

# The Solo Experience - Go It Alone

March 8–9, 2025, Kühlhaus Berlin

**Spielende  
Insel**

EIN KAMMERMUSIK PROJEKT

## Pressemitteilung

Three solo concerts, three exceptional artists, three spectacular programs

Following the success of chamber music concerts at Kühlhaus Berlin in 2024, which captivated audiences with outstanding young musicians, innovative programming, and accompanying pop-up art exhibitions, the chamber music project Spielende Insel returns on March 8 and 9, 2025, with a new concept: three solo concerts, three exceptional artists, and three remarkable programs, coming together to form a small festival of soloistic focus.

Musicians who are internationally renowned soloists have already come together on the Spielende Insel to create chamber music performances of the highest quality. This time, three of them—Veriko Tchumburidze (violin), Catalin Serban (piano), and Andrei Ioniță (cello)—take to the stage as soloists under the title The Solo Experience – Go It Alone. Each artist presents a compelling program that highlights the rich tonal palettes and technical capabilities of their respective instruments, while also showcasing the depth of their individual artistry through solo performance.

The concerts will be accompanied by a pop-up exhibition curated by artist Kristina Weiss.

Each concert places a distinctive focus, with Bach providing both the opening foundation in the first concert and the grand culmination in the third with the monumental performance of the six cello suites. In between, works of the 20th and 21st centuries unfold, while a Schubert sonata serves as a bridge between these contrasting worlds.

- The world premiere of the violin sonata by young composer Kaan Bulak is the centerpiece of the violin solo concert, framed by works from Bach, Milstein, and Machavariani.
- The piano solo concert features the rarely performed complete set of Rachmaninoff's nine Études-tableaux, paired with the radiant and sonorous D major Sonata by Schubert.
- The finale is marked by a performance of Bach's six Cello Suites, a musical marathon and a profound journey into a timeless, transcendent realm.

## The Programs and Times

### 1. Violin Solo: Veriko Tchumburidze

March 8, 6:00 PM

- Johann Sebastian Bach: Partita No. 2 in D Minor BWV 1004
- Kaan Bulak: Sonata No. 2 for Solo Violin (World Premiere)
- Alexi Machavariani: Doluri
- Nathan Milstein: Paganiniana

### 2. Piano Solo: Catalin Serban

March 8, 8:00 PM

- Sergei Rachmaninoff: 9 Études-tableaux Op. 39
- Franz Schubert: Sonata in D Major Op. 53 D. 850

### 3. Cello Solo: Andrei Ioniță

March 9, 6:00 PM

- Johann Sebastian Bach: The Six Cello Suites

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Veriko Tchumburidze © Ira Weinrauch

**Veriko Tchumburidze (Violin)** <https://verikotchumburidze.com/>

Violinist Veriko Tchumburidze, winner of the 2016 International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition, has established herself as a versatile soloist and chamber musician. Born into a Georgian family in Adana, Turkey, she began her training with Selahattin Yunkus and Lily Tchumburidze before studying with Dora Schwarzberg in Vienna and Ana Chumachenco in Munich. She has also participated in masterclasses with Seiji Ozawa and the Verbier Festival, among others.

Veriko has performed with leading orchestras, including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, and Sinfonia Varsovia, under conductors such as Howard Griffiths, Michael Sanderling, and Andrey Boreyko. She has appeared at prestigious festivals such as the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Rosendal Festival, and Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, collaborating with artists like Sol Gabetta, Maxim Vengerov, and Tabea Zimmermann.

A dedicated chamber musician, Veriko is a member of the Trio Vecando and frequently partners with pianists Ketevan Sepashvili and Mamikon Nakhapetov. Her discography includes a recording of Anton Wranitzky's Violin Concerto for Sony Classical and film music by John Williams for the Klanglogo label.

Since 2016, she has played a Giambattista Guadagnini violin (1756), generously loaned by the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben. With a deep commitment to both the classical repertoire and new works, Veriko Tchumburidze continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

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Catalin Serban © Andrej Grilc

**Catalin Serban (Piano)** <https://catalinserban.com/>

Berlin-based pianist Catalin Serban is a versatile musician who enjoys a dynamic career as a soloist, chamber musician, and artistic director. Born in Romania, he was recognized early on as a leading representative of his generation, completing his initial studies at the George Enescu Music High School in Bucharest. He continued his education in Germany, supported by several scholarships, studying at the Berlin University of the Arts and the Lübeck Academy of Music under Martin Hughes and Konrad Elser. He is a prizewinner of international competitions in Germany (Bremen Piano Competition), Italy (Senigallia), and Romania. He also gained artistic insights from masterclasses with pianists like Claude Frank, György Sebök, and Pascal Devoyon.

Catalin has performed at prominent venues such as the Konzerthaus Berlin, Berlin Philharmonie, Die Glocke in Bremen, the Romanian Athenaeum, and the Stadtcasino Basel. He has appeared at renowned festivals, including the Beethovenfest Bonn, Brahms-Festival Lübeck, Fränkische Kammermusiktage, and Oberstdorfer Musiksommer. His collaborations as a chamber musician include partnerships with internationally celebrated artists such as Andrei Ioniță, Veriko Tchumburidze, Seiji Okamoto, Ning Feng, Nicolas Dautricourt, Isang Enders, and Tommaso Lonquich.

Catalin has a special affinity for the Romantic and Post-Romantic repertoire, which critics in his native Romania have praised for its “virtuosity, refined clarity, and expressive depth.” This passion also drives his work as the founder and artistic director of the chamber music project “Spielende Insel.” Through this initiative, he brings together high-caliber ensembles to perform chamber music in innovative programs, often incorporating visual art and literature at unique venues like Kühlhaus Berlin.

His discography reflects his artistic vision. The 2018 album *Des cloches sonores* features works by Enescu, Scriabin, and Schubert. His 2022 solo album *Resemblances* (Genuin Classics) creates a dual portrait of Chopin and Scriabin, while his 2024 release *Mémoires infinies* (Naxos) showcases piano quartets by Fauré and Enescu. Piano News described his playing as “energetic and expressive – with power and nuanced dynamics.”

In addition to his performance career, Catalin Serban teaches at the Lübeck Academy of Music and the Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin.

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Andrei Ioniță © Nikolaj Lund

**Andrei Ioniță (Violoncello)** <https://mkiartists.com/artists/andrei-ionita/>

Andrei Ioniță, winner of the Gold Medal at the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2015, is hailed as one of the most exciting cellists of his generation. The Times described him as “one of the most exciting cellists to have emerged for a decade.” Born in 1994 in Bucharest, Romania, he began studying with Ani-Marie Paladi before continuing with Jens Peter Maintz at the Berlin University of the Arts.

Andrei has performed with major orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig, Munich Philharmonic, and BBC Philharmonic. He has collaborated with renowned conductors like Herbert Blomstedt, Cristian Macelaru, and Kent Nagano. His recital appearances have taken him to prestigious venues such as the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Tonhalle Zürich, and Carnegie Hall. He has also been a featured artist at festivals such as Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, and the Martha Argerich Festival.

An enthusiastic chamber musician, Andrei has shared the stage with artists like Martha Argerich, Christian Tetzlaff, and Steven Isserlis. His debut album on Orchid Classics, featuring a Brett Dean world premiere alongside works by Bach and Kodály, was praised by Gramophone for his “superb skill, musical imagination, and commitment to contemporary music.”

Highlights of his current season include performances with the St. Louis Symphony and chamber collaborations with violinist William Hagen and pianist Anton Nel. Andrei plays a cello made by Filippo Fasser of Brescia, which beautifully complements his artistic projects.

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Kristina Weiß



Kristina Weiß: Red Knot, 2022



**Kristina Weiß** <https://www.bkw-finearts.com/>

Kristina Weiß works as a freelance artist in Munich and her birthplace, Berlin, where she also completed her artistic and humanities studies. The visual expression of acoustic phenomena is a central impulse of her artistic and installation work. Time-based phenomena such as sound movements and atmospheric elements are translated into the visible. At times, she plays with meaning by incorporating structural features of the auditory, presenting them as representations that resemble notated music but elude precise categorization. An intellectual thematization serves only as a framework for her work; the viewer is encouraged to perceive images and objects primarily on a sensory level and to find a subjective approach. Kristina Weiß is represented both nationally and internationally at renowned fairs and exhibitions.

**Background information on the venue** <http://www.kuehlhaus-berlin.de/>

The imposing brick building at Gleisdreieckpark is typical of Berlin: both an industrial monument and an event venue. Seven floors and 6000 square meters of space are available for exhibitions, dance performances, readings, concerts and plays. Trade fairs, concerts and events of all kinds take place at Kühlhaus Berlin.



Kühlhaus Berlin, Luckenwalder Straße 3, 10963 Berlin

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## **Spielende Insel – A Chamber Music Project**

Under the artistic direction of Catalin Serban and Andrei Ioniță, Spielende Insel has become an inspiring meeting point for music and art enthusiasts. The project blends familiar masterpieces with lesser-known yet always virtuosic and demanding chamber music works, presenting them in concerts that captivate through exceptional musical quality, innovative program design, and interpretative depth.

But Spielende Insel goes beyond the traditional concert format: music meets other art forms such as painting, sculpture, poetry, and light art. These creative connections generate surprising synergies, intensifying the artistic experience and offering new perspectives. With its innovative approach and outstanding musicians, Spielende Insel is bringing fresh impulses to the chamber music scene – promising exciting artistic developments in the future.

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

The non-profit association Spielende Insel e.V. was founded in Berlin in 2023 and is dedicated to promoting art and cultural education through classical music. It supports the interdisciplinary approach of the project and fosters collaboration between musicians, visual artists, writers, and other cultural professionals.

Amtsgericht Charlottenburg VR 41009 B, Steuernr. des Vereins: 27/647/60048  
Vereinskonto: Berliner Sparkasse DE31 1005 0000 0191 3912 63

## **Supporters of the project:**

RKI Rumänisches Kulturinstitut  
Konzertleben e.V.

## **Tickets:**

<https://spielendeinsel.de/events.html>  
<https://.eventim-light.com/de/a/65a5b2a73d078078bff9822f>

## **References:**

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

## **Contact:**

For press inquiries or interview requests, please contact us:  
Catalin Serban, [info@spielendeinsel.de](mailto:info@spielendeinsel.de), 0179 77 16 143

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## Events in 2024

### Art Nouveau – Voices of a Young Era

Spielende Insel @ Kühlhaus Berlin

03. Dezember 2024 | 19:30 Uhr

Kühlhaus Berlin | Luckenwalder Straße 3 | 10963 Berlin

Four very young composers create their first important works in the Belle Époque. Claude Debussy with his Piano Trio and Ernst von Dohnányi with his Piano Quintet Op.1 were just 18 years old when they completed these masterpieces, which were already so stylistically confident and full of character. In Debussy, Bridge, Dohnányi and Kodály, a unifying European tradition meets a strong innovative force in the fin de siècle. A journey from 1880, the year Debussy's trio was composed and the beginning of the Belle Époque, to 1914, Kodály's duo and the end of the era, into a time of upheaval and renewal, in which young dreams were transformed into precious and aspiring artistic impulses. The concert will be accompanied by a pop-up exhibition by Kristina Weiss, Enikő Marton, Nora Sturm.

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SEIJI OKAMOTO | VIOLIN  
NOA WILDSCHUT | VIOLIN  
NILAY ÖZDEMİR | VIOLA  
ANDREI IONIȚĂ | VIOLONCELLO  
GABRIEL SCHWABE | VIOLONCELLO  
CATALIN SERBAN | PIANO

POP-UP EXHIBITION  
ENTRY 06:30 PM  
KRISTINA WEISS  
ENIKŐ MARTON  
NORA STURM

KODÁLY, BRIDGE, DEBUSSY, DOHNÁNYI  
ART NOUVEAU

03  
DEC  
2024  
07:30 PM

Kühlhaus Berlin,  
Luckenwalder Straße 3, 10963 Berlin

Spielende Insel e.V.  
Kühlhaus Berlin  
KAMMERMUSIK e.V.  
KUNSTANISCHES  
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BERLIN

QR code and social media icons for @SPIELENDENSEL



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### Events in 2024

#### (un)vollkommene Schönheit

Spielende Insel @ Kühlhaus Berlin

02. Juni 2024 | 19:30 Uhr

Kühlhaus Berlin | Luckenwalder Straße 3 | 10963 Berlin

The focus is on Schubert's Piano Trios Op.99 and Op.100, works that were written at the end of the composer's life and which, with disturbing honesty and melodic beauty, simultaneously allow us to look into abysses and despair; a precise and timeless study of human emotions that effortlessly finds its way into the modern age. Exhibits by four young Berlin artists and a reading create a space that could open up further perspectives on Schubert's iconic piano trios.





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## Events in 2024

### Mythen & Drama

Spielende Insel @ Kühlhaus Berlin

14. März 2024 | 19:30 Uhr (Einlass ab 18:30 Uhr)

Kühlhaus Berlin | Luckenwalder Straße 3 | 10963 Berlin

Spielende Insel - a chamber music project invites you to a captivating, highly virtuoso concert with renowned young musicians at Kühlhaus Berlin on March 14, 2024. The interweaving of late romantic and early modern works is the focus of the expressive program, which is entitled "Myths & Drama". The multifaceted colorful and emotional palette of the music is juxtaposed with works by artist Enikő Marton in an exhibition selected for the concert.

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14. März 2024 | 19:30 Uhr  
Kühlhaus Berlin

**Mythen & Drama**

Enescu  
Szymanowski  
Turina  
Brahms

Special:  
Pop-up Ausstellung  
von Enikő Márton

Tickets  
www.spielendeinsel.de  
www.eventim-light.de

Kühlhaus Berlin | Luckenwalder Straße 3 | 10963 Berlin

