



## Press kit

**Concert  
ODE – Orchestre Démon Europe.**

**Paris**  
Saturday, 26 February 2022, 8 p.m.

**Under the High Patronage of  
Mr Emmanuel Macron  
President of the French Republic**



## Press contacts – Philharmonie de Paris

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“Music above all else...”, exhorts Paul Verlaine in his poem *Art poétique*. To make this wonderful suggestion a reality, the cultural programme marking the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union puts a strong focus on music.

With the ODE – Orchestre Démon Europe, the flagship project of this semester, the general public will discover the strength and extent of the know-how of major French and European cultural institutions in the field of cultural democratisation – and even more, the power of their alliance.

For several months now, in each of the 27 European Union Member States, 120 young musicians from culturally disadvantaged backgrounds have been practising the same tunes in concert and are preparing a real-life event, starting 19 February at the Philharmonie de Paris. These young people have found each other through the notes of Maurice Ravel, the distant landscapes of Edward Grieg, traditional Gypsy tunes, Ludwig van Beethoven and a new piece devised by Alexandros Markeas. Together, these young people and their teachers are working on a common project, much to our pleasure.

For over a decade, the Démon orchestras, supported by the Philharmonie de Paris, have trained hundreds of young people to play a musical instrument, thanks to the support of committed and passionate musicians and teachers.

Under the direction of conductors Corinna Niemeyer and Aurélien Azan Zielinski, exceptional guides for these young people, we will see the magic of music at work in the Grande salle Pierre Boulez on 26 February. This magic that creates links beyond words, uniting people beyond differences and borders.

Music education professionals also took the opportunity to organise a seminar to discuss the construction of a Europe of Music. What a great idea!

I like to see this ODE – Orchestre Démon Europe as a mirror of the European society to come. And what if Music were to be the language of Europe?

**Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin**  
Minister of Culture

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France holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union this semester. It is both an honour and a privilege to be able to bring together all the Member States of the European Union for six months around values they hold dear. One of these values is European culture. This is what underpins our common identity and belonging. And France is determined to promote this during its Presidency.

In this respect, I would like to thank the Philharmonie de Paris for having supported this wonderful initiative, which consists of bringing together young people aged 12 to 17 from the 27 Member States of the European Union for a week to work together on a social project, in the full sense of the term. This project, supported by France under its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, is emblematic of the links we want to create among European youth, and of the new opportunities that music can bring. These young people will perform on stage, playing some of the best romantic, impressionist and European folk music, as well as more recent compositions.

I hope that the young people gathered during this week at the Philharmonie, and during the joint performance on 26 February, will be able to build on this initiative to inspire others to join. I hope that this experience will give them a taste for practising European languages, travelling in the Union and bringing our common culture to life, whether they choose to make their career in music or in other fields. I would also like to thank the professionals who have prepared them in advance of this meeting, as well as those who have accompanied them during this week of rehearsals and workshops, including the conductors Corinna Niemeyer and Aurélien Azan Zielinski. I wish you all a good listening experience!

**Clément Beaune**  
Minister of State for European Affairs

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The Orchestre Démon Europe (ODE), placed under the High Patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, and created during the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, is without a doubt one of the most beautiful depictions of the values of the Cité de la musique – Philharmonie de Paris.

Sharing artistic excellence with young people who lack opportunities to play music is one of the beliefs on which this establishment was founded. While receiving great artists from all over the world, the establishment developed its educational outreach initiatives throughout France. This led to the creation of Démon – Musical and Orchestral Education Outreach Programme. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor Laurent Bayle who, together with the teams of the Philharmonie, developed these orchestras in which over 10,000 children have already participated. It is with the same intention that he supported this European orchestra, taking a new step in implementing this initiative beyond our borders.

Thanks to the support of the Presidency of the French Republic, the Ministry of Culture and the office of the Minister of State for European Affairs, these 120 young people have come together at the Philharmonie de Paris for one week to form an orchestra conducted by Corinna Niemeyer and Aurélien Azan Zielinski. They will be joined by the Orchestre de Paris' Children and Youth Choir to perform an extract from the finale of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, with the participation of children from the EVE project.

I would like to commend the young people and their families for taking part in this adventure, despite the difficulties caused by the public health situation. I would also like to commend the professional musicians and the supervisors who have been supporting the young people for several months, as well as the French embassies and the network of European partner organizations who aided in the recruitment process and, of course, the teams of the Philharmonie de Paris. Thank you to all who participated in building this orchestra, a symbol of European youth engagement and the values that unite us.

**Olivier Mantei**  
Director-General of the Cité de la musique – Philharmonie de Paris

## The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 January 2022, for the first time in 14 years, France took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. How does the Council of the EU work and what will France's role be?

### *What does the Presidency of the Council of the European Union involve?*

#### **A rotating Presidency**

Each Member State holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months on a rotational basis. **France will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2022.** The Presidency of the Council organizes meetings, brokers compromises, submits conclusions and ensures the coherency and continuity of the decision-making process. It ensures good cooperation between all Member States and acts as a liaison between the Council and the European institutions, in particular the Commission and European Parliament.

### *What is the Council of the European Union?*

The Council of the European Union, also called the Council of Ministers, or simply the Council, brings together the ministers of the EU Member States who meet in configurations by sector of activity. It serves as the co-legislator of the European Union, along with the European Parliament.

Concretely, ministers will chair ten sectors or configurations of the Council of the EU:

- general affairs;
- economic and financial affairs;
- justice and home affairs;
- employment, social policy, health and consumer protection policy;
- competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space);
- transport, telecommunications and energy;
- agriculture and fisheries; environment;
- education, youth, culture and sport;
- trade.

Exceptionally, the Foreign Affairs Council is chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, currently Mr Josep Borrell.

The Council also has budgetary powers; it adopts and amends the European budget with the Parliament. Lastly, the Council adopts certain decisions as well as non-binding recommendations, concludes international agreements on behalf of the EU, and appoints members of certain institutions such as the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions. The Council's deliberations and votes on legislative texts are public.

### *What is the framework for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union?*

The PFUE follows the main policy lines that President Macron set out in his speech for a sovereign, united and democratic Europe on 26 September 2017 at the Sorbonne. For the past four years, President Macron and the Government have been working to build a genuine European sovereignty, meaning Europe's ability to exist in the world to defend our values and interests. The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union will continue this work for a more inclusive, sovereign and democratic Europe.

The PFUE coordinates within the trio presidency programme, with which France aligns its action. This system, which has existed since 2009, sets long-term goals and defines the main topics to be addressed over a period of 18 months. After the Slovenian Presidency, France will begin a new cycle and will work as a trio with the Czech Republic in the second half of 2022 and Sweden in the first half of 2023.

#### **Nearly 400 events**

A total of nearly 400 events planned in France and the EU will punctuate the Presidency: political meetings, a cultural programme and citizen events open to everyone.

Also, in order to make sure the French Presidency reaches citizens, the events will be held throughout the national territory and abroad.



#### For more information:

[www.europe2022.fr](http://www.europe2022.fr)

 [facebook.com/Europe2022FR](https://facebook.com/Europe2022FR)

 [instagram.com/europe2022fr](https://instagram.com/europe2022fr)

 [linkedin.com/company/europe2022fr](https://linkedin.com/company/europe2022fr)

 [twitter.com/Europe2022FR](https://twitter.com/Europe2022FR)

 [youtube.com/c/francediplomatie](https://youtube.com/c/francediplomatie)

 [flickr.com/photos/francediplomatie/albums](https://flickr.com/photos/francediplomatie/albums)

Event organised in compliance with the sustainable development criteria marking the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

## Philharmonie de Paris

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The Cité de la musique – Philharmonie de Paris, located in the Parc de la Villette, is a unique musical complex that combines four concert halls, a Museum of Music, the Orchestre de Paris, temporary exhibition halls, a number of educational spaces, a media library, the Philharmonie des enfants (a new permanent space dedicated to the artistic awakening of 4-10 year olds) as well as rehearsal rooms for orchestras and musicians.

Its activities take place within an exceptional architectural complex designed by Christian de Portzamparc (Cité de la Musique) and Jean Nouvel (Philharmonie de Paris). Resident ensembles and innovative artistic projects contribute to making Philharmonie de Paris a unique cultural centre in the world that encourages the appropriation of music by a wide variety of publics.

The venue offers a high-performance facility for the Orchestre de Paris and other national and international symphony orchestras that were unable to find, in Paris, an equivalent to the large modern concert halls of other international capitals.

Whilst two thirds of the season's concerts are devoted to the classical repertoire, from baroque music to contemporary works, other music styles (jazz, pop, world musics) and projects combining music and other artistic forms, such as film concerts, also feature regularly.

The Philharmonie de Paris also inherits two decades of experience in education. Since its inauguration in 1995, the Cité de la Musique has developed activities for everyone, ensuring a diversity of perspectives that includes non-European cultures and popular art forms.

### The Démos children's orchestras

The Démos children's orchestras, developed throughout France, bring music to places one might not expect. Démos is a cultural democratisation project focused on the playing of music as part of an orchestra. It provides classical music training to children lacking easy access to this practice in existing institutions for economic, geographical and social reasons. Initially focused on the greater Paris area, the Démos project was rolled out nationally from 2015 and now has more than fifty orchestras across France, including overseas territories.

## ODE – Orchestre Démon Europe

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The establishment continues and expands this policy of education and cultural democratisation. Drawing on these riches, the Philharmonie de Paris has set itself the task of rethinking the role played by the Concert in our lives, by putting it at the heart of an open system, encouraging all forms of assimilation, whether educational or recreational. Located in a fast-developing area of eastern Paris, the Philharmonie de Paris is a link between the capital and its surroundings, and is intended to be a place of gathering.

France is holding the presidency of the European Union from January to June 2022. On this occasion, the Philharmonie de Paris brought together, in an ambitious and highly symbolic project, an orchestra of 120 young musicians from the 27 Union Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

This orchestra is mainly composed of young people aged between 12 and 17 from cultural democratisation programmes, whose social aims towards “living and growing together” are primary and meaningful in a community of nations.

Such aims have been embodied in France by the Démon project since it was created by the Cité de la musique – Philharmonie de Paris in 2010. It has many equivalents in Europe, often grouped under the definition “Sistema-inspired”. The name “El Sistema” refers to the children’s orchestras created in the underprivileged neighbourhoods of Venezuela in the 1970s. This initiative has inspired many others in Latin America, then in Europe and in other regions of the world.

### Composition of the European orchestra Orchestre Démon Europe

The wish was to identify partners in each of the European Union Member States, based on those countries that have relevant well-structured organisations, in order to form an orchestra in which they are all represented.

Young people aged 12/17 years are already both capable of autonomy and likely to have musical skills of good level amateurs. They are also symbolically the ambassadors of the young generations who are to become the responsible Europeans of tomorrow.

### Steering committee

A task force and a project team were created with representatives of the Philharmonie de Paris, the Démon team and the Sistema Europe network.

This team began by mapping the main European organisations that could each recruit and support a group of young musicians. The French diplomatic network also helped to identify potential partners in certain countries where identification was less obvious.

## Selection of participants

The task force then defined the criteria for participation. It seemed appropriate to create a standard application form to be filled by programme coordinators in the various countries, suggesting their “dream team” of 6 to 8 children, depending on capacity.

The musical proficiency was centred around the “intermediate” to upper intermediate level. The forces of the orchestra, on the basis of applications, were calibrated by the D mos team in agreement with the repertoire committee.

Going up to 17 years old helped the task force to recruit more advanced young musicians capable of playing a leadership role in the orchestra, with no need to recruit professional musicians in the instrumental forces.

## Repertoire

Classical composers have a prominent place in the orchestra’s programme. The existing D mos repertoire is an important resource for pieces by classical European composers identified with different European geographical areas (Germanic, Scandinavian, Southern European cultures). The members of the repertoire committee were responsible for the choices.

Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” is obviously emblematic and is therefore a centrepiece on the programme. The idea was to associate the orchestra with a choir of young people of the same age, active in France. To perform this piece, the musicians are joined by a choir: Orchestre de Paris’ Children and Youth Choir and the participation of children from the EVE project, with the participation of children from the EVE project (which in French stands for “Together we Exist with our Voice”). Together, they conclude the concert and the week with this famous European anthem.

A new commission, with specifications that were defined and proposed by the steering committee, is also part of the orchestra’s repertoire: it has been entrusted to Alexandros Markeas.

## 45 minutes of music

**ODE – ORCHESTRE D MOS EUROPE / CORINNA NIEMEYER & AUR LIEN AZAN ZIELINSKI, CONDUCTING**

**Modest Mussorgski / Maurice Ravel**

*Pictures at an Exhibition (Promenade – The Old Castle – Bydlo – The Great Gate of Kiev)*

**Edward Grieg**

*Peer Gynt (In the Hall of the Mountain King, Arabian Dance)*

**Traditional Gypsy Aires**

*Ritmos Ciganos*

**Alexandros Markeas**

*Freedom, She Yells! (premiere)*

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

*Symphonie No. 9 - Ode to Joy*

With the Orchestre de Paris’ Children and Youth Choir and the participation of children from the EVE project

## Schedule of the week at the Philharmonie de Paris

After having worked on the concert programme in their respective countries, the young musicians will meet in Paris starting on 19 February 2022, hosted by the Philharmonie, where they will follow an intensive rehearsal schedule. They will be mentored by professional musicians and led by orchestral conductors Corinna Niemeyer and Aur lien Azan Zielinski. This will also be an opportunity for them to discover Paris and to connect with fellow European musicians.

## Calendar

**SATURDAY, 19 FEBRUARY** – The young people and their supervisors arrive in Paris

**SUNDAY, 20 FEBRUARY** – Rehearsal (morning) – Sightseeing in Paris (afternoon)

**MONDAY, 21 TO THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY** – Rehearsals in the morning and afternoon – Sightseeing in Paris on Wednesday afternoon

**FRIDAY, 25 FEBRUARY** – Rehearsal (morning) – Visit to a museum (afternoon) 7.30 p.m. Dress rehearsal in the Grande salle Pierre Boulez

**SATURDAY, 26 FEBRUARY** – Rehearsal (morning) – Concert at 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, 27 FEBRUARY** – The young people and their supervisors leave

On Thursday, 24 and Friday 25 February, in addition to the ODE – Orchestre Démos Europe rehearsals, musical education professionals from the EU Member States will come together to hold a professional seminar at the Philharmonie de Paris. They will share practices and experience and will discuss the major challenges associated with education policies and building the Europe of the future.

## ODE – ORCHESTRE DÉMOS EUROPE'S PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

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### France – Démos – Musical and Orchestral Education Outreach Programme

Founded by the Cité de la musique in 2010 and now run by the Philharmonie de Paris, Démos is a cultural democratisation project focused on the playing of music as part of an orchestra. Within an overarching educational and artistic structure, it provides classical music training to children lacking easy access to this practice in existing institutions for economic, geographical and social reasons. The project is aimed at children aged seven to twelve living in neighbourhoods designated 'urban policy areas' or in 'rural revitalisation zones' situated far from music practice sites. Every child is lent a musical instrument for three years. They take weekly classes (lasting three and a half hours on average) given by music professionals and staff working in the social sector, and they regularly meet the other children in the same area for an orchestral rehearsal (*tutti*). A large concert is held at the end of the season in a prestigious local venue. After three years, the child can receive support to enter a conservatoire or music school in their area, and sometimes join an advanced-level Démos orchestra, in which case they get to keep their musical instrument. Initially focused on the greater Paris area, the Démos project was rolled out nationally from 2015 and now has more than fifty orchestras across France, including overseas territories.

[demos.philharmoniedeparis.fr](https://demos.philharmoniedeparis.fr)



## Europe – Sistema Europe

[www.sistemaeurope.org](http://www.sistemaeurope.org)

Founded in 2012, Sistema Europe is a regional network for projects of social inclusion through music that aspire to carry out activities true to the principles of the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras and Choirs originally created in Venezuela. Its mission and vision are dedicated to children and young people from every section of European society reaching their full potential through the practice of orchestral and choral ensemble music making, always respecting the tenets of accessibility and artistic quality. More than 40 formal members constitute the Sistema Europe Association, and the extended network spans over 30 countries. A very meaningful milestone in the development of the network is the close collaboration with the ODE – Orchestre Démon Europe initiative, involving 15 programmes among the members of Sistema Europe.

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## SUPERAR

### Austria – Superar Austria

[www.superar.eu](http://www.superar.eu)

Superar is an initiative empowering children and young people to overcome their socio-economic boundaries through active music-making, offering equal opportunities to each child. Superar courses are free and open to every child regardless of their musical skills. As a movement, Superar aims to make a real difference by creating a tangible sense of social cohesion as well as making music. The aim is to offer high-quality singing and instrumental lessons which are easily accessible and focus on positive educational methods to build self-esteem and nurture the personality of every participating child. Since its foundation in 2009, Superar has expanded its programmes to seven countries – Austria, Switzerland, Slovakia, Bosnia, Romania, Liechtenstein and Hungary – reaching over 3,000 children. Superar will continue to expand its musical network across Europe over the long term.

## Belgium – Mons Academy of Music, Dance and Declamatory Arts

[www.academiedemons.be](http://www.academiedemons.be)

Belgian music academies are schools subsidised by the French Community offering free artistic training to all children, adolescents and adults wishing to learn an instrument. From a very early age, they are taught music theory and how to play instruments, including as part of an ensemble, by teachers trained at one of the Royal Conservatoires or equivalents. This training offers the possibility of a career in music, principally through preparation for the entrance exam to a Conservatoire or advanced school, but it is above all an opportunity for the thousands of students in our academies to open their minds – and their ears – to other forms of learning, providing a plethora of new tools, whatever the field in which they choose to shine.



## Bulgaria – Musik statt Strasse

[musik-statt-strasse.jimdofree.com](http://musik-statt-strasse.jimdofree.com)

The children's charity Musik statt Strasse ("Music Not Street") was founded in 2008 by the Bulgarian violin virtuoso Georgi Kalaidjiev and his partner Maria Hauschild, who holds a master's degree in education. It supports children from the poor neighbourhood of Nadeschda in Sliven, Bulgaria, Georgi's birthplace. It has opened up paths out of poverty and hopelessness for hundreds of girls and boys by teaching them classical music, providing further education and vocational guidance, and providing them with the necessities of life. The children are taught by professional musicians, with support from a psychologist. Georgi and Maria collect funds for the project and travel to Bulgaria nearly every month. They also organise big concerts where the children play with famous Bulgarian orchestras. Everything is financed by private donations from Germany and our benefit concerts, and is supported by voluntary work.



## Croatia – SO DO – El Sistema Croatia

[www.so-do.hr](http://www.so-do.hr)

Sustav Orkestara Djece i Omladine, abbreviated SO DO – El Sistema Croatia, is the only symphony orchestra for children and young people in Croatia. It has been operating since 2014. The El Sistema methodology was devised in Venezuela forty-six years ago and is now applied in more than sixty countries around the world. It is based on group musical education through a symphony orchestra. By its nature, the orchestra is a model of an ideal social community because, through joint learning and practice, it adopts the highest social values – solidarity, compassion, mutual assistance, respect – as well as social skills such as listening, communication, teamwork, discipline and cooperation. There are two SO DO centres in Croatia – one in Zagreb and one in Istria – that have been working continuously since 2014. The extensive programme is free for all participants and fully inclusive. As a member of Sistema Europe, SO DO participates in regional projects and collaborates with world-renowned musicians and conductors.



## Cyprus – Sistema Cyprus

[www.sistemacyprus.com](http://www.sistemacyprus.com)

Sistema Cyprus is a social orchestra and choir programme established in 2018. Sistema Cyprus offers musical education to the children and young people of Cyprus, including migrants, refugees, and children and young people with fewer opportunities, and ensures that these groups are respected, recognised and included in society. Sistema Cyprus is inspired by the El Sistema social action music programme that first founded in Venezuela in 1975. Through the formation of orchestras and choirs, El Sistema acts as a superb model, reaching children and young people in many of the world's challenging neighbourhoods. El Sistema and inspired programmes, like ours, offer free classical music education that gives children and youth with fewer opportunities all over the world the opportunity for personal development of its participants, primarily through empowerment and helping them reach their full potential.



## Czech Republic – Harmonie Foundation

[www.nfharmonie.cz](http://www.nfharmonie.cz)

In 2009, the Golden Prague TV Festival was won by a German documentary on El Sistema. This led to the establishment of the Sistema inspired Prague Harmonie Foundation. As the founding members – a journalist and film maker – were not from the music world, the foundation's first steps were quite challenging. Working in Prague primary schools, the Harmonie Foundation was free to all children from the very start regardless of their social or racial background. The training (three times a week) is free of charge, and its high quality has always been a main target. One of the first conductors to help us with the project was Chuhei Iwasaki, the new chief conductor of the Pilsen Philharmonic. To share the joy of performing in an orchestra, we started Open Air concerts in 2016, inviting amateur musicians to join us in performing with our orchestra accompanied by our patron, the 2020 winner of the BBC Music Magazine Award, pianist Ivo Kahánek. The Harmonie Foundation is a founding member of Sistema Europe. Over the years some of our "little" musicians could experience the amazing celebration of music organized by Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra or Sistema Europe Youth Orchestra summer camps.



## Denmark – MusikSak

MusikSak was founded in February 2015 by the twin sisters and cellists Rebecca and Gabriella de Carvalho e Silva Fuglsig. It is based at Hasle Skole, a public school in the western part of Aarhus, Denmark. What led them to found the programme was an urge to share their love for and the benefits of learning music with a group of people who would not find their way to it by themselves. The main pillar of MusikSak is of course the orchestral training, through which children learn to listen to each other, to respect one another, to collaborate and, perhaps most importantly, to set goals and reach them through their dedicated work in the orchestra. MusikSak was adopted by the local public music school in 2017, meaning more stability and security about the future. Over the years, MusikSak has participated in several Sistema camps in Europe – travelling to Athens, Birmingham and Gothenburg. This is an important part of MusikSak: maintaining a good connection with sister programmes in Europe, getting inspired, building new bridges for the future and showing kids that through their dedication, they can open so many doors to a better future!



## Estonia – European Orchestra Federation (EOFed)

[eofed.org](http://eofed.org)

European Orchestra Federation (EOFed) is an umbrella organisation of European youth and amateur symphony and chamber orchestras. Twenty-three countries are represented in EOFed, with more than 2,500 orchestras and 105,000 musicians. Our members include thirteen national orchestra federations, as well as festivals, educational associations and individual orchestras from those countries lacking a national orchestra federation. EOFed runs events, projects, meetings, conferences, a music library and international sheet music lending service, networking and communication services, and the European Orchestra Festival which is held in different European venues every three years.



## Estonia – Estonian Symphony Orchestras Association (Eesti Sümfooniaorkestrite Liit/ESOL)

[www.orkestrid.ee](http://www.orkestrid.ee)

Estonian Symphony Orchestras Association (Eesti Sümfooniaorkestrite Liit/ESOL) was founded in 1999. It comprises twenty-eight youth symphony and string orchestras. The main objectives of the ESOL are arranging festivals, concerts, workshops, seminars and other events, advocating learning of orchestral instruments, sharing repertoires and information, participation in international projects, involvement with the Estonian National Song Festival and the founding of new orchestras. ESOL has run annual or biannual national youth orchestra festivals in Tallinn, Pärnu, Jõhvi, Valga, Paide, Tartu and Narva. The biggest event the union has organised to date was the 9<sup>th</sup> European Orchestra Festival in Tallinn in spring 2012, which involved over 700 amateur and youth orchestra musicians from twelve European countries. It also organised a tour of orchestras to St. Petersburg with concerts in famous music halls such as the St. Petersburg State Conservatory Music Hall. Since 2013, the association had held youth orchestra concerts every spring in Tallinn Town Hall Square as party of the Old Town Days Festival.



## Finland – Tempo Orchestra – Sistema Finland

[www.sistемаfinland.fi](http://www.sistемаfinland.fi)

The Tempo orchestras of Sistema Finland offer children the opportunity to play music on an equal footing without registration fees or entrance exams, using borrowed instruments. The sessions take place in school breaktimes as well as during afternoon classes. The children generally have orchestra rehearsals twice a week, plus one individual fifteen-minute lesson each week. Tempo is inspired by the work of El Sistema, which has spread across the world from Venezuela, with its operating model adapted to Finnish society. El Sistema's starting point is a social/community one, but the music education is nevertheless of great quality, enabling pupils to continue their studies in music schools or conservatoires. Most of the orchestras are run by music schools. Tempo orchestras exist in the main regions of Finland, with strong demand for expansion. The young people taking part in the ODE – Orchestre Démon Europe project come from the Tampere Tempo orchestra, which operates in partnership with the regional music school Pirkanmaan Musiikkiopisto.

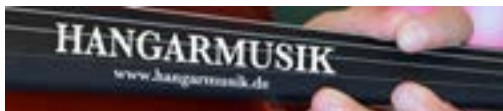


## Germany – Al-Farabi Musikakademie Berlin

[www.al-farabi.de](http://www.al-farabi.de)

The Al-Farabi Music Academy aims to bring together young refugees and Berlin-based children and young people, as well as their families, through music. It was founded in 2016 by current board members Felix Krieger, Salem Abboud Ashkar and Peter Bleckmann, and was named after the medieval musicologist and philosopher Al-Farabi, who exemplifies the cultural exchange between East and West. Around 150 children currently receive musical instruction in the Al-Farabi Music Academy by a team of twenty-one teachers, students and volunteers in five Berlin districts. The Academy works with twenty-five partners including schools, community shelters, neighbourhood centres and cultural institutions. In 2020, Al-Farabi was awarded the international Adolf Busch Award for its commitment to creating a more equitable world through music. Moreover, the work of the Academy has received positive media nationwide, especially over the past two years. Al-Farabi Music Academy collaborates with major concert halls such as the Konzerthaus Berlin and the Zitadelle Spandau.





## Germany – Hangarmusik

[www.hangarmusik.de](http://www.hangarmusik.de)

Hangarmusik is a Sistema-inspired programme for the societal integration of refugee children in Berlin, which gives children with no prior musical experience the opportunity to play orchestra music together with local children. All of the abilities required for playing orchestra music are acquired in rehearsals. Hangarmusik promotes social skills, stability, the intercultural integration of individuals and the acquisition of cultural tools via the medium of European orchestra music. The project was initiated by Leila Weber and Andreas Knapp in an emergency refugee shelter in the former Tempelhof Airport building in Berlin.



el sistema greece

## Greece – El Sistema Greece

[elsistema.gr](http://elsistema.gr)

El Sistema Greece is a community music project that has been providing free music education to children and young people in Greece without restrictions or discrimination since 2016. All children – no matter their origin, nationality or religion – are not only inspired to strive for a better future, but, thanks to music, are given a platform for dialogue and togetherness across diverse communities. Inspired by El Sistema in Venezuela, which puts ensemble work at the centre of the learning process, the programme has a long-term commitment to addressing the lack of educational provision, integration and visibility for the most vulnerable children in Greece. Run initially in refugee camps in the wider Athens region, El Sistema Greece soon started focusing on integration too, not only for young refugees but also for underprivileged sectors of the Greek population. Today, El Sistema Greece operates through five different branches in the regions of Attica and Corinth, while its multicultural orchestra and choir ensembles perform on some of Greece's most prestigious stages. Through musical development and ensemble work, the programme empowers its students to become active members of society and cultivates the essence of belonging. It aims to build a society without borders, either physical or intellectual, where music and all the arts are free and accessible for everyone. El Sistema Greece's mission is to demonstrate that music is a universal language that knows no borders.



## Hungary – Symphonia Foundation

[www.symphonia.hu](http://www.symphonia.hu)

The Symphonia Foundation (founded in 2012 by Hungarian piano artist György Oravecz) is a community-based music programme that fosters social change by providing everyday musical education to underprivileged children and young people – mainly of Roma origin – inspired by the Venezuelan El Sistema and the Hungarian Kodály Method. As of 2022, we work with more than 1,800 children in twenty-two locations across Hungary, with the help of ninety qualified music teachers. We teach children aged six to eighteen how to play brass, woodwind, percussion and string instruments. Our pupils and their families do not have to pay any tuition fees. A large percentage of our pupils live in extreme poverty in segregated Roma settlements. Our work is therefore not limited to musical education: our teachers provide mental, social and emotional support too. At the end of the school year, we take our children to summer camp – sometimes their only holiday – which provides a further chance to make music together and to enjoy new experiences. Some of our children are already pursuing higher musical education, have won awards at various musical competitions, attended festivals and performed for high-ranking diplomats. For children who usually fail at school, making music together and giving regular performances results in a sense of competence and achievement, and, in the long run, motivation and a vision for the future. We give them community, hope and opportunity. Our motto is 'Music takes you far'.



## Ireland – Irish Chamber Orchestra – 'Sing Out with Strings' programme

[www.irishchamberorchestra.com](http://www.irishchamberorchestra.com)

The Irish Chamber Orchestra is Ireland's leading professional chamber orchestra. Based in the city of Limerick, ICO's 'Sing Out with Strings' programme is an initiative that offers 350 school children living in areas of social-economic disadvantage free weekly music lessons as part of their school day. The programme provides orchestral string tuition, song-writing, afterschool clubs and holiday camps. Students benefit not only from their regular 'in school' tuition but from the opportunity to learn, perform and associate with the ICO's world class professional musicians on a regular basis, forming strong bonds and creating a lasting impact for all involved. Recent

programme developments have seen the creation of our teenage chamber orchestra, ICOYO; the extension of our community support to tertiary education level; and the launch of our free resource-sharing website [www.sows.ie](http://www.sows.ie) aimed at similar programmes around the world.



## Italy – SONG – Sistema in Lombardia

[www.sistemalombardia.eu](http://www.sistemalombardia.eu)

SONG – Sistema in Lombardia was established in 2011 for the introduction of collective music education in Italy according to the original principles of El Sistema on social integration, cultural enhancement and aesthetic development. The project was initiated in close cooperation with Maestro Claudio Abbado, pursuing the tenets of both cultural accessibility and artistic quality; it now also focuses on equality, diversity and inclusion. SONG operates within schools as well as in outreach centres, having expanded from its core territory in Milan to a wider network, encompassing associated partners such as music schools and city councils. Its instrumental and vocal ensembles – such as PYO (Pasquinelli Young Orchestra and Coro SONG) often perform at public events, so ensuring an ongoing awareness of its acknowledged role in the relevant communities.



## Latvia – Jāzeps Medinš Rīga 1<sup>st</sup> Music School

[www.jmr1ms.lv](http://www.jmr1ms.lv)

The Jāzeps Medinš Rīga 1<sup>st</sup> Music School is the largest music school in Latvia with a long history that dates to the beginning of the twentieth century. The school is in the capital, Riga, not far from the Riga Art Nouveau Centre. Every year there are 700 students, taught by 120 teachers. The school offers twenty-two educational programmes. Students can learn keyboard, string, wind and percussion instruments, as well as singing in boys' or girls' choirs. As well as individual lessons, students participate in different instrumental collective music groups such as the Intermezzo wind orchestra, the Armonico chamber orchestra, and a symphony orchestra. High-quality musical education is the school's priority, alongside student practice facilities, seminars, and master classes for teachers. Everyday school life is very dynamic, with intensive concert activities and student participation in local and international competitions and music projects.



## Lithuania – Youth symphony orchestra "Simfukai", Balys Dvarionas decennial music school, Vilnius

The Simfukai youth symphony orchestra of one of the biggest schools in Lithuania – Vilnius Balys Dvarionas – met for their first rehearsal in 1999. The orchestra consists of more than eighty young players, aged ten to eighteen. To play in this orchestra is a dream of many students from Balys Dvarionas. This unique collective has performed in the main concert halls in Lithuania, participated in many international projects and played with the most famous Lithuanian soloists, conductors and instrumentalists. The orchestra's repertoire consists of both classical masterpieces and contemporary works by Lithuanian and foreign composers. Simfukai also does not shy away from having fun with adaptations of rock classics and experimenting with other musical genres. Every year, the orchestra organises summer camps to improve their students' orchestral skills and to prepare concert programmes. Another field of Simfukai's activities are concert tours abroad and joint projects with similar orchestras in foreign countries. The Simfukai orchestra is the winner of the 2020 Golden Disc, an award established by the Society of Lithuanian Musicians. Simfukai students learn the secrets of symphonic music with the help of conductor Modestas Barkauskas, artistic director of the Artūras Alenskas Orchestra. Orchestra groups are mentored by music professionals from different Lithuanian symphony orchestras: Dalius Jovaiša, Austėja Alenskaitė, Marius Kavaliauskas, Vilius Pocius, Ernestas Ramelis, Jonas Armonas, Egidijus Stanelis. For many of the young players, music is now an integral part of their lives, even though not all of them will become professional musicians. All of them, however, will become part of a cultured society.



EL SISTEMA LUXEMBOURG

## Luxembourg – El Sistema Luxembourg

[www.elsistemaluxembourg.lu](http://www.elsistemaluxembourg.lu)

Created in 2015, El Sistema Luxembourg is a non-profit organisation founded on the principles of social inclusion through music. After a period of hiatus, El Sistema Luxembourg has been relaunched in 2021 and is dedicated to building bridges between Luxembourg's vast music education system and children who have no access to it, by working with schools and parents to make this possible. Luxembourg's public education system offers the opportunity to learn and practice music in affordable and accessible ways. However, children living in challenging or at-risk situations seldom register in music schools. In some cases it is due to logistical challenges and in others it



is for lack of access to information. It is El Sistema Luxembourg's objective to close this gap and to bring these communities closer to music. El Sistema Luxembourg is committed to the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue through music, for which it envisions the creation a children's and youth orchestra whose participants will come from the many diverse backgrounds that make up Luxembourg today. Its programmes are conceived to reach out specially to low-income and refugee communities.



## Malta – Malta Youth Orchestra

[maltaorchestra.com](http://maltaorchestra.com)

The Malta Youth Orchestra (MYO) falls under the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's (MPO) organisation and aims to train Malta's talented young musicians. Operating in collaboration with the MPO Academy, the MYO offers its members a unique opportunity to develop their instrumental skills through playing in an orchestra. This involves regular lessons, rehearsals and workshops, as well as masterclasses and performances with local and international music tutors. The MYO made its first public appearance in December 2004 and has since been working with a variety of prominent local and international conductors, including Michael Laus, Joseph Vella, Peter Stark, Robert Hodge, Kelly Kuo, Michalis Economou, Darrell Ang, Philip Walsh and Ali Groen. Since 2019, they have been under the artistic guidance of internationally acclaimed horn player and pedagogue José García Gutiérrez. The MYO performs a repertoire spanning several centuries and genres, and since its conception has participated in various concerts across Malta, in genres including opera, sacred music, classical, romantic and pop. They have also taken part in international events and collaborations in Austria, Spain and the U.K. MYO musicians have also had the opportunity to perform alongside musicians of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, fulfilling one of the MYO's purposes of being an aspirational milestone for Malta's young musicians, helping to nurture them into becoming the future musicians of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and ultimately catalysts for our country's cultural development.



## Netherlands – Jeugdorkest Nederland (JON)

[www.jeugdorkest.nl](http://www.jeugdorkest.nl)

The Youth Orchestra Netherlands (Jeugdorkest Nederland or JON) is the national youth symphony orchestra for up-and-coming musical talent in the Netherlands. Around seventy-five talented young people (fourteen to twenty-one years old) from all over the country play in JON. The members combine their love for an instrument with high school or (pre-)education at a conservatoire. JON concerts are characterised by fresh and excellent orchestral playing under the stimulating leadership of principal conductor Jurjen Hempel. The orchestra performs works by the great masters of classical music as well as contemporary pieces, often including new compositions written especially for the orchestra. The orchestra tours twice a year, including a tour abroad in the summer. At JON, talent development takes a central place, starting with the auditions. The level of the orchestra is high, and conductor Jurjen Hempel knows better than anyone how to get the most out of the young musicians. Much attention is paid to technique, repertoire, interpretation and style. At JON, young people are given optimal opportunities to develop further. They take their acquired musical experience with them to the other orchestras and ensembles in which they play. We see many musicians who were once members of the Youth Orchestra Netherlands re-appear in professional orchestras, ensembles and even as soloists.



## Poland – MROS Malopolska

[www.mrosmalopolska.com](http://www.mrosmalopolska.com)

The aim of MROS Malopolska is to support the professional and personal growth of young people through education and training to foster high-quality social cohesion, supporting innovation, strengthening local and regional identities and reinforcing public engagement. We place an importance on key abilities, defined as a combination of knowledge, experience and attitude relevant to a specific situation. For the majority of people, these skills are particularly important for their personal fulfilment, public engagement and social integration, as well as to succeed on the future labour market. The most crucial aspect for us is to strengthen social bonds and enhance the sense of responsibility for the local community. MROS Malopolska aims to bring social and cultural events to our community to improve local social integration and the gaining of new educational skills. We recognise that the most effective way to do this is by the creation of a communication platform that emphasises, enhances and implements action in the field of education, especially music appreciation, in a very encouraging way. It would

be inspirational to improve qualifications and build initiatives to increase the level of knowledge and abilities. MROS Malopolska works to improve regional education and to support the execution of strategic partnerships in the area of coaching and education. It is a platform for exchanging intergenerational experience.



## Portugal – Orquestra Geração – Sistema Portugal

[orquestra.geracao.aml.pt](http://orquestra.geracao.aml.pt)

Orquestra Geração was founded in 2007 in Amadora (a town in the greater Lisbon area) with the sponsorship of the National Conservatory of Music in Lisbon, the EQUAL programme from the European Union, the Gulbenkian Foundation and the Amadora municipality. It began with fifteen children and four teachers and we now have 2,000 children and eighty teachers in twenty public schools in the Lisbon metropolitan area, Coimbra and two towns in the Portuguese interior (Tondela and Castanheira de Pera). In our fifteen years of existence, almost 10,000 children have had the opportunity to work with us and to build better self-esteem in order to prepare themselves for life's challenges. We work in poor neighbourhoods in the municipalities around Lisbon where families, many of them single-parent, have a very low income and where the unemployment rate is high. For this work we have received the recognition of the European Union, which has twice declared us one of the most dynamic social intervention programmes in all of the Union's member states. The Portuguese parliament awarded us with the Gold Medal Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for our work towards making children into better citizens. We are members of Sistema Europe and were for several years members of its board. We work with children from ages four to eighteen.



## Romania – ELIJAH

[www.elijah.ro](http://www.elijah.ro)

The ELIJAH association was founded in 2012 to support neglected Roma children and their families in Transylvania, Romania. The Roma receive direct and sustainable help to improve their living conditions and to lift themselves out of the deep poverty into which they have fallen for generations. Music occupies a central place in the Roma tradition, as it is does for ELIJAH. In our music schools in Hosman and Nou, almost 300 children from the region can learn different instruments in individual and group lessons, no matter their ethnicity. In the ELIJAH orchestras, the best students play many musical styles together, from traditional Romanian music to gipsy music, classical and other styles. The school programmes combine education with more concrete opportunities to enable students to build their own futures.



## Slovakia – Music Centre Slovakia

[www.hc.sk](http://www.hc.sk)

Music Centre Slovakia is a documentation, promotion and publishing state organisation with a nationwide remit, whose mission is to promote Slovak music and culture through various activities – festival; concerts; education; participation in international projects; publishing of CDs, DVDs, books on music, chamber scores, and the magazine *Hudobný život* (Musical Life; documenting musical life in Slovakia). Music Centre Slovakia has developed a database system with information on Slovak music culture, as well as organising international music events (the Melos-Ethos, Allegretto, Days of Early Music, and Pro Musica Nostra festivals; The Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský International Vocal Competition) and concerts of Slovak and foreign artists. The institution's focus is also on educational activities for children and young people, as well as future music professionals, through educational concerts and the Slovak Youth Orchestra. Music Centre Slovakia is a member of international associations: International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM); International Association of Music Information Centres (IAMIC); International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML); European Conference of Promoters of New Music (ECPNM); European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO).



## Slovenia – Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD)

[www.jskd.si](http://www.jskd.si)

Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities was established to look after amateur cultural societies and their associations (in all art fields – choirs, orchestras, theatre and puppetry, folk dance, contemporary dance, literature, film). We organise festivals and seminars, and every year we also fund the projects of amateur arts societies – on both a local and national level. Today, the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities is one of the most effective cultural networks in the country, enabling omnidirectional communication between more than 5,000 cultural societies with nearly 110,000 members, local communities, fifty-nine regional branches, the central professional service and state institutions. Together, we create over 25,000 events per year, which are viewed by nearly four million people. It supports active creativity and the development of creative capacities and professional standards, as well as expanding the availability of cultural programmes. Through its work, JSKD enables personal growth and cultural integration, encourages

cultural education and lifelong learning programmes, and enhances skills and abilities. In providing organisational and financial support to cultural activities, JSKD places a premium on counselling, quality education and events, publishing activities, targeted co-financing of projects by cultural societies and associations, and interdepartmental and international connections. The Slovenian cultural space is considered a field of open communication, relaxed creativity and comprehensive cultural education for sustainable development.



## Spain – Acción por la Música

[accionporlamusica.es](http://accionporlamusica.es)

At Acción por la Música we transform people's lives through collective musical practice in Madrid, Spain. Our groups are the ideal settings for education in values and human development of minors and adults who, accompanied by a rigorous psychosocial and pedagogical monitoring, develop individual and group capacities that make them protagonists of their own change. Our path as a foundation begins in 2013, inspired by the Orchestras and Choirs project developed by José Antonio Abreu. Since then, we have provided instruments, musical training, education in values and psychosocial support to more than 1,000 minors and adults. Our revolution begins with people's dignity, and that is why we do much more than simply music. Our orchestras and choirs are spaces for community participation where resilience, trust, social justice, kindness, beauty and compassion grow.

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## DREAM ORCHESTRA

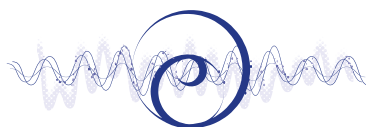
### Sweden – Dream Orchestra

[dreamorchestra.se](http://dreamorchestra.se)

Dream Orchestra, based in Gothenburg, Sweden, provides a safe space for children and young people to meet and learn to play a musical instrument together in a symphony orchestra. Founded by the Venezuelan violinist and conductor Ron Davis Alvarez in 2016, the programme is aimed primarily at those who arrived in Sweden as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers or have a refugee or migration background, as well as others who feel isolated, are facing adversity or are marginalised in some way. Children and young people from eighteen different countries receive high quality music education, attending orchestra rehearsals and small group instrumental classes several times a week. Alongside the musical training, Dream Orchestra aims to promote social inclusion and integration, providing supportive activities and opportunities for participants to develop their social and emotional skills, receive a good education, enjoy good health and wellbeing and gain new hope for a better future in Sweden and other countries.

## Members of the ODE – Orchestre Démos Europe steering committee

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el sistema greece

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