

ZERMATT MUSIC FESTIVAL & ACADEMY

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

ZERMATT FESTIVAL ACADEMY: 6 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

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 Riffelalp Kapelle, 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 take lessons with 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 can continue to build on what they learnt the previous year.

This year, Zermatt Festival Academy students will have the opportunity to perform in the run-up to the Zermatt Festival by accompanying the finalists of the [Clara Haskil International Piano Competition](#) under the direction of Gábor Takács-Nagy in Vevey ([3–6.9.2025](#)). Participation in this special project would be recommended but is not a requirement (please see CLARA HASKIL COMPETITION appendix on page 6).

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

Heinz Holliger, conductor/oboe
Christian Gerhaher, Bariton
Radek Baborák, conductor/French Horn

LANGUAGE OF THE CLASSES

German, English

PROGRAMME

Concerts with 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, 12th September 2025

19:30 concert at Pfarrkirche

Heinz Holliger, conductor

Christian Gerhaer, baritone

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Franz Schubert - Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major D 485

Othmar Schoeck - Elegie

Saturday, 13th September 2025

19:30 concert at Pfarrkirche

Heinz Holliger, conductor/oboe

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Felix Mendelssohn - Hebrides Overture

Joseph Haydn - Sinfonia Concertante

Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony No. 1 in C major op. 21

Friday, 19th September 2025

19:30 concert at Pfarrkirche

Wolfram Brandl, concertmaster and violin

Micha Afkham, viola

Radek Baborák, horn

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Sinfonia concertante for violin and viola in E-flat major

Arthur Honegger - Symphony No. 2, H. 153

Richard Strauss - Horn Concerto No. 2

Saturday, 20th September 2025

19:30 concert at Pfarrkirche

Radek Baborák, conductor and horn

Zermatt Festival Orchestra

Richard Strauss - Sonatina No. 2 in E-flat major for 16 wind instruments, "Fröhliche Werkstatt"

Antonín Dvořák - Symphony No. 8 in G major op. 88

ACADEMY CONCERTS

In addition to the orchestra concerts in the St. Mauritius-Pfarrkirche as listed above, there will be three chamber music concerts performed by the students from the 16th to the 18th of September 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, 6.9.2025 by 6pm latest in Zermatt**

DEPARTURE FROM ZERMATT: **Sunday, 21.09.2025 in the morning**

Rehearsals without teachers will take place from the evening of Saturday 6.9. until Monday 8.9. 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 9th September onwards.

ACCOMMODATION

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

TERMS

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 2025, please send your application **via the Muvac site by 31st March 2025**

Students will be selected by members of the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin by 1st May 2025.

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

academy@zermattfestival.com

Mobile +49 (0) 177 589 7271

ZERMATT FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA at the CLARA HASKIL international piano competition – 3 September to 6 September 2025

CLARA-HASKIL COMPETITION

The internationally renowned Clara Haskil Piano Competition has been held every two years since 1963. It is held in memory of the great Romanian pianist Clara Haskil (1865-1960), who lived in Vevey from 1942 onwards. As part of this year's final concert, three finalists will be accompanied by the ZERMATT FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA under the direction of Gábor Takács-Nagy. The concert will be broadcast live on Radio Télévision Suisse - Espace 2.

ORCHESTRA SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3rd September

By 4pm: Orchestra musicians arrive at the Fondation Hindemith in Blonay (Switzerland)

Evening: First rehearsals in Blonay.

Thursday 4th September

Rehearsals with all three finalists in Vevey.

Friday 5th September

Afternoon: Dress rehearsal in Vevey

7:30pm: Final concert in Vevey with live radio broadcast.

Saturday 6th September

Travel from Blonay to Zermatt

The ZERMATT FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA is made up of the 2025 Zermatt Festival Academy students, as well as some students from last year's Zermatt Festival Academy.

REPERTOIRE

Each finalist will announce the piano concerto that he or she will perform on the afternoon of the 3rd September. The work will be selected from piano concerti by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann.

PROFESSORS/ COACHES

The orchestra will be conducted by Gábor Takács-Nagy. One member of the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin will be present for coaching during the rehearsals as well.

ACCOMMODATION

Hindemith Fondation in Blonay, Switzerland (in shared rooms of 2, 3 or 4 persons)

FEE

Orchestra members who are taking part in Zermatt Festival Academy 2025 will each receive a fee of CHF 500.- gross (an A1-form is required).

Accommodation and meals are provided by the Competition.

Travel costs to Blonay are at the charge of the musicians.

Travel costs from Blonay to Zermatt on 6.9. will be paid by the Festival.

MORE INFORMATION

Zermatt Festival Academy - Direction

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