

The Bridges Kammerorchester – The composing orchestra



Bridges Kammerorchester © Salar Baygan

The transcultural Bridges Kammerorchester – The composing orchestra from Frankfurt am Main is a unique European ensemble that has been bringing together freelance musicians and their instruments from various regions of the European, Asian and American continents since autumn 2019. The orchestra members are experts in European classical music, classical Arabic as well as Persian music, jazz, contemporary music, Eastern European folklore and various forms of Central Asian and Latin American music. Drawing on their diverse personalities, the musicians compose and arrange a large part of the orchestral repertoire themselves. The result is transcultural music.

The Bridges Kammerorchester consists of 25 musicians from 15 nations, rehearses continuously with a fixed line-up and performs in renowned venues such as the Casals Forum in Kronberg, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the hr-Sendesaal in Frankfurt and many more.

Artistic excellence is combined with social impact. Diverse musical traditions and individual expertise come together and form the starting point for the repertoire created by numerous orchestra members. This unique Bridges Sound – the transcultural contemporary music – makes immigrant societies audible, shows how the diversity of different cultures can grow together and enriches the tradition of orchestral playing. The 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 – The composing orchestra played its debut at the [Elbphilharmonie Hamburg](https://www.elbphilharmonie.de/) in August 2024 as part of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival

and, due to the great response, was already engaged for three further concerts in the Elbphilharmonie for the following 2025/26 season. In 2024, it was included into the [Bundesprogramm Exzellente Orchesterlandschaft Deutschland](#). 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 *Identigration* (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.

In addition to its own compositions, the Bridges Kammerorchester also commission compositions from composers of various disciplines, e. g. Majid Derakhshani, Atefeh Einali, Golfam Khayam, Jonas Krischke, Kiomars Musayyebi, Takako Ono, Daniel Osorio, Enjott Schneider and Khadija Zeynalova.

The Bridges Kammerorchester collaborates with rotating guest conductors, including Bar Avni, Olivia Clarke, Farhad Garayusifli, Leo Hussein, Nicholas Kok, Gregor A. Mayrhofer, Corinna Niemeyer, Eva Pons, Harish Shankar, Nabil Shehata, Nil Venditti, Martin Wettges and Yalda Zamani.

Guest soloists are regularly involved in the concert projects, e. g. Sara Al Agha (mezzo-soprano), Jouana Dahdouh (mezzo-soprano), László Fenyő (violoncello), Javier Agustín León (tenor), Kiomars Musayyebi (santur), Muriel Razavi (viola), Alon Sarel (mandolin), Takuya Taniguchi (taiko) and Itamar Zorman (violin).

The Bridges Kammerorchester and its members are consulted throughout Germany and Europe as specialists in the development of a progressive, transcultural musical style. The spectrum of education and community projects offered by the musicians in the Rhine-Main region and beyond ranges from participatory concerts for children and young people to school projects with the Bridges Dolmuş and the Bridges Sessions.

Audio/Video-Links

Bridges Kammerorchester on
ARTE Concert, April 2025



Bridges Kammerorchester in the hr-
Sendesaal, April 2024



Press

Brücken aus Klängen
Deutschlandfunk, 6.7.2024



Westöstlich inspiriert – FAZ, 3.3.24
Album-Release-Konzert *Complementarity*,
Casals Forum Kronberg



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