

Kronberg plays host to world-famous artists with masterclasses, a violin making exhibition, awards ceremonies and much more

Kronberg (Kronberg, 23 September 2022) – With 24 concerts in ten days from world class musicians, eight orchestras and many of the most talented upcoming young players from across the globe, the promise from Founder and Chairman of the Board of the Kronberg Academy Foundation, Raimund Trenkler, and the Academy’s Artistic Director, Friedemann Eichhorn – “Never before have you experienced music like this!” – will be more than honoured from 24 September to 2 October at the international Kronberg Festival “*Aufbruch!*” (Awakening!) opening the Casals Forum.

Host to world-famous stars

It is not only the Festival programme that is international but also the artists taking part, many of them stars who are famous the world over and who have been regular guests at Kronberg events in the past. These include violinist Gidon Kremer, pianist Sir András Schiff and conductor Christoph Eschenbach, all three of whom are members of Kronberg Academy’s Artistic Council, as well as the violinist Christian Tetzlaff, viola player Tabea Zimmermann, cellists Gary Hoffman and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt, pianists Kirill Gerstein and Martin Helmchen, cellist Frans Helmerson and violinist Mihaela Martin, who are among the team of professors who teach at the Academy.

Celebrated violinist and violist Pinchas Zuckerman will be visiting Kronberg for the first time and can be heard in concert on Tuesday 27 September at 7.45 pm with Gidon Kremer and cellist Mischa Maisky in the concert entitled “*Variationen*” (Variations). Cellists Steven Isserlis, Jens Peter Maintz, Alban Gerhardt and Jean-Guihen Queyras, violinist Isabelle Faust, violist Antoine Tamestit, clarinetist Jörg Widmann and the pianist and composer Fazil Say are also among the great artistic figures closely connected with Kronberg Academy. They can all be heard in concert at the Casals Forum.

Reunion of alumni

The many concerts across the ten days of the Festival will provide a forum for scores of Kronberg Academy’s former students to reacquaint themselves with one another. Time and again, the Festival draws them back to the Taunus where they received their training, and from where they set out to make their careers as sought-after soloists in the world’s most prestigious concert halls. They include the internationally successful cellists Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, Anastasia Kobekina, Ella van Poucke, Bruno Philippe and Kian Soltani, to name but a few.

Eight orchestras and ensembles

Following on from Kremerata Baltica, which has had residency in Kronberg for several years, the renowned “Chamber Orchestra of Europe”, which until now has been based in London, and the transcultural “Bridges Chamber Orchestra” have also been named orchestras in residence of the Casals Forum. Alongside these ensembles, five further orchestras can be heard at the Festival:

Frankfurt-based baroque orchestra La Stagione, Ensemble Resonanz – orchestra in residence of Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Big Band and the Frankfurt Radio Symphony.

Music from around the world

On Thursday, 29 September at 7.45 pm, the Bridges Chamber Orchestra will embark on a “*Weltreise*” (Journey Around the World). Under the baton of Israeli conductor Bar Avni, its programme combines European music with Arabic and Persian soundscapes. In addition, it will perform the première of the “Concerto for cello solo and the Bridges Chamber Orchestra” written by Frankfurt-based saxophonist and composer Peter Klohmann especially for the ensemble and cellist László Fenyő. Prior to this, on Wednesday, 28 September, South African cellist Abel Selaocoe and The Bantu Ensemble – pianist Fred Thomas, bass player Alan Keary and African percussionist Sidiki Dembélé – will be asking the question “Where is Home?” with their eponymous programme (*Hae Ke Kae*) in the Carl Bechstein Hall of the Casals Forum.

Cello Masterclasses

This year for the first time, the Kronberg Festival is taking place in conjunction with the Cello Masterclasses, which will be attended by 160 talented youngsters from all over the world. Frans Helmerson, Gary Hoffman, Jens Peter Maintz, Jérôme Pernoo and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt will give daily tuition sessions, which as always in Kronberg are open to the public, from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm in the Carl Bechstein Hall and small audition room of the Casals Forum, in the historic rooms of Kronberg's *Streitkirche*, the *Zebntscheune* (Tithe Barn) and the Feldberg Hall of the *Stadthalle*.

Promising young players will be selected by the masterclass tutors for the conferral of three sponsorship awards: the Landgrave of Hesse Prize endowed with €5000, the Boris Pergamenschikow Scholarship carrying a monthly allowance of €400 for two years, and the Frans Helmerson Award, which is likewise endowed with €5000. An award ceremony will take place on Monday, 3 October as part of the concert concluding the Masterclasses, which begins at 12.00 pm in the *Großer Saal* (Large Concert Hall) of the Casals Forum and during which talented youngsters will perform with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. These young players can also be “discovered” on Sunday, 2 October, when selected masterclass students, including some of the prize winners, introduce themselves in a varied chamber concert.

First VioViva violin making exhibition

New violin making exhibition VioViva, which in future will take place every two years in parallel to the Festival, offers its first glimpse into the fascinating world of modern instrument making. Following the announcement in March of the Frankfurt Musikmesse's closure, this new event makes Kronberg into an exhibition town. Some 40 luthiers, bow makers, string manufacturers and accessories suppliers will come together here from Monday, 26 September to Saturday, 1 October in the large auditorium of the *Stadthalle* to present instruments and bows from their workshops. The exhibition is open daily from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm, and until 4.00 pm on 28 September. The programme is complemented by talks from master bowmaker Thomas Gerbeth and engineer Bernhard Rieger on 27, 29 and 30 September at 2.00 pm. It promises to be a highly interesting event for everyone, not just professionals. All visitors will be able to view the masterpieces at close hand, and marvel at the fruits yielded by the labours of modern violin making.

Does music have to save the world?

The panel discussion on Sunday 25 September at 3.30 pm in the Crespo Foyer of the Casals Forum presents a thoroughly fascinating topic. Thomas Rietschel, Culture Manager and former President of Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts, discusses sustainability, justice and music with artists under the headline “Does Music Always Have to Save the World?” Joining him on the podium are viola player Tabea Zimmermann, cellist and Kronberg Academy student Ildikó Szabo and the composer and concert educator Bernhard König. Registration is required for this event.

Presentation of the Pablo Casals Award with Dr Michael Wolffsohn and Nina Ruge

For the first time on 2 October, social commitment as advocated by the great cellist and humanist Pablo Casals will be rewarded with the “Pablo Casals Award - For a Better World”, which carries prize money of €10,000. This will mark the beginning of a new tradition at Kronberg Academy. In future, the Academy will present the prize, which was initiated by the Cologne-based asset management company Flossbach von Storch, on an annual basis to an artist who follows the example of Pablo Casals and is actively involved in assisting or protecting music, people and the planet.

The award winners will be selected by a jury made up of Kronberg Academy’s Artistic Council members – Marta Casals Istomin, Christoph Eschenbach, Gidon Kremer, Sir András Schiff and Raimund Trenkler – supported by the “Artists for a Better Future” initiative launched by Christoph Poppen. Moderating the award ceremony at 6.30 pm in the Large Concert Hall of the Casals Forum is television presenter, journalist and author Nina Ruge, whilst a speech from historian and publicist Professor Michael Wolffsohn will pay tribute to the winners. Tickets cost €5 and seating is open. Anyone with a ticket for the “*Resonanzen*” (Resonances) concert at 7.45 pm can enter for free, but is asked to register their attendance by telephone.

Children in the Casals Forum

Young guests and future visitors of the Casals Forum are not forgotten in the extensive Festival programme. On Sunday, 1 October at 4.00 pm, cellists Jens Peter Maintz and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt will perform an entertaining concert for girls and boys as “Cello Duello”, ably accompanied in time-honoured fashion by Christoph Gotthardt as the musical narrator.

Further information on all events at the ten-day Festival can be found on the Kronberg Academy website at www.kronbergfestival.de.

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About Kronberg Academy

Kronberg Academy is today considered one of the most important meeting and training places for young violinists, violists, cellists and now for young pianists as well. Located in the heart of Europe, it gathers the world's most gifted young musicians and brings them together with the great artists of our time. Through the Kronberg Academy Study Programmes, young soloists work intensively with leading musicians all year round in the pursuit of bachelor's and master's degrees. Kronberg Academy's events offer young artists a chance to share the stage with their role models, and also give audiences the opportunity to immerse themselves in this special atmosphere. Furthermore, Kronberg Academy's students go on tour together several times each year where they perform as an ensemble on international stages. By opening the Casals Forum, a chamber music hall with an integrated study centre, Kronberg Academy has secured a home and a future for itself and all its tasks in Kronberg.

Press contact:

Kronberg Academy Stiftung
Beethovenplatz 1
61476 Kronberg im Taunus
www.kronbergacademy.de

Barbara Kögler
Tel. +49 (0)6173 783364
b.koegler@kronbergacademy.de

Anne-Kathrin Abel
Tel. +49 (0) 6173 783363
a.abel@kronbergacademy.de

