcends boundaries and unites us all. Through the resonant voices of string instruments, we create not only melodies but also enduring friendships and profound cultural exchange.

Vienna, a city steeped in musical tradition and beauty, provides the perfect setting for this remarkable gathering. Whether you are a performer or a listener, I hope this festival fills your heart with inspiration and joy. Let us celebrate music not as a competition, but as a shared journey toward harmony and understanding.

We look forward to welcoming you to Vienna, where strings will unite us in a symphony of smiles and shared dreams.

Warm regards,
Anton Sorokow

11.12.2024



03

Highlights



Highlights

01

Masterclasses with Renowned Professors

- Taught by top professors from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and other prestigious institutions.
- Offering personalized instruction such as one- on- one lessons, group classes, and chamber music sessions.

Vienna is home to some of the world's leading music education institutions and resources, with the most renowned being the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, which boasts nearly 200 years of history. This university has trained over 100 famous musicians, including international music legends such as Gustav Mahler, Herbert von Karajan, Zubin Mehta, and Claudio Abbado.



02

Ensemble Workshop

- Individual participants will be assigned to suitable string ensembles, where they will receive coaching and guidance from international experts during rehearsals and stage performances.
- String ensembles, chamber groups, and orchestras will be mentored by professor and international conductors.

Ensemble Workshop are a crucial foundational step for musicians on their way to the professional stage. They are also core training for developing teamwork skills and musical expression. Through intensive rehearsals and artistic expression, participants learn how to achieve high levels of coordination and cohesion within an orchestra. This process not only helps participants gain a deeper understanding of the importance of ensemble music but also lays a solid foundation for their future professional careers.





Highlights

03

International Competition

- Divided into: Public Category and Professional Category
- The first-place winner in the Professional Category will have the honor of performing as a soloist in the Golden Hall.

The competition segment of the World String Music Festival offers participants an excellent opportunity to showcase their professional skills, receive evaluations from international experts, and gain international recognition. By participating in the competition, musicians can not only display their talents on a global stage and enhance their artistic level but also engage with outstanding musicians from around the world, learn from each other, and earn prestigious international awards. Especially for the highest honor in the professional category, it not only proves the individual's musical prowess but also lays a solid foundation for future studies and career development.

04

Series of Concerts

- Concerts will be held at historic landmarks such as the House of Strauss, Mozart's House, Beethoven's House, and other iconic sites.
- Each participant will have at least one solo performance and one opportunity to perform as a member of the orchestra.

Holding concerts at representative venues in Vienna, including famous concert halls, musicians' former residences, government celebration halls, churches, and community cultural centers, offers a perfect way to experience Vienna's rich musical atmosphere. It is also a valuable opportunity for participants to showcase their talents. Performing in the very places where history's greatest composers left their mark is both a sacred honor and a memorable experience. These performances will provide musicians with an unforgettable opportunity to demonstrate their skills and receive artistic recognition, along with the applause of passionate Viennese audiences.





Highlights

05

Public Workshops

- International experts will be invited to give lectures on music career planning, performance techniques, the Vienna music education system, and, providing practical guidance for students' future development.

During the festival, participants will have the opportunity to attend various music workshops, such as string performance technique seminars, lectures on Vienna music appreciation and music history, introductions to Vienna's music education system, career development talks and more. Top experts from around the world will share their professional experiences, helping participants enhance their skills in the music field!



06

Vienna Golden Hall: World's Premier Stage

- All participants will have the opportunity to perform on the world-renowned stage of the Vienna Golden Hall!

The Vienna Golden Hall is one of the most famous and captivating concert halls in the world. Every year, the New Year's Concert held here is broadcast to over 90 countries, and countless musicians frequently perform on this prestigious stage, showcasing their musical artistry and presenting the Viennese audience with unforgettable musical experiences.

Each participant of the festival will step onto the stage of the world-famous Vienna Golden Hall, presenting their artistic talents to the Viennese audience. They will experience the majestic scenes they have watched countless times on television and enjoy musical performances from outstanding ensembles and individuals.





Highlights

07

Precious Video Footage, Photos, and Certificates

- Each participant will receive photos and video materials taken by professional photographers and videographers, which will assist in future applications to music academies and international competitions.
- Every participant will have the opportunity to receive a photo taken on the stage of the Golden Hall.
- Participants will also receive official certificates of participation and awards issued by the World String Music Festival, enhancing their musical credentials and accomplishments.



08

Follow the Master's Footsteps: City Tour

- Participants will have the opportunity to visit Vienna's most prestigious music institutions and historical landmarks, such as the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, where many legendary musicians have studied, and the iconic City Park (Stadtpark), home to the famous Johann Strauss statue. The tour will also include Schönbrunn Palace, a former imperial summer residence with beautiful gardens and a rich cultural history. Along the way, participants will learn about Vienna's deep musical heritage, exploring the places where great composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Johann Strauss Family lived, worked, and created their timeless music. This tour offers a unique chance to immerse oneself in the history of music and experience the city that has long been the heart of classical music.





Strauss Award

The World String Music Festival is proud to have the strong support of the Vienna Institute for Strauss Research. Prof. Edward Strauss, the sixth-generation descendant of the Strauss family and also the chairman of the "Vienna Institute for Strauss Research," will be present at the festival's events.

He will encourage participants to strive for excellence, love music, and contribute to world peace. Furthermore, he will present the prestigious "Strauss Award" to outstanding individuals and groups. This award is not only a symbol of honor but also an affirmation of musical dreams and artistic pursuits. In a city filled with melody and history, every participant will leave inspired and touched, ready to compose their own magnificent chapter.





04

Competition



Registration



Individual musicians, string ensembles, and string orchestras are all welcome to participate!

Included: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Erhu, Guzheng, Yangqin, and other Western and traditional ethnic instruments.

Competition and Rules (Violin)



1. Competition Categories

The competition is divided into Open Category and Professional Category, catering to string players of different skill levels.

- ◆ Open Category: Suitable for all string music enthusiasts, encouraging individuals, ensembles, or orchestras to showcase their musical talents.
- ◆ Professional Category: Designed for those studying or working professionally in string music, aiming to select the most outstanding string musicians.

1.1 Open Category

- Group A: Born on or after Sep 1st , 2017 (Under 8 years old)
- Group B: Born between Sep 1st , 2013 – Sep 1st , 2017 (9 - 11 years old)
- Group C: Born between Sep 1st , 2007 – Sep 1st , 2013 (12- 17 years old)
- Group D: Born between Sep 1st , 1996 – Sep 1st , 2007 (18- 28 years old)

1.2 Professional Category

- Group A: Born between Sep 1st , 2007 – Sep 1st , 2013 (12- 17 years old)
- Group B: Born between Sep 1st , 1996 – Sep 1st , 2007 (18- 28 years old)

2. Competition Rules

1. Participants in the Open Category may choose to compete in the Professional Category, but Professional Category participants may not compete in the Open Category.
2. Participants may choose to compete in an older age group, but participants in an older age group may not compete in a younger age group.

Competition and Rules (Viola)



1. Competition Categories

The competition is divided into Open Category and Professional Category, catering to string players of different skill levels.

- ◆ Open Category: Suitable for all string music enthusiasts, encouraging individuals, ensembles, or orchestras to showcase their musical talents.
- ◆ Professional Category: Designed for those studying or working professionally in string music, aiming to select the most outstanding string musicians.

1.1 Open Category

- Group A: Born on or after Sep 1st , 2017 (Under 8 years old)
- Group B: Born between Sep 1st , 2013 – Sep 1st , 2017 (9 – 11 years old)
- Group C: Born between Sep 1st , 2007 – Sep 1st , 2013 (12- 17 years old)
- Group D: Born between Sep 1st , 1996 – Sep 1st , 2007 (18- 28 years old)

1.2 Professional Category

- Group A: Born between Sep 1st , 2007 – Sep 1st , 2013 (12- 17 years old)
- Group B: Born between Sep 1st , 1996 – Sep 1st , 2007 (18- 28 years old)

2. Competition Rules

1. Participants in the Open Category may choose to compete in the Professional Category, but Professional Category participants may not compete in the Open Category.
2. Participants may choose to compete in an older age group, but participants in an older age group may not compete in a younger age group.

Competition and Rules (Cello)



1. Competition Categories

The competition is divided into Open Category and Professional Category, catering to string players of different skill levels.

- ◆ Open Category: Suitable for all string music enthusiasts, encouraging individuals, ensembles, or orchestras to showcase their musical talents.
- ◆ Professional Category: Designed for those studying or working professionally in string music, aiming to select the most outstanding string musicians.

1.1 Open Category

- Group A: Born on or after Sep 1st , 2017 (Under 8 years old)
- Group B: Born between Sep 1st , 2013 – Sep 1st , 2017 (9 – 11 years old)
- Group C: Born between Sep 1st , 2007 – Sep 1st , 2013 (12- 17 years old)
- Group D: Born between Sep 1st , 1996 – Sep 1st , 2007 (18- 28 years old)

1.2 Professional Category

- Group A: Born between Sep 1st , 2007 – Sep 1st , 2013 (12- 17 years old)
- Group B: Born between Sep 1st , 1996 – Sep 1st , 2007 (18- 28 years old)

2. Competition Rules

1. Participants in the Open Category may choose to compete in the Professional Category, but Professional Category participants may not compete in the Open Category.
2. Participants may choose to compete in an older age group, but participants in an older age group may not compete in a younger age group.

Competition and Rules (Ensemble and Orchestra)



1. Competition Categories

- ◆String Ensemble Group A (3 to 14 members): Average age not exceeding 17 years.
- ◆String Ensemble Group B (3 to 14 members): Average age between 18 and 28 years.
- ◆String Orchestra Group A (15 or more members): Average age not exceeding 17 years.
- ◆String Orchestra Group B (15 or more members): Average age between 18 and 28 years.

2. Competition Rules:

- 1.Participants in younger age groups may register for higher age groups, but participants in higher age groups cannot compete in younger age groups.
- 2.The final interpretation rights of the competition belong to the competition organizing committee.

For competition repertoire and requirements, please contact the organizing committee for specific details!



05

Festival Committee



Prof. Dr. Clemens Hellsberg

Violinist, Musicologist, Writer
President of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (1997-2014)
Honorary Chairman of the World Council for String Music and Education
Chairman of the Fritz Kreisler International Violin Competition



Prof. Lorant Bozsodi

Violinist, Conductor
Concertmaster of the Savaria Symphony Orchestra
Concertmaster of the Vienna Strauss Symphony Orchestra and Vienna Chamber Orchestra



Univ.-Prof. Anton Sorokow

Violinist, Educator
Concertmaster of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra
President of the World Council for String Music and Education
Head of the Fritz Kreisler Institute at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna



Univ.-Prof. Georg Hamann

Violinist, Educator
Violin/Viola Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna



Dr. Hanns Stekel

Violin Educator
Director of the Johann Sebastian Bach Music School
Lecturer at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna



Univ.-Prof. Christian Altenburger

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna



Univ.-Prof. David Frühwirth

Violinist, Educator, Conductor,
Institute Director and Violin/
Viola Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna



Prof. Silvia Marcovici

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz



Prof. Qiang Zhang

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor at Xinghai Conservatory of Music
Jury Member of International Violin Competitions
Member of the Academic Committee of Xinghai Conservatory of Music



Prof. Dan Li

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor at Xinghai Conservatory of Music
Jury Member of International Violin Competitions
First Prize Winner of International Chamber Music Competition



Prof. Alexander Zemtsov

Violist, Conductor, and Educator
Former principal violist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra
Viola professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne



Prof. Biao Xue

Violinist, Educator
Professor of Violin at the Orchestral Department and Head of the String Division of Zhejiang Conservatory of Music
Jury Member of International Violin Competitions



Prof. Nan Xie

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor and Deputy Chair of the Orchestral Department and Head of the Violin and Viola Division at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing
Member of the Presidium of the China Musicians' Association's String Society
Jury member of major international violin competitions



Prof. Pei Li

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor and Director of the Orchestral Department at Sichuan Conservatory of Music
Former Concertmaster of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
Presidium Member of the China Musicians' Association String Society
Vice President of the China Chamber Music Society



Univ.-Prof. Domink Wagner

Double bassist, Soloist, Educator
Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
Professor at the University of Music Würzburg



Qingzhao CHEN

Educator
Chamber musician
Violinist



Univ.-Prof. Peter Somodari

First Cellist of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
First Cellist of the Vienna State Opera Orchestra
Cello Professor at the University of Music and
Performing Arts Vienna



James Rapport

Double Bassist
Educator and Guest Lecturer
Double Bass Teacher at the Bach Music School



Lydia Altenburger

Educator
Chamber musician
Violinist and violist



Pavel Kachnov

Ukrainian Pianist
Bösendorfer Artist
Piano Accompanist



Prof. Teodora Kasmetska

Violinist, Educator
Violin Professor at the Richard Wagner
Conservatory in Vienna
First Violinist at the Tonkünstler Orchestra
of Lower Austria



Aimo Pagin

French Pianist
Bösendorfer Artist
Piano Accompanist



Andrea Traxler

Cellist and Educator
Cello Instructor of the Talent Class at Johann Sebastian
Bach Music School
Collaborating Artist with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
Chamber Musician



06

Contact



1. Participants: Individuals or groups participating in the competition category should have gained certain experience and achieved good results in domestic or international competitions, and must provide relevant competition award certificates.
2. The festival organizing committee encourages participants to perform classical and traditional music pieces, especially those reflecting the national characteristics of the participants' countries.
3. Applicants need to submit an application to the festival organizing committee, fill out the registration form, and provide relevant materials, including:
 - ① Introduction of the individual or team;
 - ② Photos, videos;
 - ③ Performance repertoire;
4. Upon approval by the festival organizing committee, a confirmation letter will be sent to the participants, confirming their participation eligibility.
5. Participants must abide by the competition rules and terms set by the organizing committee (see "Competition and Rules" document for details).
6. Individuals and ensembles participating in the competition will be awarded gold, silver, bronze awards, and special awards by the festival organizing committee.
7. Outstanding individuals and ensembles will receive special certificates, trophies, etc., awarded by the festival organizing committee.
8. Broadcasting and recording rights:

The media will report on the activities during the festival.

The festival organizing committee will record, film, and photograph various activities.

The festival organizing committee owns all copyrights to the recorded and filmed content.
9. Other notes:

The related application materials will not be returned.

In case of special circumstances, the festival organizing committee reserves the right to adjust the activities.
10. The festival organizing committee does not bear any responsibility for individuals or groups organizing and participating in other activities unilaterally.
11. Participation in the World String Music Festival will be considered as agreeing to the relevant rules and regulations of the festival.
12. The organizers of the World String Music Festival have the final interpretation rights.
13. Deadline for Registration for the 2026 World String Music Festival:

Registration closes on May 31, 2026 (the number of participants in the festival is limited, and registration will be closed when the quota is reached)





Website: www.world-string-music.org

Email : info@world-string-music.org

Facebook : [World String Music Festival](#)

Instagram: [World String Music Festival](#)



THE END