

Heidelberger Frühling

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Heidelberger Frühling Musikfestival successfully ended after four weeks

First season with Igor Levit as Co-Artistic Director offered 83 concerts at 25 venues | Heidelberger Frühling Musikpreis went to Martin Grubinger | Fundraising for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria raised around 16,500 euros

Last Saturday, the 27th Heidelberger Frühling Musikfestival came to a close with the sold-out festival finale featuring violinist Vilde Frang and the Belgian B'Rock Orchestra in the Aula der Neuen Universität Heidelberg. From 17 March to 15 April, 83 concerts at 25 venues in Heidelberg were on the program under the motto "Together", including 13 free admission concerts in Heidelberg's districts with the newly initiated Festivalcampus-Ensemble.

This was the first of a total of five seasons with pianist Igor Levit as Co-Artistic Director alongside Director Thorsten Schmidt, marking the beginning of a new era in the festival's history.

Now in its second year, the festival has found a home in the new main venues Aula der Neuen and Aula der Alten Universität Heidelberg and other venues in the city during the closure of the hall Stadthalle for renovation.

Festival Director Thorsten Schmidt and Co-Artistic Director Igor Levit sum up:

"We are particularly happy that the audience has accepted the new festival campus around the Universitätsplatz so well. And that people have so intensively embraced new formats such as the Carte Blanche – without knowing what to expect programmatically – or the festival focus "Ligeti 100". The concerts that offered intercultural musical encounters alongside classical music also met with great interest, much to our delight. This testifies to a deep trust in the Heidelberger Frühling and confirms the firm place that the music festival has in the international festival landscape. It also reflects the transformation process in our society, which challenges us all to come together despite different positions, to think anew, and to always be open to the other."

Guests at 27th edition of the music festival featured great artists such as **Asmik Grigorian, Kirill Gerstein, Vilde Frang, Renaud Capuçon, Jan Lisiecki, Nikolai Lugansky, Kian Soltani, Thomas Quasthoff, Antoine Tamestit, Abel Selaocoe, Peter Eötvös** or **Veronika Eberle** as well as internationally renowned ensembles and orchestras such as **Gringolts Quartet, Cuarteto Casals, Quatuor Diotima, Collegium 1704, Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Manchester Collective, Aurora Orchestra** or **B'Rock Orchestra**. For the first time in the festival's history, the **Festivalcampus-Ensemble**, an ensemble of 22 young soloists, opened the music festival and could be experienced in various formations throughout the city in the following weeks.

The **Heidelberger Frühling Musikpreis 2023**, which is sponsored by the founding partner of the music festival, Heidelberg Materials, was awarded to percussionist Martin Grubinger. Since 2013, the award has honored personalities who have made a substantial and lasting contribution to the communication of classical music.

Shortly before the beginning of the festival, Heidelberger Frühling, together with the local newspaper Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung and the association Freundeskreis des Heidelberger Frühling e.V., had called for a **fundraising campaign** following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria in February. Heidelberger Frühling donated the ticket fees for the festival concert of 29 March with singer Ibrahim Keivo, who comes from northeastern Syria, and the NDR Bigband to "Aktion Deutschland Hilft" for the benefit of the earthquake victims and also collected additional donations for this alliance. The

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fundraising campaign was made possible by the sponsorship of the concert by the Freundeskreis des Heidelberger Frühling e.V.. A total of **16,536.18 euros was raised**.

A total of six festival concerts were broadcast by the media partners **SWR2, Deutschlandfunk Kultur** and **Deutschlandfunk**.

The **28th Heidelberger Frühling Musikfestival** will take place from 15 March to 13 April 2024. The program will be published in October 2023.

From 14 to 18 June 2023, the second edition of the **Heidelberger Frühling Liedfestival** will present the Lied in all its diversity. Tickets are already available at www.heidelberger-fruehling.de or by phone at +49 6221 584 00 44.

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