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ISA

MASTER
CLASS

MUSIC CITY LAB

34TH INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER ACADEMY
21 JULY-3 AUGUST 2025

INSTRUMENTALISTS

SINGERS

CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES

FILM MUSIC SCORING

COMMUNITY

WORKSHOPS

COMPETITIONS

CONCERTS



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mdw
university
of music and
performing
arts vienna

ISA

INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER ACADEMY
OF THE MDW

IMPRINT

Editor, publisher, and owner of this medium

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A NEW ERA FOR ISA: VIENNA BECOMES THE STAGE

isa – International Summer Academy

After 33 years in the Semmering-Rax Region, isa - International Summer Academy of the mdw moves to Vienna in 2025. The newly expanded mdw campus at Anton-von-Webern-Platz offers state-of-the-art facilities, ensuring an ideal and sustainable venue.

Founded in 1991 as a master class for 13 students, isa has grown into a globally unique enrichment program, combining elite training with an interdisciplinary academic conference. Under mdw Vice Rector Johannes Meissl's artistic directorship, it annually welcomes over 200 musicians from 40+ nations.

The move enhances interdisciplinary exchange, strengthens social and intercultural connections, and broadens access to top-tier performances. Additionally, isa aims to leverage its Vienna location for new participatory offerings, collaborating with the city's music mediators and community musicians.

mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

The mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, which organises the International Summer Academy, is one of the world's largest and most renowned universities specialised in music, theatre and film. Over 3,000 students from more than 70 countries pursue higher education here in 115 degree programmes. The mdw's 25 institutes include the Max Reinhardt Seminar and the Vienna Film Academy.

WELCOME

Welcome to isa25 - the 34th session of the International Summer Academy of the mdw - University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, which is for the first time being held at the mdw Campus in Vienna!

Our state-of-the-art infrastructure offers optimal conditions for bringing together all the isa25 activities in one place, expanding artistic-pedagogical synergies and strengthening co-operation with cultural partners in the urban environment. In a unique further education programme, Viennese traditions are taught, reinterpreted and examined from an interdisciplinary perspective in the 'Music City Lab'.

With the isaFestival and the incorporation of community formats, art and culture make an impact on society and enrich cultural life in Vienna and the surrounding area. Artists, scientists and students are invited to work together, inspire one another and engage in joint reflection. As one of the world's leading art universities in the fields of music, theatre and film, the mdw promotes a democratic, just and cosmopolitan society. We are shaping the future with our non-negotiable commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of all people.

The International Summer Academy promotes young national and international artists, strengthens intercultural exchange and is part of the mdw's powerful international appeal.

We look forward to the new launch of isa25 at the mdw Campus!

Ulrike Sych

Ulrike Sych
Rector, mdw - University of Music
and Performing Arts Vienna

By bringing all the isa's disciplines together, we've created the best possible conditions for enjoyable joint musical experimentation, for getting to know one another, and for planned as well as spontaneous transdisciplinary experiences – and all this very close to the centre of the extremely diverse music metropolis Vienna, with its famous event venues, its countless buildings and memorial sites of musical and historico-cultural significance, and its multifarious, exciting off-scene!

A great faculty with internationally renowned teachers and an organisational team that's as professional as it's enthusiastic will make the creative Lab in the centre of the city of music into an extraordinary experience!

For the very first time, the isa will be offering a course in Film Scoring in close cooperation with the mdw's Film Academy, and another very important innovation is the new one-week Community Music masterclass.

Thus, the isa25 – and particularly in this Johann Strauss bicentenary year – will focus on examining the following questions: What makes Viennese music Viennese? Where and in what forms is it found, no matter whether old or new, in traditional and popular culture or in niche and high culture?

We will of course not only be using the mdw Campus at Anton-von-Webern-Platz but also many different locations in the city for the isaFestival. We want to bring people to our Campus and also to go out into the city. Parallel to the artistic isa, the isaResearch Summer School for Early Stage Researchers will discuss current developments in music and society, with presentations of carefully selected papers and high-calibre discussion panels.

Over the past few years, Artistic Research has established its own unique profile at the mdw. Students from the Doctor Artium programme will give isa participants an insight into the wide variety of transdisciplinary artistic research projects at the mdw.

We look forward to having a fantastic time together – and above all, we look forward to meeting you, the participants!



© Sabine Hauswirth

**'Music City Lab' –
the 34th International
Summer Academy
(isa) is starting a
whole new chapter**

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'J. Meissl'.

Johannes Meissl
Artistic Director, isa
Vice Rector, mdw

© Stephan Polzer

COURSES

COURSE STRUCTURE

Every participant will receive three lessons per week of 45 minutes each.

Ensembles generally receive lessons from all ensemble tutors present at the course.

Course duration:
1 or 2 weeks
(book two weeks for the full experience)



STRING SOLOISTS

21 JULY -
3 AUGUST

VIOLIN

Tanja Becker-Bender

(1st week) Hamburg

Dalibor Karvay

(2nd week) Vienna

Hagai Shaham

(both weeks)

Tel Aviv / New York

Dora Schwarzberg

(both weeks)

Vienna / Tel Aviv

Ulf Wallin

(both weeks)

Vienna / Berlin

VIOLA

Lars Anders Tomter

(1st week) Oslo

Nobuko Imai

(2nd week) Detmold

VIOLONCELLO

Emmanuelle Bertrand

(1st week) Paris

Torleif Thedéen

(2nd week) Oslo

Amit Peled

(1st week) Baltimore

Xenia Jankovic

(2nd week) Detmold

DOUBLE BASS

Dorin Marc

(both weeks) Nürnberg



CHAMBER MUSIC: STRINGS/PIANISTS

21 JULY -
3 AUGUST

Evgenia Epshtein

(1st week) Split

Minna Pensola

(2nd week) Helsinki

Johannes Meissl

(both weeks) Vienna

Peter Schuhmayer

(1st week) Vienna

Patrick Jüdt

(2nd week) Bern

Vida Vujic

(both weeks) Vienna

Avedis Kouyoumdjian

(2nd week) Vienna

Marianna Shirinyan

(2nd week)

Oslo / Copenhagen





WIND SOLOISTS

21 JULY –
3 AUGUST

FLUTE

Wally Hase

(1st week) Vienna

Andrea Lieberknecht

(2nd week) Munich

Felix Renggli

(1st week) Basel

Mario Caroli

(2nd week) Freiburg

VIENNESE OBOE

Klaus Lienbacher

(1st week) Vienna

Paul Blüml

(2nd week) Vienna

OBOE

Christian Wetzl

(both weeks) Cologne

HORN

Felix Dervaux

(both weeks)

Vienna / Zurich

CLARINET

Johann Hindler

(1st week) Vienna

François Benda

(2nd week)

Basel / Berlin

BASSOON

Sophie Dervaux

(1st week) Vienna

Dag Jensen

(2nd week) Munich

SAXOPHONE

Michaela Reingruber

(1st week) Vienna

Alvaro Collao León

(2nd week) Vienna

CHAMBER MUSIC: WINDS

21 JULY –
3 AUGUST

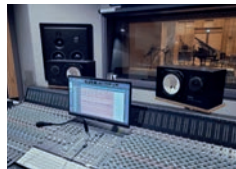
**Gottfried Johannes
Pokorny**

(both weeks)

Vienna



pre-existing
ensembles only



© Nelson Fernando Buitrago Vargas

PIANO

21 JULY –
3 AUGUST

Avedis Kouyoumdjian

(1st week)

Vienna / Brussels

Anna Malikova

(2nd week) Vienna

**Christopher
Hinterhuber**

(both weeks) Vienna

Peter Ovtcharov

(both weeks) Yonsei



VOICE

21 JULY –
3 AUGUST

Laura Aikin

Vienna

Karlheinz Hanser

Vienna



FILM MUSIC SCORING AND PRODUCTION

28 JULY –
2 AUGUST

Walter Werzowa

Vienna



© Stephan Polzer (3)

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, AND COACHING SESSIONS

The full isa experience is a combination of master classes, performances, building new friendships and networks, and extensive supplementary offerings such as workshops and projects!

Get inspired and broaden your horizon – discover as much as you can!

On our website, you'll find detailed descriptions of all specialised offerings.

OFFERINGS in 2025 (selection)

PLAY! – YOUR EASY WAY TO JAZZ AND IMPROVISATION

Karen Asatrian, Philipp Sageder,
Horst-Michael Schaffer

LET'S PLAY – INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE LAB

Thomas Toppler

CAREER STRATEGY CONSULTING FOR INSTRUMENTALISTS AND ENSEMBLES

Andreas Vierziger

AROUND CHOPIN

Ewa Pobłocka

PERFORMANCE PSYCHOLOGY

Veronika Jana Lubert

TALKING TO AN AUDIENCE

Ulla Pilz

IMPROVISING THE FUTURE

Michael Dörfler-Kneihls,
Birgit Huebener, Doris Ingrisch

ALL THOSE NOISES – ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

Philipp Nykrin

UNITED IN THE RHYTHM OF WALTZ

Else Schmidt

BAROQUE OBOE INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Elisabeth Baumer

ORNAMENTATION – BUT HOW? PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION IN BAROQUE ORNAMENTATION

Elisabeth Baumer

ENSEMBLE MUSIC WITH A BAROQUE REPERTOIRE

Elisabeth Baumer

... AND MANY
MORE!



isa
RESEARCH

isaRESEARCH
21 – 23 JULY

The isaResearch Summer School is dedicated to supporting early stage researchers by providing an interdisciplinary and international forum for theoretical and discursive engagement. It explores the annual isatheme in relation to current issues and embeds it within the diverse contexts of Vienna's urban space.

Taking place alongside the artistic masterclasses and the festival on campus, the Summer School marks a new chapter for isa's research track, fostering exchange between artistic and academic perspectives.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TARGET GROUP

Graduate and postgraduate students or highly-advanced undergraduates with performing-experience. A prerequisite for participation at isa is having attained a high level of artistry.

FEES

Application fee: € 195

Chamber Music:

Application fee per ensemble: € 195

(to be paid by one ensemble member)

Course tuition fee:

one week € 430

two weeks € 790

Master class fees include practicing opportunities, participation in workshops, lectures, competitions, and free admission to selected concerts of the isaFestival.

Alongside opportunities to perform Summer Academy repertoire, the festival will also feature outstanding interpretations by participants.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants are responsible for their own arrival at thecourse locations.

Address:

Anton-von-Webern-Platz 1,1030 Vienna

The mdw campus is easily accessible by public transport:

Wien Mitte Station: U3, U4 subway lines, 74A bus, S-Bahn S1, S2, S3, S4, S7, and regional trains.

We recommend travelling by public transport, as there is no dedicated parking availableat any of the locations. For international guests, we recommend traveling by train if possible. isa has a partnership with ÖBB and offers special rates (details will follow shortly).

Special conditions are available for some hotels. Please have a look on our website.

We aim to organize this event in accordance with the guidelines of the Austrian Ecolabel for Green Meetings. Our goal is to contribute to resource conservation, climate protection, regional added value, and raising awareness.





**ONLINE
APPLICATION**
www.isa-music.org

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

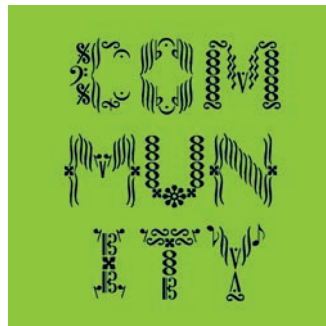
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isaCOMMUNITY
21 - 27 JULY

One week of fresh ideas on new formats, artistic identity, and participatory projects. Your creation takes the stage at the Wiener Konzerthaus and TONALI in Hamburg during the 2025/26 season. Apply by the 15th of April.

Join **Kian Jazdi**,
Axel Petri-Preis,
Marlene Schleicher
and **Jonathan Pengl**,
four inspiring experts from project design, directing, community music, and real-world experience at isaCommunity.



© isaCommunity