

# Grafenegg Academy Call for Musicians



## OUR MISSION

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Each Summer Grafenegg Academy forms a closely-knit community of exceptionally talented young professional musicians, internationally renowned orchestral musicians as mentors and acclaimed personalities from the world of classical music who come together in an environment that is highly encouraging to intensive learning. The unique ambiance of the castle, park and nature, as well as the famous Lower Austrian hospitality offer a beautiful Summer home and a serene surrounding.

Within short time, the Grafenegg Academy, newly formed in 2021, gained a reputation in its young existence – in 2023 musicians from all continents applied. The strongest applicants – which prevail in a competitive application process – are invited to Grafenegg each summer to form the Grafenegg Academy Orchestra together: A temporary, strong and internationally top-class orchestra.

The mission of the Grafenegg Academy is to think holistically and to approach the profession of young musicians from different perspectives and to reflect this during the residency. It is important to respond to the diversity of the career paths of modern musicians. This is highlighted in various concert formats - but above all in the work that happens during the residency within the context of diverse rehearsal work, various formats, workshops, lectures, and much more.

The pool of artistic curators of the Grafenegg Academy, which has grown since 2021, can count musicians such as Alina Ibragimova, Håkan Hardenberger and Colin Currie among its ranks.

Grafenegg Academy's approach is new, creative and ambitious: it focuses on the exchange of artistic ideas, advanced artistic development and freedom in playing together as well as the intensive, collaborative exploration of music. Free from the limitations of typical professional concert life, musicians at Grafenegg Academy have the opportunity to rehearse in great depth – under the guidance of outstanding artists –, to share ideas and experiences, to explore a rich diversity of musical works.

Grafenegg Academy will result in several concert days with orchestra concerts as well as ensemble performances of chamber music repertoire, in order to show the diverse work that has been done during the days in Grafenegg.



### Ilan Volkov

Since his prodigious breakthrough as Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the age of 19, Ilan Volkov has matured into a versatile conductor whose interpretations of familiar repertoire are sought after internationally. He enjoys a long-standing relationship with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, as Principal Conductor from 2003 and Principal Guest Conductor since 2009. The 2022-23 season sees the start of Volkov's tenure as Principal Guest Conductor with the Brussels Philharmonic.

A musical omnivore, Volkov also serves as a dynamic figurehead of the international contemporary music scene. He launched the Tectonics Festival in 2012, which has since become one of the world's most diverse and acclaimed celebrations of new music, with festivals in Adelaide, Oslo, New York, Tel Aviv, Krakow, Athens, Glasgow and Reykjavík. In 2020 he co-founded the I&I Foundation with Ilya Gringolts to support the development and performance of new music.

Volkov's repertoire with a variety of ensembles spreads far and wide, and he often appears at the world's foremost festivals, such as Salzburg, Edinburgh, BBC Proms, Lucerne, Unsound Krakow, Musikprotkoll and Berlin.

Volkov's diverse discography includes Stravinsky's ballet scores and a Gramophone Award-winning recording of Britten's complete works for piano and orchestra, both for Hyperion, and a critically acclaimed survey of Liszt's three Funeral Odes with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. He has a podcast for Radio Halas, in which he explores his extensive musical tastes and interviews colleagues.

### SOLOIST & GUEST ARTIST

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#### Colin Currie - Percussion

Described by Steve Reich as «one of the greatest musicians in the world today», Colin is at the zenith of his career. The soloist of choice for many of today's foremost conductors, he performs regularly with the world's leading orchestras and ensembles including the London Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and The Cleveland Orchestra. With a particular focus on contemporary compositions, Colin has developed a close working relationship with many of today's most renowned composers. He has premiered works by Steve Reich, Elliott Carter, Louis Andriessen, HK Gruber, Sir James MacMillan, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Helen Grime, Jennifer Higdon, Rolf Wallin, Julia Wolfe and Kalevi Aho. Solo performances also occupy a good portion of his calendar - including during the 2020 lockdown - when he released his project Home Recital.

In addition to his career as a soloist, Colin is the founder of the Colin Currie Group, the Colin Currie Quartet, and Colin Currie Records – three ventures that celebrate and preserve the recent extraordinary developments in percussion music. As the leader of the Colin Currie ensembles, he regularly

«Ilan Volkov proved to be enormously expressive digging deep but allowing his players just the right amount of freedom. I'm not sure I have heard this music interpreted with more immaculacy and freshness than it was here. This was less a <played> performance – it was a white-hot interpretation created for the moment.»

Opera Today

«The world's finest and most daring percussionist»

The Spectator

conducts performances with the Colin Currie Group, and has begun to expand his work as a conductor to work with other ensembles as well. For example, he recently conducted «Reich/Richter» with the Britten Sinfonia at the request of the composer.



Colin began his musical studies at age five, and went on to graduate from the Royal Academy of Music in 1998. He was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in 1994, and received the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award in 2000, was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist between 2003 and 2005, received the Bortolotti Buitoni Trust Award in 2005, and the Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist Award in 2014. He is currently Artist in Association of Southbank Centre, London, and the Co-Artistic Curator of the 2021 Grafenegg Academy. Based in his native Scotland, he enjoys cycling and the theatre in his spare time.

## MENTORS

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Mentors of the Grafenegg Academy 2024 are musicians of leading international orchestras. The current names can be found on the website.

## WHAT YOU GET

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The Grafenegg Academy offers its members a new approach to advanced trainings.

A special focus of the Grafenegg Academy 2024 is the topic «improvisation». During the residency, a joint orchestral improvisation will be developed – which will be brought on stage at the final concert. Furthermore, there will be the chance to dive deeper into this topic experimentally in in-depth workshops and MusicLabs.

Further contents:

- In-depth (orchestral) training with outstanding artists
- Inspiring and rich diversity of repertoire – music that is not performed every day
- Exploring different ways of collaboration
- Ten days in close contact with the best young orchestra musicians from all over the world; the curator, mentors and facilitators of the program
- Music Labs and masterclasses focusing on professional needs in discussions and lectures with prominent figures give a multidisciplinary approach
- An opportunity to build your CV with new skills to increase your musical expertise and performance abilities
- Being part of a unique campus at the heart of Europe with first class resources and facilities in one of the world's greatest performance locations
- Networking possibilities and social activities
- A stipend of **up to € 850**, travel allowance, accommodation (more information below)



21/07<sup>so</sup>

**Orchestra Concert**

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

«Musikalisches Opfer» BWV 1079, Fuga (Ricercata) a 6 voci No. 5  
(Arr. for Orchestra: Anton Webern)

ANDREW NORMAN

«Switch» for Percussion and Orchestra

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Variations on a theme by Joseph Haydn in B-flat major op. 56a

ARNOLD SCHÖNBERG

Chamber Symphony for Large Orchestra No. 1 op. 9

... and other works!

**WHO IT IS FOR?**

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- Professional musicians and promising advanced music students  
(finished bachelor's degree)
- Age limit: 35 years
- Course language: English

Successful applicants will be highly talented young professional musicians at the start of their careers with a keen interest in further musical training that goes beyond the technical and merely athletic aspects of performing music. Curiosity, openness to new ideas, and an ambition to be a leader in tomorrow's musical landscape are all desirable qualities for those wishing to apply.

Selected participants are expected to be in residence for the full ten days of Grafenegg Academy and to be available to rehearse any day of the week – studying and rehearsing works in great depth with primary concern for the music and playing together itself.

**SCHEDULE 2024**

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The schedule will include daily rehearsals, Music Lab lectures and workshops, round table discussions, open rehearsals and other social gatherings.

11/07 · Arrival day

12/07–21/07 · Residence

20/07 · Late Night Concert

21/07 · Prélude Concert & Orchestra Concert

22/07 · Departure day

Grafenegg Academy fellows should arrive on Thursday, 11 July.  
The date of return travel home will be Monday 22 July.



Each position in the Grafenegg Academy is fully funded by Grafenegg and includes:

- Accommodation (in twin rooms) in the newly built Grafenegg Cottages: [grafenegg.com/cottages](https://grafenegg.com/cottages)
- All local transport to and from Vienna
- Subsistence costs / catering during the duration of the Grafenegg Academy
- An additional stipend **up to € 850** for the entire duration of Grafenegg Academy

Note: Travel expenses will be partially reimbursed after submitting an «Application for Travel Allowance». More information can be found in the document «How to apply for Travel Allowance». Participants can only submit an «Application for Travel Allowance» after they have received a fixed confirmation for their participation in the Grafenegg Academy.

## INVITATION TO APPLY

To qualify for application, applicants should be professional musicians or graduates of a music university (finished bachelor's degree) aged 35 years or younger, and play one of the following instruments:

Instrument	Details	Available positions
Violin	1st and 2nd Violin	22
Viola		8
Cello		6
Double bass		4
Flute	including Piccolo	3
Oboe	including English horn	3
Clarinet	including Eb-Clarinet, Bass horn and Bass clarinet	3
Bassoon	including Double bassoon	3
Horn		4
Trumpet		3
Trombone	Tenor trombone (one position including Bass trombone)	3
Tuba		1
Percussion	including Timpani	3
Harp		1
Piano		1

Please find details to all positions on MUVAC:  
<https://www.muvac.com/en/profile/grafenegg/vacancies>



There is no fee to apply for the Grafenegg Academy.

Interested musicians should upload a completed application by **Wednesday, 17 January 2024** at:

→ [muvac.com/grafenegg](https://muvac.com/grafenegg)

Completed applications require the following:

1 / **Curriculum vitae** in English (maximum of two pages)

2 / **List** of up to 20 contemporary works already performed

3 / **Audition videos:**

→ A piece of own choice (duration max. eight minutes)

→ Performance of a compulsory piece (Details can be found at the respective vacancy on MUVAC)

Please note that the recording must not be edited in any way. Before submitting a video audition application, make sure you read the document «Guidelines for Recording an Audition Video».

4. A **letter of motivation** in English about why you want to participate in the Grafenegg Academy, answering the following questions:

→ Why do you want to participate in the Grafenegg Academy?

→ What interests you most about the Grafenegg Academy?

→ What have been exciting or unusual projects you have participated in recently?

5. A **letter of recommendation** from a professional orchestra or a promoter of classical music concerts

Please note, that all documents must be uploaded via MUVAC. Only complete applications will be considered.

The Artistic Team headed by the Artistic Curator will decide on participation upon receipt of the application package and recordings. Successful candidates will be contacted by **Wednesday, 28 February 2024** with further information.

Should applicants find, after making an application, that they are no longer able to attend the Grafenegg Academy during the specified dates, we ask them to please let us know as soon as possible, and definitely before Wednesday, 14 February 2024.

## INFORMATION & APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

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Please find additional information: [grafenegg.com/call-for-musicians](https://grafenegg.com/call-for-musicians)

### Contact

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