

ZERMATT MUSIC FESTIVAL & ACADEMY

Orchester, Kammermusik & Akademie
mit dem Scharoun Ensemble der Berliner Philharmoniker
www.zermattfestival.com

ZERMATT FESTIVAL ACADEMY: 5 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

The village of Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn offers peace and relaxation in one of the most beautiful places in the world. This unique atmosphere in the middle of a breathtaking natural landscape enchanted Pablo Casals who regularly spent his summer holidays here in the 1950s and 60s. Together with Franz Seiler, General Manager of the Seiler Hotels Zermatt at that time, Casals founded the Zermatt summer concerts and master classes, to which he invited almost all of the famous musicians of his day as chamber music partners and teachers.

This tradition was revived in 2005 with the creation of the Zermatt Music Festival & Academy. Chamber music and orchestral concerts are performed by the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin and other soloists of the Berliner Philharmoniker in the beautiful Pfarrkirche St. Mauritius and the Kapelle Riffelalp, located at 2'222 meters above sea level, as well as at other locations in Zermatt.

Each year, highly gifted students are invited to take part in the Zermatt Festival Academy where they receive tuition from members of the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin and perform alongside them in the Zermatt Festival Orchestra. Working intensively with these members of the Berliner Philharmoniker provides a unique educational experience at the highest possible level. After successfully participating in their first year of the academy, students have the opportunity to return for a second edition. By renewing this experience, they are able to continue to build on what they learnt the previous year.

TARGET GROUP

The Zermatt Festival Academy is designed for excellent young musicians and chamber music ensembles. We are looking for talented young musicians who have graduated from higher education institutions and academies in Europe, Switzerland and around the world. Please note that applicants should still be students and should not already have a permanent job.

PROFESSORS

WIND SECTION

Christina Fassbender, flute
Dominik Wollenweber, oboe
Alexander Bader, clarinet
Markus Weidmann, bassoon
Andrej Žust, French horn

STRING SECTION

Wolfram Brandl, violin
Christophe Horák, violin
Rachel Schmidt, violin
Micha Afkham, viola
Claudio Bohorquez, cello
Peter Riegelbauer, double bass

SOLOISTS/CONDUCTORS

Maxim Emelyanychev, piano and conductor
Christiane Karg, soprano

LANGUAGE OF THE CLASSES

German, English

PROGRAMME

Concerts with the ZERMATT FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Together with the professors, the students form the Zermatt Festival Orchestra. The Orchestra's programme this year is planned as follows:

Friday, 11th September 2026

19:30 concert at the Pfarrkirche

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Maxim Emelyanychev, piano and conductor

Ludwig von Beethoven - Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55 "Eroica"

Saturday, 12th September 2026

19:30 concert at the Pfarrkirche

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Maxim Emelyanychev, piano and conductor

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466

Joseph Haydn - Symphony No. 103 in E flat major "Timpani Roll"

Friday, 18th September 2026

19:30 concert at the Pfarrkirche

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Christiane Karg, soprano

(Programme tba)

Saturday, 19th September 2026

19:30 concert at the Pfarrkirche

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Christiane Karg, soprano

(Programme tba)

ACADEMY CONCERTS

In addition to the orchestra concerts in the Pfarrkirche St. Mauritius as listed above, there will be three chamber music concerts performed by the students on 15th, 16th and 20th September (11 am) at different venues in Zermatt. The programme for these chamber music concerts will be announced in July.

INSTRUMENTATION

We are looking for the following musicians:

10 violinists
5 violists
4 cellists
2 double bassists
2 flautists
2 oboists
2 clarinetists
2 bassoonists
3 French horn players

SCHEDULE

ARRIVAL IN ZERMATT: **Saturday, 5.9.2026 by 6 pm.**

DEPARTURE FROM ZERMATT: **Sunday, 20.09.2026 from 4 pm.**

Rehearsals without teachers will take place from the evening of Saturday 5.9. until Monday 7.9. Make ensure you arrive on Saturday afternoon so that you will be ready for any rehearsals taking place that evening.

Lessons will take place in central locations in Zermatt. The rehearsals are open to the public from the 8th September onwards.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be provided in hotels or apartments by the festival.

TERMS

Application fee paid via Muvac: CHF 50.-

Lessons, accommodation and food are all provided free of charge by the festival. The student should however pay his/her travel expenses.

INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

To apply to become a student at the Zermatt Festival Academy 2026, please send your application **via Muvac by 31st March 2026**

Students will be selected by members of the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin by 1st May 2026.

For any questions, please contact Anna v. Lüneburg, Director of Zermatt Festival Academy:
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