

bridges kammer orchester

The transcultural Bridges Kammerorchester



Bridges Kammerorchester © Salar Baygan

Since 2019, the transcultural Bridges Kammerorchester has brought freelance musicians and their instruments together from diverse regions of the European, Asian and American continents. The orchestra members are experts in European classical music, classical Arabic as well as Persian music, jazz, Eastern European folklore, and contemporary music.

The Bridges Kammerorchester is a unique entity in Europe: there is no comparable orchestra with such great diversity in musical styles and regions of instrumental origin when paired with the sustained collaboration of our fixed ensemble personnel and the frequency of performances. Another unique and innovative aspect is that 14 of the 25 orchestra members compose and arrange much of the orchestral repertoire themselves.

The Bridges Kammerorchester will make its debut at the [Elbphilharmonie Hamburg](#) in August 2024 as part of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and was selected into [Bundesprogramm Exzellente Orchesterlandschaft Deutschland](#) in 2024. Its album *Complementarity*, released in March 2024, was nominated for the [German Record Critics' Award](#) (02/2024, category Grenzgänge). Since September 2022 the Bridges Kammerorchester is Orchestra in Residence at Casals Forum, Kronberg Academy. In 2022 and 2023 it was shortlisted for [Preis Innovation Deutsche Orchester-Stiftung](#). It is one of the winners of the [Hessian Integration Prize](#) and the [Frankfurt Diversity and Integration Award](#) 2022 and received the [German Record Critics' Award](#) for the debut album *Identigation* (02/2021, category Grenzgänge), which was published in 2021 in co-production with the Hessian radio (hr2-kultur).

In 2019, the Bridges Kammerorchester was celebrated as a national flagship project for exemplifying diversity and integration in practice with the reception of [The Power of the Arts 2019](#), as well as the [Special Impact Prize](#) of the KfW Stiftung in 2018.

The Bridges Kammerorchester has members from 15 nations and, in contrast to other international orchestras, does not play predominantly Eurocentric music. Instead, Bridges presents musical styles from a wide variety of traditions, as well as cross-genre works, on an equal footing in their concert programs. The musical traditions from which the members come, or with which they are involved, therefore shape the orchestra's program and form its unique, ever-evolving transcultural sound language.

Alongside the orchestra's usual sections of strings, winds, and percussion, a distinguishing element of Bridges Kammerorchester is the additional section of plucked instruments, which has a profound influence on the sound of the orchestra.

Bridges Kammerorchester has developed a contemporary musical sound that gives a voice to multiple identities – showing how the variety of different cultures can be brought together without giving up individual identities. In this way, Bridges Kammerorchester shapes a musical style that reflects the diversity of the German society of today and enriches the tradition of orchestral playing.

Bridges Kammerorchester leads the way forward in the necessary redesign of programming on conventional stages to include repertoire that reflects Germany as a country of immigration and the changes that brings about in society as a whole.

The Bridges Kammerorchester and its members are consulted throughout Germany and Europe as specialists in the development of a progressive, transcultural musical style. In addition to our own compositions, we also commission compositions from composers of various disciplines. Previous guest composers include Majid Derakhshani, Atefeh Einali, Golfam Khayam, Jonas Krischke, Kioomars Musayyebi, Takako Ono, Daniel Osorio, Enjott Schneider und Khadija Zeynalova. The Bridges Kammerorchester collaborates with rotating guest conductors, including Bar Avni, Leo Hussein, Nicholas Kok, Gregor A. Mayrhofer, Corinna Niemeyer, Eva Pons, Harish Shankar, Nabil Shehata, Nil Venditti, Martin Wettges und Yalda Zamani.

Audio/Video Links

[The Bridges Kammerorchester at hr-Sendesaal, April 2023](#)

[The Bridges Kammerorchester at netzwerk seilerei 2022](#)

More info at <http://bridgesmusikverbindet.de/en/>

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