



Artistic Curator & Conductor

Jörg Widmann

Period

02/07 – 13/07/2025

The Grafenegg Academy provides talented young musicians the opportunity to learn and perform in an inspiring environment alongside acclaimed personalities from the world of classical music. Since its founding in 2021, the Grafenegg Academy has gained international recognition, inviting top applicants each summer to form a prestigious orchestra. Through intensive rehearsals, workshops, and diverse concert formats, the Grafenegg Academy fosters artistic development and reflects the diverse career paths of modern musicians.

WHAT YOU GET

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

A special focus of the Grafenegg Academy 2025 will be on the topic of «sound». There will be workshops and MusicLabs in which this theme will be explored in an experimental and creative way.

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)



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 2024 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, Colin Currie, Ilan Volkov and Jonathan Bloxham among its ranks.

Grafenegg Academy's approach 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 one concert day with an orchestra concert 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.

ARTISTIC CURATOR & CONDUCTOR

Jörg Widmann

Jörg Widmann is considered one of the most versatile and intriguing artists of his generation. The 2024/25 season sees him appear in all facets of his work, as a clarinetist, conductor and composer, including his second season as Principal Guest Conductor of NDR Radiophilharmonie and Creative Partner of Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, Artistic Partner of Sinfonietta Riga and Associated Conductor of Münchener Kammerorchester.



Following recent important conducting projects with orchestras such as Berliner Philharmoniker and Symphony Orchestra of the Bavarian Radio, in the 2024/25 season Jörg Widmann appears with Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan or the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona. Other highlights include his residency with Stavanger Symphony Orchestra and the Spanish premiere of his work «Danse macabre» performed by the National Orchestra of Spain in Madrid under his baton. 2025 sees Widmann make his debuts at the helm of BBC National Orchestra of Wales and NHK Symphony Orchestra for the orchestra's Music Tomorrow series, the programme of which includes the Japanese premieres of «Danse macabre» and the trumpet concerto «Towards Paradise» with soloist Håkan Hardenberger. Re-invitations take him to Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa amongst others.

Jörg Widmann also continues his longstanding chamber music partnerships with renowned artists such as Antoine Tamestit, Sir András Schiff, Carolin Widmann, Sarah Aristidou, Nicolas Altstaedt, Denés Varjon and Hagen Quartet and performs chamber recitals at Musikverein Wien, Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin and Alte Oper Frankfurt.

Widmann gave the world premiere of Mark Andre's Clarinet Concerto «über» at the Donaueschinger Musiktage 2015. Other clarinet concertos dedicated to and written for him include Wolfgang Rihm's «Musik für Klarinette und Orchester» (1999) and Aribert Reimann's «Cantus» (2006).

His compositions are performed regularly by conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Daniel Harding, Kent Nagano, Franz Welser-Möst, Christian Thielemann, Iván Fischer, Andris Nelsons and Sir Simon Rattle and premiered by orchestras as Wiener and Berliner Philharmoniker, New York Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, London Symphony Orchestra, and many others.

Jörg Widmann studied clarinet with Gerd Starke in Munich and Charles Neidich at the Juilliard School in New York and later became himself Professor of Clarinet and Composition, first at University of Music Freiburg and since 2017 as Chair Professor for Composition at the Barenboim-Said Academy Berlin. In June 2024 Jörg Widmann was named a member of The Royal Swedish Academy of Music in consideration of his merits to musical art. He is a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and a full member of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, Free Academy of the Arts in Hamburg (2007), German Academy of Dramatic Arts and Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz (2016) and received an Honorary Doctorate from University of Limerick, Ireland in February 2023.

He studied composition with Kay Westermann, Wilfried Hiller, Hans Werner Henze and Wolfgang Rihm. His works continue to receive many awards, most recently Bach-Preis der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg, as well as Musikpreis der Landeshauptstadt München.

SOLOIST

Carolin Widmann – Violin

A wonderfully versatile musician, Carolin Widmann's worldwide activities span the great classical concerti, new commissions specially written for her, solo recitals, a wide variety of chamber music and period instrument performances, including play/direction from the violin.

Widmann was awarded the Bayerischer Staatspreis for music in 2017. She was also the recipient of an International Classical Music Award



for her recording of both Mendelssohn's and Schumann's Violin Concertos with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, which she herself conducted from the violin.

Named «Musician of the Year» at the International Classical Music Awards 2013, Carolin Widmann will debut with an extensive number of orchestras over the 2024/25 season, including with the Danish National Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Further highlights will include the Robert Gerhard concerto with Orquestra Sinfònica de Barcelona, a Kurt Weill inspired play-direct programme with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris featuring Ute Lemper, a tribute to Kaija Saariaho with SWR Symphonieorchester and the UK premiere of Jorg Widmann's Violin Concerto No. 2 with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. She will also be the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini's artist-in-residence for the 24/25 season.

Chamber music projects for this season will include two recitals at the Pierre Boulez Saal; a quartet programme with Nils Monkemyer, Julian Steckel and William Youn, as well a solo project for violin and electronics; and a return to the Alte Oper Frankfurt.

Carolin Widmann is playing a G.B. Guadagnini violin from 1782 which is on loan from a Charitable Trust.

MENTORS

Mentors of the Grafenegg Academy 2025 are musicians of leading international orchestras.

CONCERT PROGRAMMES

12/07^{Sat}

Prélude

JÖRG WIDMANN
Dubairische Tänze / u.a.

12/07^{Sat}

Orchestra Concert

FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY
«The Hebrides» Overture op. 26

JÖRG WIDMANN
Violin Concerto No. 2

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Symphony No. 7 in A major op. 92

WHO IT IS FOR?



- 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.

INVITATION TO APPLY

The following positions are available:

Instrument	Details	Available pos.
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 clarinet Doublebass clarinet	3
Bassoon	including Double bassoon	3
Horn		4
Trumpet		3
Trombone	Tenor trombone	2
Tuba		1
Percussion	including Timpani	3

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, 15 January 2025** at:

→ 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 vacancy on MUVAC for the respective instrument)

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, 26 February 2025** 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, 12 February 2025.

SCHEDULE 2025

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

02/07 · Arrival day
03/07–12/07 · Residence
12/07 · Prélude & Orchestra Concert
13/07 · Departure day

Grafenegg Academy fellows should arrive on Wednesday, 02 July.
The date of return travel home will be Sunday 13 July.



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

- Accommodation (in twin rooms) in the Grafenegg Cottages:
[grafenegg.com/cottages](https://www.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.

INFORMATION & APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

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

Contact

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Fateme Beytollahi · Orchestra Manager

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