

# Liberating Echoes - Festival

06. September 2025 – 30. November 2025

Kühlhaus Berlin , St. Matthäus - Kirche , Villa Elisabeth

## Spielende Insel

Ein Kammermusik Projekt

### **Liberating Echoes** The resistance of memory

'Liberating Echoes' is a chamber music festival that explores the inseparable connection between music, art and human freedom. It is a festival of remembrance, reflection and transformation 80 years after the end of the Second World War.

Five concerts at three venues in Berlin, 15 renowned musicians with spectacular programmes and a selected presentation of visual art await you.

Music preserves what otherwise fades away - it tells stories where words fall silent and transmits experiences through time and across generations. It is an expression of inner movement, a resonance chamber of remembrance, an ambassador of humanity.

### **Programme**

06 September 2025 | 19:30 Kühlhaus Berlin

Echoes of Silence Ostracised voices and the echo of history

Gideon Klein (1919-1945) String Trio in D minor Op. 3, Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor Op. 67, Ernest Chausson (1855-1899) Piano Quartet in A major Op. 30

07. September 2025 | 18:00 Kühlhaus Berlin

Songs in the Shadows Lieder von Liebe, Verlust und Erinnerung

Alma Mahler-Werfel (1879-1964) Fünf Lieder, Victor Ullmann (1898-1944) fünf Liebeslieder Op. 26, Alexander Zemlinski (1871-1942) Lieder, Trio für Klarinette, Violoncello und Klavier Op. 3

07 September 2025 | 19:30 Kühlhaus Berlin

Transcending Echoes Tension, dissolution, love and transfiguration

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) Violin Sonata in G major, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Clarinet Trio in A minor Op. 114, Arnold Schönberg (1874-1951) Verklärte Nacht Op. 4 (string sextet)

27 November 2025 | 19:30 St. Matthäus - Kirche

Liberating Echoes - Traces of the Unspoken

Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942) Duo for violin and violoncello, Robert Schumann (1810-1856) Piano Quartet in E flat major Op. 47, Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957) Piano Trio in D major Op. 1

30. November 2025 | 19:00 Villa Elisabeth

Flowing Echoes Forgotten Perspectives: Composers and New Resonances

Michaela Catranis (\*1985) 'Widening Circles' - violin and piano, Amy Beach (1867-1944) Piano Trio Op. 150, Fanny Hensel (1805-1847) String Quartet in E flat major, Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) Piano Quartet No. 2, G minor Op. 45

### **Supporters of the project**

Kühlhaus Berlin, RKI Rumänisches Kulturinstitut, Konzertleben e.V.

### **Further information and contact**

<https://spielendeinsel.de>

<https://spielendeinsel.de/liberating-echoes-berlin.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/@SpielendeInsel>

<https://www.eventim-light.com/de/a/65a5b2a73d078078bfff9822f>

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Spielende Insel - VOICES @ Kühlhaus Berlin © A.Meier

## The concept of the Liberating Echoes festival

Liberating Echoes is dedicated to music that was created under difficult circumstances - in times of repression, exile, inner or outer silence. Works by composers such as Zemlinsky, Ullmann, Klein, Schönberg and Korngold form the centrepiece of the festival; they bear traces of threat, but also of inner greatness and are testimonies to artistic self-assertion - polyphonic, powerful and deeply personal.

Here, music becomes a lifeline, an assertion of dignity and a lasting expression of creative freedom, and alongside these voices, works that have long gone unnoticed or been overshadowed by great names also come to the fore. The music of Fanny Hensel, Amy Beach and Alma Mahler-Werfel reveals an artistic signature that was formed within the confines of society - with independence, depth and tonal imagination. The fact that their works have only recently attracted wider attention is not a reflection of their lack of quality, but of outdated perceptions that are widening today.

The composer Michaela Catranis, whose music has been described as poetic and disturbing at the same time, brings a contemporary perspective: together with the works of Fauré, Brahms, Schumann and Chausson, they unfold a widely ramified network of sonic references - dialogues about time, origin, expression and belonging.

The festival is supported by internationally acclaimed musicians such as Tobias Feldmann, Veriko Tchumburidze, Pablo Barragán, Karolina Errera, Sindy Mohamed, Andrei Ioniță, Catalin Serban and many others, who together create this journey through sonic fragments, memories and poetic visions.

The concerts will be accompanied by light and spatial installations by artists Kristina Weiß and Enikő Márton, who will be using subtle means to explore the visible and invisible aspects of music. Their works transform the concert venues into spaces in which sound, light and memory merge with one another.

80 years after the end of the war, the festival's concerts show us that art not only transports the past into our time, but also motivates us to new horizons, sows hope and appears as a resonance chamber for the human condition.

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Andrei Ioniță © Nikolaj Lund



Catalin Serban © Andrej Grilc

### artistic direction

**Andrei Ioniță** (Violoncello) won the gold medal at the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2015 and is one of the leading cellists of his generation. The Times praised him as 'one of the most exciting cellists of the last decade'. Born in 1994 in Bucharest, Romania, he began his musical training with Ani-Marie Paladi and continued it with Jens Peter Maintz at the Berlin University of the Arts.

In addition to his solo career, Andrei is a passionate chamber musician and has performed with greats such as Martha Argerich, Christian Tetzlaff and Steven Isserlis. His versatility is also reflected in his repertoire, which ranges from Bach and Kodály to contemporary composers such as Brett Dean. His debut album with Orchid Classics combines a world premiere with works by Bach and Kodály and has received rave reviews.

**Catalin Serban** (Klavier) The Berlin-based pianist was celebrated as an outstanding representative of his generation in his native Romania, where he began his training at the George Enescu Music High School in Bucharest. He continued his musical development as a scholarship holder of several foundations in Germany and studied with Martin Hughes and Konrad Elser at the Berlin University of the Arts and the Lübeck University of Music, winning prizes at international competitions in Germany (Bremen Piano Competition), Italy (Senigallia) and Romania.

Catalin Serban has performed on major stages such as the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Bremen Glocke, the Bucharest Athenaeum and the Stadtcasino Basel. His musical presence is also evident at renowned festivals such as the Beethovenfest Bonn, the Brahms Festival Lübeck, the Franconian Chamber Music Days and the Oberstdorf Music Summer.

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violin **Tobias Feldmann** Lisa Jacobs Veriko Tchumburidze Dayoon You viola Karolina Errera Sindy Mohammed  
Nilay Özdemir violoncello Christoph Croisé Andrei Ioniță soprano Èlia Farreras clarinet Pablo Barragán piano  
Catalin Serban Lucas Huber Sierra Daria Tudor

### Musicians

**Tobias Feldmann** (violin) Hailed by the British Telegraph as a 'genuine discovery' with 'delightful, flawless lyricism', the German violinist is recognised as one of the most interesting musical personalities of his generation. His multi-faceted performances are characterised by stylistic versatility, strong stage presence and emotional depth.

**Lisa Jacobs** (violin) The Dutch violin virtuoso is known for her passionate performances, interesting programmes and communicative qualities on stage. At the age of 17, Lisa made her successful debut with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under the baton of Riccardo Chailly. Since then, she has performed all over the world, both as a soloist with renowned orchestras and conductors and as a recitalist and lively chamber musician.

**Veriko Tchumburidze** (violin) The violinist, winner of the 2016 Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition, has made a name for herself as a versatile soloist and chamber musician. She began her training in her native Adana, Turkey, with Selahattin Yunkus and Lily Tchumburidze and continued her studies with Dora Schwarzberg in Vienna and Ana Chumachenko in Munich. Her formative stations include masterclasses with Seiji Ozawa and the Verbier Festival, where she received significant musical impulses.

**Dayoon You** (violin) was born in Seoul, Korea, began playing the violin at the age of six and made his debut at the Seoul Arts Centre at the age of eight. He graduated from the Korea National University of Arts and is currently studying with Kolja Blacher at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin. Dayoon You first gained international recognition as a finalist at the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poznan and won 2nd prize at the Long-Thibaud International Violin Competition in Paris in 2023.

**Karolina Errera** (viola) The violist, who has won numerous international prizes, is an artist with natural musicality, fine taste and modesty. She is a prizewinner of the 9th Jan Rakowski Viola Competition (2013), the VIII. International Yury Bashmet Viola Competition (2018) and prizewinner of the 52nd Markneukirchen Competition (2017) and Peter Pirazzi Competition (2019).

**Sindy Mohamed** (viola) The French-Egyptian violist is one of the most promising young musicians of her generation. As a soloist and chamber musician, she is a regular guest at major festivals such as the Moritzburg Festival, Schubertiade Hohenems, Kronberg Festival, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and Folles Journées de Nantes and performs with renowned orchestras and renowned international artists. As a prizewinner of the International Anton Rubinstein Competition 2017 and scholarship holder, she performed as a soloist in England with the Royal Northern Sinfonia under Lars Vogt.



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**Nilay Özdemir** violoncello **Christoph Croisé** **Andrei Ioniță** soprano **Èlia Farreras** clarinet **Pablo Barragán** piano  
**Catalin Serban** **Lucas Huber Sierra** **Daria Tudor**

**Nilay Özdemir** (viola) The Turkish violist studied with Tabea Zimmermann at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music Berlin, with Tatjana Masurenko at the Leipzig University of Music and Theatre and most recently at the Berlin University of the Arts with Hartmut Rohde, where she completed her master's degree. In addition to her chamber music performances in renowned venues such as the Brahms Hall in the Musikverein Vienna, Victoria Hall Geneva and the Philharmonie Berlin, she has steadily expanded her orchestral repertoire in recent years through her activities as principal violist in the Gürzenich Orchestra in Cologne and as deputy principal viola in the Konzerthaus Orchestra in Berlin.

**Christoph Croisé** (cello) The Swiss-French-German cellist and composer is in demand internationally for his stylistic versatility and artistic depth. He made his debut in New York's Carnegie Hall at the age of 17 and has since performed worldwide in renowned venues such as the Elbphilharmonie, Philharmonie Berlin and Wigmore Hall London. As a soloist, he has performed with leading orchestras and won numerous international competitions. His award-winning recordings have been released by AVIE Records, among others, and reach millions of listeners on streaming platforms.

**Pablo Barragán** (clarinet) The clarinetist is known for his refined sound, paired with high technical ability, stage charisma and a boundless curiosity for the programmatic design of his performances. Pablo received his training at the Seville Conservatory with Antonio Salguero and with Matthias Glander at the Fundación Barenboim-Said in Seville. He is the winner of the Prix Crédit Suisse Jeunes Solistes 2013.

**Èlia Farreras-Cabero**, the Catalan soprano, began playing the cello at the age of four and later studied singing at the Conservatori Professional de Música de Sabadell with her mother, Elisenda Cabero. She is currently studying singing at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin with Britta Schwarz. This year, she was awarded the Schubertiada scholarship as part of the Lied the Future programme and as a Young Artist at the Leeds Lieder Festival. She has received the Deutschlandstipendium since 2023.

**Lucas Huber Sierra** (piano) began his piano training in Madrid. Subsequent studies took him to the HfMT Cologne and the Musikhochschule Lübeck with Josef Anton Scherrer and Konrad Elser. The multiple prizewinner of international competitions has already performed in major European concert halls and produced radio recordings for various German broadcasters.

**Daria Tudor** (piano) The pianist from Ploiești (Romania), who was awarded Best Young Artist of the Year at the Cincinnati Art of the Piano Festival (2019), began playing the piano at the age of four and made her debut with the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra at the age of nine. After numerous successes at national competitions and appearances on radio and television, she moved to Germany in 2015 and developed an international career as a soloist and chamber musician.

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Kristina Weiß



Enikő Márton



ohne Titel, 2024 © Enikő Márton

### visual arts and artistic concept

**Kristina Weiß** works as a freelance artist in Munich and her native city of Berlin. The visual expression of acoustic phenomena is a central impulse of her artistic and installation work. Time-based phenomena such as sound movements and atmospheres are translated into the visible. Kristina Weiß is represented internationally at renowned trade fairs and exhibitions.

**Enikő Márton** The DLA artist completed her studies at the Faculty of Art of the University of Pécs and the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. She successfully defended her doctoral thesis in 2015. For a long time, she was interested in the special properties of different materials, but in the light of her doctoral thesis, she focused particularly on colour theory. Recently, in addition to painting, she has also focussed on the design of objects.



Kühlhaus Berlin



St. Matthäus-Kirche



Villa Elisabeth

### Venues

The five concerts of the festival will take place at three different venues:

Kühlhaus Berlin, Luckenwalder Str. 3, 10963 Berlin, St. Matthäus-Kirche, Matthäikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin and Villa Elisabeth, Invalidenstr. 3, 10115 Berlin

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### **Spielende Insel - A chamber music project**

Founded by pianist Catalin Serban and cellist Andrei Ioniță, Spielende Insel brings together outstanding musicians from the young international classical music scene to perform chamber music at the highest level in changing formations. What unites us is our enthusiasm for this special form of musical dialogue - intimate, spontaneous, risk-taking, permeable.

Spielende Insel opens up chamber music to other arts: In collaboration with artists from the fields of literature, theatre, painting and visual arts, concerts are created in which sound and language, image and movement react to each other. This form of artistic networking is a central concern for us - it creates new spaces for experience, sensitises perception and expands the expressive possibilities of music.

Our concerts deliberately take place not only in established concert halls, but also in special venues that create space for atmosphere and concentration. From the big stage to the off-space: we are interested in how music transforms places - and how places can change music.

Catalin Serban and Andrei Ioniță curate the project together and regularly invite befriended soloists and chamber musicians to take part. In recent years, Veriko Tchumburidze, Seiji Okamoto, Noa Wildschut, Dayoon You, Sindy Mohamed, Nilay Özdemir and many others have been part of the island.

### **Spielende Insel e.V.**

The non-profit organisation Spielende Insel e.V. was founded in 2023 to promote cultural education through art, especially through classical music in Berlin. The association has an interdisciplinary focus and promotes collaboration between musicians, visual artists, writers and other cultural professionals.

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