

*«The festival becomes a place of discovery, where curiosity and openness lead audiences through the streets and hidden corners of Davos, with new musical surprises waiting around every corner.»*

*Michael Pitz-Grewenig, die Klassik | 19 August .2025*

## Overview

The Davos Festival can be summarised in three words: excellence, youth and pioneering spirit. At the heart of the festival are the Young Artists, who reveal part of their personality through music. We support them in engaging with an audience that is open to unusual programmes and genuinely interested in the artists and their stories. Rather than offering quick entertainment, the festival aims to strengthen classical music and emerging artists in a sustainable way – ensuring that the distinctive spirit of Davos continues to shape musical programmes and artistic careers for decades to come.

## Festival Concept

The Davos Festival is a chamber music festival dedicated to exploring new artistic ideas and concert formats in response to the challenges of contemporary classical performance. With innovative programmes and performances in unexpected venues, the festival regularly surprises and inspires its audiences. In constantly changing ensembles, highly talented young musicians perform repertoire spanning more than a millennium – from Hildegard von Bingen to Nico Muhly.

The festival was founded in 1986 by Michael Haefliger. Since then, the artistic energy of the Young Artists combined with the unique alpine setting of Davos has attracted music lovers from Switzerland and around the world. In addition to the two-week summer festival, the programme includes a New Year's Concert (since 2011) and a winter Singing Week (since 2016).

## Artistic Directors

Marco Amherd (since 2020)  
Oliver Schnyder (2019)  
Reto Bieri (2014–2018)  
Graziella Contratto (2007–2013)  
Thomas Demenga (2001–2006)  
Dirk Nabering (1999–2000)  
Michael Haefliger (1986–1998)

## **Festival Formats**

Alongside traditional concerts in concert halls and churches, the festival presents a wide range of formats, including concert hikes, afternoon concerts, late-night concerts, open singing sessions, open stages and concert introductions.

Our aim is for the entire town of Davos to resonate with the music of the Young Artists, who are given opportunities to perform in constantly changing contexts. We strive for the highest artistic quality while embracing humour, creativity and surprising moments. Concerts may take place in an observatory, in the wellness area of a hotel or by the shore of a lake. These unusual settings are intended to inspire curiosity while always keeping the focus on the music and the artists. The festival also offers an orchestra academy for 20 string players.

## **Artists at the Davos Festival**

The tradition of intercultural exchange, which has long been central to Davos, is renewed each year. Around 80 exceptionally talented young musicians from more than 16 countries participate in the festival annually.

For many artists, Davos represents their first major international stage before launching successful global careers. Numerous renowned musicians have appeared at the festival early in their careers, including Carmina Quartett, Martina Schucan, Fabio di Casola, Emmanuel Pahud, Rahel Cunz, Tatiana Tetzlaff, Thomas Grossenbacher, Konstantin Lifschitz, Antje Weithaas, Christoph Keller, Philipp Jordan, Julia Becker, Renaud Capuçon, Christian Gerhaher, Jonas Kaufmann, Thomas Demenga, Esther Hoppe, Sol Gabetta, Reto Bieri, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Viviane Chassot, Maximilian Hornung, Francesco Corti, Martin Helmchen, Nicolas Altstaedt, Quatuor Ébène, Benjamin Alard, Nils Mönkemeyer, William Youn, Julian Prégardien, Ilya Gringolts and many others.

The festival aims to provide Young Artists with a unique and internationally recognised platform for their creative work while actively supporting their artistic development. At the same time, we foster meaningful encounters – between artists of different nationalities and generations, and between the artists and our audience.

Through these encounters, we invite audiences into a musical world that is often more closely connected to contemporary life and important social questions than many might expect. We believe that music is an essential part of an open society and its continued cultural development.

## **Audience**

The festival addresses a culturally engaged and musically curious audience that is open to diverse concert formats. This includes cultural tourists, second-home owners and the local population. Davos Festival also attracts artists and music professionals and serves as a meeting point for music and theatre societies, groups of friends, families and younger audiences. Approximately 40% of the audience comes from the region, 50% from the Swiss Plateau, and the remainder from neighbouring German-speaking countries. Visitors typically have a higher level of education and above-average income, with an average age of around 50+.

## Facts & figures

### Davos Festival — Young Artists in Concert 2.–16. August 2025

	2025	2024
Anzahl Veranstaltungen		
Kaufanlässe	25	23
Gratisanlässe	28	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>

Anzahl Besucher*innen		
	2025	2024
Kaufanlässe	2404	1975
Gratisanlässe	733	677
<b>Total</b>	<b>3137</b>	<b>2652</b>

Besonders erwähnenswert:

Zwei Wochen Programm in und um Davos an diversen Spielstätten, u.a. im Kongresszentrum, Eisstadion und im Kirchner Museum Davos. Eine Uraufführung. Täglich Orgelmusik in der Kirche, Offene Bühnen, Offenes Singen und Davoser Hauskonzerte.

«In Davos springt man damit nicht erst auf einen fahrenden Zug auf — man hat ihn sozusagen mit angeschoben; denn Komponistinnen gehören hier seit langem zum Fokus. Davos war zudem immer schon eine Spielwiese für Experimente.»

Marco Frei, NZZ | 20.8.2025

### Herkunft Künstler\*innen 2025

Australien
Belgien
China
Dänemark
Deutschland
Frankreich
Grossbritannien
Honduras
Italien
Japan
Österreich
Polen
Portugal
Russland
Slovenien
Südkorea
Spanien
Schweden
Schweiz
Türkei
Ukraine
Vereinigte Staaten

### Anzahl Künstler\*innen

	2025	2024
Young Artists	88	56

### Altersstruktur Künstler\*innen 2025

Unter 20 Jahre:	0 Personen	0 %
21–24 Jahre:	7 Personen	13 %
25–29 Jahre:	27 Personen	55 %
30–34 Jahre:	20 Personen	28 %
über 35 Jahre:	2 Personen	3,6 %

### Logiernächte Künstler\*innen, Crew und Medienvertreter\*innen

	2025	2024
gesponsert	358	277
gekauft	347	153

### Neujahrskonzert | 1. Januar 2025

	2025	2024
Anzahl Gäste	263	221

Besonders erwähnenswert:

Mit dem Trio Zeitgeist sowie einer Neujahrsansprache des Landammanns der Gemeinde Davos.

### Singwoche | 10.–15. Februar 2025

	2025	2024
Anzahl Programmpunkte	15	14
Anzahl Teilnehmende	497	458

### Crew 2025

1 Intendant
1 Geschäftsführerin
1 Assistentin der Geschäftsführerin
2 Festivalassistenten
2 Bühnen- und Veranstaltungstechniker
9 Crewmitglieder (inkl. Fotograf & Social Media)
und viele passionierte Stiftungsrät*innen,
Vereinsvorstände, Dienstleistende und
helfende Hände

### Komponist\*innen am Davos Festival 2025

Bereits seit seinen Anfängen bringt Davos Festival einen diversen Mix aus bekannten und unbekannteren Werken auf die Bühne. 2025 wurden Werke von 78 Komponist\*innen aufgeführt.

Es erklingen Kompositionen von:

Schulhoff, Mendelssohn, Strohl, Kaprálova, Corri-Dusseck, Bach, Pachelbel, Robin, Scarlatti, Glière, Ligeti, Renié, Bacewicz, Devienne, Borodin, Bloch, Smith, Weinberg, Vivaldi, Corrette, Biber, Hasse, Fauré, Juon, Buxtehude, Rachmaninoff, Martinu, Brahms, Finzi, Price, Bonnay, Angelis, Mozart, Pirné, Debussy, Telemann, Graun, Quantz, Ravel, Zaderatsky, Glass, Raphael, Ysaÿe, Semenov, Beethoven, Stamm, Klughart, Onslow, Pearsall, Rutter, Bernstein, Dinur, MacMillan, Nystedt, Morley, Stanford, Doderer, Vaughan Williams, Yamamoto, Tormis, Mattes, Howells, Vieuxtemps, Beach, Janáček, Nielsen, Vilette, Mäntyjärvi, Haydn, Schumann, Kodály, Messiaen, Tomasi, Strauss, Mazzoli, Dessner, Crawford Seeger, Tschaikowsky