

Call for applications

International Orchestra Course

for the 51st German-Nordic Orchestra Week

with two concerts at the

Philharmonie Berlin



Theme **PEER GYNT !**

Programme	Edvard Grieg Alfred Schnittke Harald Saeverud Geirr Tveitt Andreas Peer Kähler	Excerpts from the incidental music to <i>Peer Gynt</i> (1865) Excerpts from the ballet music to <i>Peer Gynt</i> (1968) Excerpts from the incidental music to <i>Peer Gynt</i> (1947) <i>Velkomne med æra</i> from <i>100 folk tunes from Hardanger</i> <i>Scenes from Ibsen's Peer Gynt</i> (2026) – Commissioned work / world premiere
Soloist	Eirin Rognerud (soprano)	
Conductors	Andreas Peer Kähler Martin Braun	



Berlin 28|12|26 – 05|01|27

in cooperation with Jeunesses Musicales

Application Deadline 15|10|26

About the Orchestra

The German-Nordic Youth Philharmonic is an international symphony orchestra based in Berlin, which conducts its work in the form of orchestra courses

The founder, artistic director and conductor of the orchestra, Andreas Peer Kähler, is supported by a highly qualified team of experienced instructors

The orchestra is made up of about 90 young musicians from approximately 30 countries around the world, most of whom are students at international music colleges and academies

The German-Nordic Youth Philharmonic designs its concert programs thematically, and often commissions compositions for them. The orchestra is known for its dramatically exciting and unconventionally designed concert programs as well as for its outstanding music education work

Since the very first German-Nordic Orchestra Week, held over New Year 1981/82 as a spontaneous student initiative under modest conditions in what was then West Berlin, the orchestra has come a long way.

Over more than four decades, it has witnessed profound historical and social change — from the fall of the Berlin Wall to economic crises and the COVID-19 pandemic — while continuously evolving, both artistically and organizationally. Today, the German-Nordic Youth Philharmonic has established itself as a small but distinctive and confident presence in Berlin's musical life

About the Theme of the Course

The upcoming project at the turn of 2026/27 is dedicated to PEER GYNT, the legendary Norwegian national hero.

We'll tell his story with the help of compositions by Edvard Grieg, Alfred Schnittke, Andreas Peer Kähler and the two 20th-century Norwegian composers Harald Sæverud and Geirr Tveitt.

Kähler's contribution to the topic, his 'Scenes from Ibsen's Peer Gynt', is a commissioned composition and will have its world premiere as part of this project.

The 22 short individual compositions in total will not be performed separately by composer, but will tell the story of Peer Gynt in chronological order according to Henrik Ibsen's drama and with dramatic coherence from the changing perspectives of five composers from three centuries. Thanks to this unconventional structure, the concert programme captivates both audience and musicians with its challenging musical content as well as with its dramatic tension

The orchestra course will conclude with two concerts at the Philharmonie Berlin:

- A Family Concert on **Sunday, 3 January 2027**, at **15:30** in the **Philharmonie's Chamber Music Hall**, where selected parts of the programme will be presented for children and their families,
- A Gala Concert on **Tuesday, 5 January 2027**, at **20:00** in the **Philharmonie's Great Hall**

Programme and faculty are subject to change

Who is invited to participate in the Orchestra Course?

- **Students** at German, Nordic, and international music academies and conservatories
- **Young freelance musicians** (up to 30 years of age)
- **Students with exceptional instrumental qualifications** (minimum age 18)

Complete ensembles such as string quartets, wind quintets, brass groups, etc. are especially welcome

A particular focus is placed on brass ensembles playing

We also particularly encourage chamber music and solo contributions from orchestra members (prepared in advance) for a **chamber concert** where the musicians play for each other

Course languages: English, German and Swedish.

Schedule

28 12 26	Arrival latest 17:00
29 12 26 – 04 01 27	Section and Tutti Rehearsals at the PUMPE near the Philharmonie Berlin (as well as lectures about coaching for musicians)
29 12 26	Attendance at the Dress Rehearsal of the New Year's Eve Concert of the Berlin Philharmonic
01 01 27	Internal Chamber Concert
03 01 27	Family Concert (Chamber Music Hall)
04 01 27	Adventure Concert - An Open Workshop Concert
05 01 27	Dress Rehearsal and Gala Concert at the Philharmonie
06 01 27	Departure

Our Team of Lecturers

Simone Bernardini	violin / strings	Berlin Philharmonic
Gustav Frielinghaus	violin	Amaryllis Quartet (primarius)
Kerstin Linder-Dewan	violin	Berlin
Carol Hultmark	viola	Philharmonia Orchestra London
Gabriella Strümpel	cello	Berlin
Martin Schaal	double bass	German Opera Berlin
Andreas Schmidt	woodwind	Bad Reichenhall Philharmonic
Torbjörn Hultmark	trumpet / brass	London
Stefan Jezierski*	horn	Berlin Philharmonic (formerly) *requested
Fabian Schmidt	trombone / brass ensemble	Brandenburg State Orchestra Frankfurt (Oder)
Reinhard Toriser	timpani / percussion	Komische Oper Berlin
Andreas Peer Kähler	conductor	Berlin
Martin Braun	conductor	Berlin
Zenaida de Aubris	career coach	Berlin

Orchestra Composition

4 flutes (all also piccolo, 1 also alto)	3 oboes (1 also English horn)
3 clarinets (1 also bass clarinet)	3 bassoons (1 also double bassoon)
5 horns	4 trumpets
2 tenor trombones	1 bass trombone
1 tuba	timpani/ percussion (4 players)
1 harp	strings 16-14-12-10-6

Please note: Applications for double bass, English horn, bass clarinet, double bassoon, cello and tuba with their own instruments are preferred.

Application and Course Fees

Application Information

The application consists of three parts:

- the **application form** <https://podio.com/webforms/30826009/2622454> on our website www.dskjph.de.
- a **recording** (see details below)
- a **registration fee of €125** (see details below)

Registration is only valid when **all three parts** of the application (see above) have been submitted.

Recording Requirements

For the application, we require a representative recording (audio or video) with a length of **5 to 10 minutes**.

Please provide **links** to the recording source – YouTube, Vimeo or the like.

If possible, the recordings should contain excerpts from **classical concerts and other orchestral excerpts**.

Woodwind players may be guided by the following repertoire proposals for the recordings:

Flute: Mozart concerto, Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo & Juliet Suite 2, Nos. 1/7–9 and No. 5

Piccolo: Magic Flute, Vivaldi concerto, Rossini Semiramis, Romeo & Juliet Suite 2 No. 4, The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Oboe: Rossini La scala di seta (The Silken Ladder), Mozart concerto

Clarinet: Till Eulenspiegel, Mozart concerto, Beethoven Symphony No. 6, Romeo & Juliet Suite 2 No. 5

Bassoon: Mozart concerto, Haydn Symphony No. 88 (II), Beethoven Symphony No. 4

All **wind players** may state their preferred part assignments on the registration form

All **violins** please indicate whether they prefer first or second violin

String players who wish to apply for a section leader position are asked to indicate this on their application

Registration Fee

The registration fee of **€125** will be deducted from course fees upon acceptance

In case of non-acceptance it will be reimbursed immediately. All bank transfer costs must be covered by the applicant.

In case of cancellation or withdrawal from participation, the registration fee can only be reimbursed if withdrawal is prior to the registration deadline (**15|10|26**).

Please transfer the fee to the bank account indicated below using the following reference:

51st German-Nordic Orchestra Week – Registration Fee, [your full name]

Registration Deadline

Registration deadline is **15|10|26**. All applicants will receive an answer by e-mail no later than 25|10|26.

The course fees will be reduced if you register **before 20|09|26** (see below)

All further information will be sent by email in November. Scores will also be available for download in November

The assignment of wind players will – as far as possible – be carried out according to the information and wishes provided on the registration form. A provisional list for the assignment of players will be sent to you

All final decisions are made by the artistic director in Berlin. We expect professional preparation from all participants

Course Fees

▸ when registered **before 20|09|26: €200** including registration fee

▸ when registered **after 20|09|26: €250** including registration fee

Musicians with approved refugee status can participate for free, upon presentation of official documentation

The Course Fees Include:

- Full board within the specified time frame
- All fees and other costs of the orchestra course including attendance at the Dress Rehearsal of the Berlin Philharmonic at their New Year's Eve Concert
- A recording of the concert at the Philharmonie Berlin (link for download, for non-commercial use only)

The Course Fees Do NOT Include:

- Accommodation – when registering, accommodation in a hostel nearby can be booked for an **extra €240** (special rate for our participants in dormitories with 6-10 beds/room)
- Travel expenses generally cannot be covered

A limited number of scholarships are available from the German-Nordic Youth Philharmonic

These are reserved for participants with special financial needs

With this scholarship the course fees can be reduced to €125. Please apply for a scholarship already when registering