

# **KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025**

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Hanover, 25.02.2025 – Press Release

**After a decade at the festival helm, Ingo Metzmacher bids farewell with an opulent and many-faceted programme. The 16th KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen bring more artists than ever before to the Herrenhausen Gardens from 22.05 to 08.06.2025. Around 900 in all, in 2025 they include numerous local participants: pianists, skateboarders, choirs, performers and wind bands are all contributing to this year's KunstFestSpiele. The international festival presents a total of 23 artistic productions in around 80 separate performances. Advance booking for all events is now open.**

**The programme of the KunstFestSpiele, with concerts, dance and theatre, circus, performances and installations in and around the famous Herrenhausen Gardens, presents work by out-of-the-ordinary artists and lives from the open-minded curiosity of its audience. The festival is also especially celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Great Garden with two large-scale outdoor happenings.**

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25 February 2025

Ingo Metzmacher and his chief dramaturge, Rainer Hofmann, introduce the programme of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen 2025 today with Mayor Belit Onay and Eva Bender, head of the Cultural Department of Hanover.

An unusual concert awaits the audience at the very start of the festival, at its opening on Thu 22.05. In **11,000 Strings** the Austrian composer Georg Friedrich Haas assembles no less than 50 pianos in a large circle. The audience sits in the middle and experiences a 'storm from the depths of the universe'. The **Grand Finale** on Sun 08.06 features the music of **Charles Ives**, perhaps the greatest pioneer of modern music. For this concert Ingo Metzmacher has invited the world-renowned American baritone **Thomas Hampson** and the Canadian pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** to Hanover.

Highlights of the festival's 18 days are **Habitat/Herrenhausen** by Austrian choreographer Doris Uhlich, a dance happening and celebration of the body with 50 naked performers in the Great Garden. Urban and popular Brazilian dances are the basis of the high-energy **Zona Franca**, by the choreographer Alice Ripoll and her Companhia Suave in the Orangerie. For the fascinating light and sound installation **Sunrise for the sleepers**, Dutch percussion ensemble HIIT and the visual artist Boris Acket bring the sound and light of the sun into the baroque Galerie. Brigitta Muntendorf, the designated director of the KunstFestSpiele from 2026, sends the audience through her haunting, immersive 3D audio and light installation **ORBIT – A War Series**. In cooperation with the Literaturhaus Hannover the writer Mithu Sanyal and the philosopher and author Wolfram Eilenberger speak to Tim Etchell's installation **Best of All**. Do we really live in the best of all possible worlds?

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**KUNSTFESTSPIELE  
HERRENHAUSEN**

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

Die KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen  
sind eine Veranstaltung der  
Landeshauptstadt Hannover

Many artists who have helped shape the past ten years of the KunstFestSpiele are returning this year: the composer Ryoji Ikeda with the Ensemble Modern, Klangforum Wien, the choreographers Mette Ingvartsen and Moritz Ostruschnjak with new works featuring skateboarding (**Skatepark**) and Football (**NON + ULTRAS**). The theatre-makers of the

Agrupación Señor Serrano are showing an AI production in the Schauspielhaus, and the British artist Tim Etchells provides food for thought with his luminescent neon installation **Best of All** on the Arne Jacobsen Foyer.

The **KunstFestSpiele Day** on Sun 01.06 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. is once again an invitation to spend a whole day in Herrenhausen, this year enjoying circus, acrobatics, dance and a machine-like being. Highlight of the day is the **Park Music for Herrenhausen**, with a huge wind orchestra of 160 musicians. Even the bell fountain in the Great Garden plays along in this musical spectacle by Georg Friedrich Haas. On this day, Feinkost Lampe's program will feature the Ukrainian folk-jazz quartet **Leléka**, who will captivate the audience with their unmistakable style and talent for improvisation. All events on the KunstFestSpiele Day can be combined easily with one another, and cost only €5 per event.

The **Grand Finale** of Ingo Metzmacher's directorship takes place on Sun 08.06 in the HCC Kuppelsaal and the Orangerie. The concert in the Kuppelsaal borrows the title of the most famous composition by Charles Ives: **The Unanswered Question**. As a special guest the world-famous American baritone **Thomas Hampson** is coming to Hanover. Together with the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the HMTMH University Orchestra and nine choirs from Hanover, Ingo Metzmacher directs a wide range of orchestral pieces, songs and choral works by Ives.

Metzmacher shares his great enthusiasm for the brilliant musical outsider in this concert, which he both conducts and moderates.

**Belit Onay, mayor, and Eva Bender, head of the Cultural Department of Hanover:** 'The 2025 programme contains everything distinctive of the KunstFestSpiele: encounters with art – for young audiences as well – stimulation of the senses, boundary-blurring productions, well-known and still unknown artists, the Baroque in dialogue with the present. We open ourselves to visual and aural challenges, enter surprising artistic spaces and experience the Great Garden in an entirely new way in its 350th year. We're looking forward to music, theatre, circus, dance and installations. But our anticipation is a little clouded. Our grateful thanks go to Ingo Metzmacher for a fantastic decade of the KunstFestSpiele.'

**Ingo Metzmacher, director of the KunstFestSpiele:** 'In my final edition of the festival we want to offer another spectacular programme, full of unusual performances, naturally and especially in the Great Garden as we celebrate its 350th anniversary. I am devoting the Grand Finale in the Kuppelsaal to the music of Charles Ives. It is unique in its way, independent and varied, just like the KunstFestSpiele themselves, and how I always wanted them to be. I thank the city of Hanover for its courage and willingness to fund this festival so generously. I thank the sponsors for their loyalty over the years, and most particularly my wonderful team for their decade of support. And I thank you, our marvellous audience. Let's celebrate together!'

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In the KunstFestSpiele **Programme for Children and Families** a circus artiste tries to capture time, and an acrobat goes on an incredible journey through a glass tower. Young and old from the age of 6 can be inspired, entertained and astonished as they get to know the KunstFestSpiele.

Hanover's **Feinkost Lampe** club presents concerts with three musicians and a special project from Iceland that once again features the theatre director Benjamin Abel Meirhaeghe, who made such an impression in 2024. This year the musical journey takes us from Iceland to the Indian Ocean, and from the Ukraine to South America. We will hear a spectrum of music from classical-electronic to folk-inspired jazz to inimitable indigenous-futurist.

Artists, audiences, the KunstFestSpiele team and garden-lovers meet in the festival centre at the entrance to the Herrenhausen Gardens, where **freitagsküche** serves food and drink inspired by the festival's performers and performances. With the series **Art & Food** Thomas Friemel and his team create just the right atmosphere for stimulating conversation, lively discussion and relaxation.

The NDR presenter **Friederike Westerhaus** meets artists and audiences for conversation in the festival centre and after selected performances in the venues.

With the support of the Stiftung Niedersachsen the 8th edition of the **Festivalcampus Niedersachsen** brings 40 students from five universities in Lower Saxony to Hanover to the KunstFestSpiele and then to the festival Theaterformen. The participants from Hanover, Hildesheim, Braunschweig, Osnabrück and Lüneburg have the opportunity to experience two festivals at close hand.

In May and June the **Ada- und Theodor-Lessing Adult Education Centre** offers a course with the dramaturgical team of the KunstFestSpiele, including attendance at certain festival events (enrolment ends on 30.04.2025).

The **central venues** of the KunstFestSpiele – the Galerie, Orangerie and Arne Jacobsen Foyer – are located in the magnificent setting of the Herrenhausen Gardens. The DHC-Halle in the immediate vicinity of the gardens has been a venue since 2019. KunstFestSpiele tickets entitle their holders to visit the Great Garden 2 hours before the start of an event.

**Advance booking for all events** starts today in the new online KunstFestSpiele Ticketshop and at all HAZ & NP ticket agencies, e.g. the Musik Kiosk am Kröpcke. School and college students receive a 50% reduction on all tickets (all reductions at [kunstfestspiele.de/tickets](http://kunstfestspiele.de/tickets)).

Press art work and a press accreditation form are available at [www.kunstfestspiele.de/presse](http://www.kunstfestspiele.de/presse).

Up-to-date festival information can be found on the website [www.kunstfestspiele.de](http://www.kunstfestspiele.de) or through the newsletter.

Press contact: Hendrik v. Boxberg, [presse@kunstfestspiele.de](mailto:presse@kunstfestspiele.de)

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# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## FACT SHEET

### Duration and programme facts

22.05 – 08.06 2025

16th edition of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, 10th edition under the directorship of Ingo Metzmacher

19 productions, 4 concerts curated by Feinkost Lampe, freitagsküche with **Art & Cuisine**, Festivalcampus Niedersachsen and talks in the festival centre

approx. 80 events on 18 days, including 2 German premieres, with almost 900 participating artists

### Opening programme

Thursday, 22.05 2025

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. | <b>Best of All</b> by Tim Etchells<br>Light installation at Arne Jacobsen Foyer                              |
| 6 p.m. / 9 p.m.    | <b>11.000 Saiten</b> by Georg Friedrich Haas<br>Concert in the DHC-Halle                                     |
| 11:30 p.m.         | <b>Festival opening</b> with Mayor Belit Onay and Head of Cultural Affairs Eva Bender at the Festival centre |

Friday, 23.05 2025

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. | <b>Best of All</b> by Tim Etchells<br>Light installation at Arne Jacobsen Foyer                |
| 7:30 p.m.         | <b>Una isla</b> by Agrupación Señor Serrano<br>Theatre performance at Schauspielhaus           |
| afterward         | <b>Friederike Westerhaus in conversation with Pau Palacios</b><br>Talk at Foyer Schauspielhaus |

## **Venues – addresses and directions**

### **Großer Garten, Galerie, Orangerie, Ehrenhof, Arne Jacobsen Foyer and Festivalzentrum**

Herrenhäuser Straße 3, 30419 Hannover

U4 or U5 to Herrenhäuser Gärten

### **DHC-Halle**

An der Graft 3, 30167 Hannover

U4 or U5 until Herrenhäuser Gärten

### **Kuppelsaal des HCC**

Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1-3, 30175 Hannover

U11 to Hannover Congress Centrum

Bus lines 128, 134 to Hannover Congress Centrum

### **Schauspielhaus**

Prinzenstraße 9, 30159 Hannover

All tram lines (except U10 and U17) to Kröpcke / U10 and U17 to Hauptbahnhof / Rosenstraße

Bus 100, 121, 128, 134, 200 to Thielenplatz / Schauspielhaus

## Tickets

Tickets can be purchased online directly from the **KunstFestSpiele ticket shop**. Compared to other ticket providers, the lowest advance booking and system fees are charged there.

Tickets are also available at the **HAZ & NP advance booking offices**:

### **HAZ & NP Ticketshop – Musik Kiosk am Kröpcke**

Georgstraße 35, 30159 Hannover  
Di bis Sa – 12:00 bis 18:00

### **HAZ & NP Ticketshop – Theater am Aegi**

Aegidientorplatz 2, 30159 Hannover  
Mo bis Fr – 10:00 bis 18:00

### **HAZ & NP – Ticketshop Hannover City**

Lange Laube 10, 30159 Hannover  
Mo bis Fr – 10:00 bis 18:00  
Sa – 10:00 bis 14:00

**Telefon** +49 (0)511 12 12 33 33

**Web** <https://tickets.haz.de>

### **Eventim**

CTS/Eventim-Vorverkaufsstellen

**Telefon** 01806 / 570070

**Web** [www.eventim.de](http://www.eventim.de)

### **Box office**

Open one hour before the performance in each venue. In Herrenhausen the box office is located at the festival centre. Reserved tickets will be held until 30 minutes before the start of the performance.

Tickets entitle you to admission to the Großer Garten two hours before the start of the performance.

## Concessions

### **50 % in advance booking and at the box office**

School students, students at universities and colleges, apprentices as well as visitors with a document attesting a disability of at least 50 GdB (degree of disability), recipients of ALG I (German unemployment benefits), participants of voluntary service programmes (BDF, FSJ, FÖJ, FWD) and visitors with Hannover-Aktiv-Pass are entitled to concessions. Please show your certificate at the door.

### **Accompanying Carer**

Severely handicapped visitors who rely on an accompanying carer are entitled to bring their carer free of charge.

### **Children**

Outside of the family program, children up to and including the age of 12 pay 8 euros (plus fees) on all seats.

**Group discount**

Groups of 10 or more receive a 20% discount. This offer is only available on request at [info@kunstfestspiele.de](mailto:info@kunstfestspiele.de) or 0511 / 168 33 811.

**Frequent visitor discount**

If you buy at least 4 tickets in one purchase, you will receive a 20% discount. This offer is only available on request at [info@kunstfestspiele.de](mailto:info@kunstfestspiele.de) or 0511 / 168 33 811.

**HAZ & NP-Abo-Vorteil**

10 % discount at all HAZ/NP ticket offices and at the box office.  
Valid for max. two tickets per event.

**ADAC-Karte**

10 % discount at all HAZ/NP ticket offices and at the box office.  
Valid for max. one ticket per event.

Multiple concessions are excluded.

## Tourist Information Hannover

The Tourist Information team at the main station and at the information counter in the New Town Hall are available to visitors of the KunstFestSpiele for inquiries about the state capital and the Hanover region.

**Tourist Information Hannover (Ernst-August-Platz)**

Mon until Fri – 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.  
Sat – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sun and holidays – closed

from April

**Info-Counter at Neues Rathaus (Platz der Menschenrechte 1)**

Mo until Fr / 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.  
Sat, Sun and holidays / 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

## Contact and information / Social media

KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen  
Alte Herrenhäuser Straße 6b  
D-30419 Hannover

**E-Mail** [info@kunstfestspiele.de](mailto:info@kunstfestspiele.de)

**Web** [www.kunstfestspiele.de](http://www.kunstfestspiele.de)

**Social Media**

[www.facebook.com/kunstfestspiele](http://www.facebook.com/kunstfestspiele)  
[www.instagram.com/kunstfestspiele](http://www.instagram.com/kunstfestspiele)

**Newsletter**

The first place to get news and background information is the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen newsletter. Sign up at: [www.kunstfestspiele.de/newsletter](http://www.kunstfestspiele.de/newsletter)



# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## THE GRAND FINALE

### The Unanswered Question

Charles Ives / Thomas Hampson / Ingo Metzmacher

Concert

Sun 08.06 / 11 a.m.

HCC Kuppelsaal

**Tickets** 16 / 27 / 37 / 49 / 59 / 70 euros, discounted from 8 euros (plus charges)

For the grand finale of his 10-year festival directorship, Ingo Metzmacher conducts music by the American composer Charles Ives, with whom he has a very special relationship. 'Ives's music opened my ears for what is modern in music. It is still the touchstone and yardstick for everything I do.'

The concert bears the title of Charles Ives's most famous work, The Unanswered Question. Making a guest appearance in Hanover is the world-famous American baritone Thomas Hampson.

Together with the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the HMTMH Hochschulorchester and nine choirs from Hanover, Ingo Metzmacher presents a wide spectrum of Ives's orchestral works, songs and choral pieces in the HCC Kuppelsaal.

Metzmacher shares his enthusiasm for this brilliant music-historical outsider with the audience of this very special concert as both conductor and compère. Charles Ives, who was born in 1874 in a small town in Connecticut and died in May 1954 in New York, is one of the most fascinating and idiosyncratic composers of the early twentieth century, and is seen as a pioneer of modern American music. His works are characterised by a unique blend of tradition and innovation, national consciousness and avant-garde. His music is deeply rooted in American culture, particularly in its folk music, church rhythms and nineteenth-century patriotic melodies. These influences are integrated into a modern, often radically dissonant and experimental framework.

Ives's vision was to portray the diversity and heterogeneity of American culture musically, and this is reflected in his highly individual and structurally finely elaborated sound world. Ives created audible landscapes pervaded by simultaneously sounding marches, hymns and folksongs, as if he wanted to make audible the concurrence of different levels of time and culture in the life of an American.

The concert programme selected by Ingo Metzmacher will be framed by the short, haunting orchestral work The Unanswered Question (1908). This is more than a piece of music – it is a philosophical riddle, a musical comment on human nature.

A production of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen and the Norddeutscher Rundfunk, NDR Radiophilharmonie and Hanoverian choirs in collaboration with the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media. Supported by the NORD/LB Kulturstiftung.

# Concord & Hammerklavier

## Ives & Beethoven, Marc-André Hamelin

Concert  
Sun 08.06 / 6 p.m.  
Galerie

**Tickets** 21 / 35 / 45 euros, discounted from 10,50 euros (plus charges)

A concert of extremes – the Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin takes on two monuments in the piano literature: the Concord Sonata, by Charles Ives, and the ‘Hammerklavier’ Sonata, by Ludwig van Beethoven. It is the meeting of two colossal worlds, and a huge challenge even for an exceptional pianist like Hamelin.

Beethoven’s ‘Hammerklavier’ Sonata, which pianists describe as a ‘dangerous journey on a razor’s edge’, is not only one of the longest piano sonatas in music history but also demands everything of its player – technically, emotionally, mentally and physically.

Hamelin combines this ‘hammer piece’ with Charles Ives’s Concord Sonata, which is also one of those rarely heard pieces of musical craziness – a pioneering work for piano that is seen as one of the boldest and most visionary works of modernism.

Inspired by the literary and philosophical movement of the transcendentalists around Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, Ives explores the expanses of the American spirit. He expresses a deep longing for freedom and individuality in hymnal sounds and chaotic outbursts. It is a visionary work in which Ives anticipated the future of 20th-century music in 1915.

# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## KUNSTFESTSPIELE TAG

### playful, vibrant, inspiring

Sun 01.06 / 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Orangerie, Galerie, Großer Garten, Arne Jacobsen Foyer, Festivalzentrum

**Tickets** 5 euros per event\*

We invite families and others to a varied and entertaining Sunday full of art, festivity and games.

On Sun. 01.06 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. we present a compact one-day version of the KunstFestSpiele for young and old in the Herrenhausen Gardens – this is the festival in all its facets: music, dance, circus theatre, installation and of course delicious snacks.

We welcome you in the festival centre at the entrance to the Herrenhausen Gardens with coffee, cakes and savouries from Frankfurt's **freitagsküche**. And from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. we offer our young audience a **CreativeArtsAction for Children** in cooperation with the Kestner Gesellschaft – join in at any time!

### The programme

The day opens with the circus Modo Grosso, who play with time in **Alles | Nichts**, sending large and small into unexplored areas of perception by juggling with fabric and stones, magnets and pendulums, string and spheres.

In **COW LOVE**, an absurd spectacle of acrobatics, comedy, burlesque and show dance, two experts in failure delight all age groups. This touching and unconventional couple tries everything, but screws it all up.

**PANOPTICON** shows a struggle for the liberation of a human soul from a machine-like body. The dancer Vasiliki Papapostolou impressively translates this longing into a physical language.

**Parkmusik für Herrenhausen** celebrates the 350th anniversary of the Herrenhausen Gardens with a huge orchestra of 160 musicians. In a musical spectacle specially devised for the Großer Garten even the large bell fountain plays along.

Feinkost Lampe, the surround-sound curators in the Hanover district of Linden, present the Ukrainian folk-jazz quartet **Leléka**, whose unmistakable style and talent for improvisation cast a spell over their listeners.

The spatial installation **Sunrise for the sleepers** brings the sun into the Baroque Galerie, transforming the space into a walk-in chamber of light and sound that alters in accordance with our movements. There will be three 30-minute live concerts.

The light installation **Best of All** shows Leibniz's famous theory of the best of all possible worlds in giant neon letters on the glass Arne Jacobsen Foyer. The artist Tim Etchells reminds us that this proposition has lost none of its socio-political relevance or acuity over the centuries.

The performances last between 30 and 70 minutes and can easily be combined with one another and with the installations.

\* The installations **Best of All** and **Sunrise for the sleepers**, as well as the **talk** and the **CreativeArtsAction for Children**, can be experienced free of charge. Tickets for the KunstFestspiele Tag include admission to the Great Garden 2 hours before the start of the respective event.

## Programme KunstFestSpiele Tag Sun 01.06

11 a.m. – 9 p.m.	<b>freitagküche</b>	Festival centre
11 a.m. – 9 p.m.	<b>Best of All</b> Tim Etchells	Arne Jacobsen Foyer
11 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<b>KunstKreativAktion für Kids</b> Kestner Gesellschaft	Festival centre
12 p.m. – 9 p.m.	<b>Sunrise for the sleepers – Rauminszenierung</b> Boris Acket / HIIIT	Galerie
11 – 11:45 p.m.	<b>Alles   Nichts</b> Modo Grosso	Orangerie Hinterbühne (from age 6)
12:15 – 1:05 p.m.	<b>COW LOVE</b> Société Protectrice de Petites Idées	Großer Garten / Königsbusch (from age 6)
12:30 – 1 p.m.	<b>Sunrise for the sleepers – Live-Konzert</b> Detmold Percussion Group	Galerie
1:15 – 1:35 p.m.	<b>Talk</b> Friederike Westerhaus with Ingo Metzmacher	Festival centre
1:15 – 1:45 p.m.	<b>PANOPTICON</b> Vasiliki Papapostolou aka Tarantism	Orangerie
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	<b>Parkmusik für Herrenhausen</b> Georg Friedrich Haas	Großer Garten
3:30 – 4:25 p.m.	<b>Alles   Nichts</b> Modo Grosso	Orangerie Hinterbühne (from age 6)
3:30 – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Leléka</b> Feinkost Lampe Concert	Großer Garten / Probebühne
4:30 – 5 p.m.	<b>Sunrise for the sleepers – Live-Konzert</b> Detmold Percussion Group	Galerie
5:15 – 6:05 p.m.	<b>COW LOVE</b> Société Protectrice de Petites Idées	Großer Garten / Königsbusch (from age 6)
5:30 – 6 p.m.	<b>PANOPTICON</b> Vasiliki Papapostolou aka Tarantism	Orangerie
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.	<b>Leléka</b> Feinkost Lampe Concert	Großer Garten / Probebühne
7:30 – 8 p.m.	<b>Sunrise for the sleepers – Live-Konzert</b> Detmold Percussion Group	Galerie

# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## FESTIVALCAMPUS NIEDERSACHSEN

### The campus programme of KunstFestSpiele and Theaterformen

Thu 22.05 to Sun 25.05

For the eighth consecutive year the KunstFestSpiele are hosting the Festivalcampus Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony Festival Campus): about forty students of cultural and theatre studies, performing arts, scenography as well as theatre pedagogy from five universities in Lower Saxony are coming to Hanover. They are invited to participate in the KunstFestSpiele, discuss their experiences with the artists and reflect on the performances within seminars and workshops.

Thanks to the support of Stiftung Niedersachsen, in 2025 the project can again take place in close cooperation with the Festival Theaterformen, which will continue to host the Festivalcampus in June. The students from Hanover, Hildesheim, Braunschweig, Osnabrück und Lüneburg closely participate in two festivals experiencing a variety of aesthetics that allow for an artistic and interdisciplinary exchange that might not be possible within a seminar room.

Lecturers from various disciplines enable the students to take their perspectives beyond their particular disciplinary horizon. Within the frame of the Festivalcampus, KunstFestSpiele and Festival Theaterformen offer artists and academics of tomorrow a space for critical reflection and engaged dialogue: the basis of vivid and socially relevant cultural and artistic work.

**With** University Hildesheim: Institute for Media, Theatre and Popular Culture / Braunschweig University of Art: Degree Programme Performing Arts / Leuphana University of Lüneburg: Faculty Cultural Studies / University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hannover: Degree programme Scenography – Costume – Experimental Design / University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück: Institute for Theatre Pedagogy

**Concept and realisation** Antonia Rohwetter, Philipp Schulte

Funded by



An initiative of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen in cooperation with the Festival Theaterformen.

# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## FESTIVAL CENTRE

### Festival centre

Thu 22.05 – Sun 08.06. / daily 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.\*

Welcome to our **festival centre**! Right at the entrance to the Herrenhausen Gardens, we offer you good food, a sometimes relaxed, sometimes vibrant festival atmosphere and a place for dialogue and conversation. Artists, audience, garden visitors, the KunstFestSpiele team, young and old meet in the open tent or on the lawn under the wonderful lime tree, which provides shade during the day and in which an artificial moon (or is it a grapefruit?) illuminates the festival centre at night.

Perhaps the best festival cuisine in Europe: the cooking artists' collective **freitagsküche** from Frankfurt will provide a wide variety of tasty treats. Food, drinks and small snacks – including vegan and vegetarian options – will be available throughout the festival at lunchtime, in the afternoon and in the evening.

A long table is set up for our popular **Art & Cuisine** event series, where the audience and artists meet and chat late into the night.

Located between the Orangery, Gallery and the Arne Jacobsen Foyer, every venue can be reached quickly from the Festival Centre. Last-minute visitors will also find our box office in the festival centre, which opens 1 hour before the start of the performances. If you have any questions or feedback about the festival or the performances and installations, this is where you'll always find a friendly ear.

### freitagsküche

Cooking, eating together and good conversation come together at the freitagsküche in the festival centre, which is both meeting point and host.

In a pleasant atmosphere, with freshly prepared food, hot and cold drinks, you can get in the mood for the performances and installations of the KunstFestSpiele or discuss art and life later in the evening. The menu is inspiring, individual and clear, with great attention paid to the quality of the ingredients.

Apart from their daily fare, the freitagsküche extend an invitation to five unusual culinary evenings in the series **Art & Cuisine\*\***, inspired by KunstFestSpiele performances. The menus\*\* were prompted by the themes of the pieces or the artists themselves. At these events you can share your experiences and associations after the show. The artists will join the company in the course of the evening. On warm summer evenings, the long table will be set up on the lawn under the large lime tree.

\*Fri 23.05 and Mon 26.05 to 8 p.m., Sun 01.06 to 9 p.m., Mon 02.06 to 8 p.m.

\*\* Every meal also has a vegan variation.

## Dates Art & Cuisine

Thu 29.05 / after **Haribo Kimchi**

One table - six pojangmacha. A table streetfood course.

Festival centre

Sat 31.05 / after **Skatepark**

Family Style Community Picnictable Dinner. 360, Fake Olli and finally a frontside/backside Nolli.

Festival centre

Wed 04.06 / after **Music for Strings**

Strings, noodles, strips, live yakitori menu with medlar.

Festival centre

Fri 06.06 / after **NON + ULTRAS**

A chicken standing on a ball. Two bulls. A rooster. Football emblem menu with a very primal surprise.

Festival centre

**Tickets** 25 Euros per event (plus charges, no discount available)

# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## TALKS & SPECIALS

### Talks

Let's talk about art. We want to facilitate communication between the audience and artists, and the audience and the festival team.

Have you seen a performance or a concert and would like to learn more about it or get to know the performers differently? NDR presenter Friederike Westerhaus invites artists to talk to her about their work in **Friederike Westerhaus in Conversation with...**

### Dates Friederike Westerhaus in conversation with ...

... **Pau Palacios**

Fri 23.05 / after Una isla  
Foyer Schauspielhaus (in English)

... **Doris Uhlich**

Sun 25.05 / after Habitat / Herrenhausen  
Festival centre (in German)

... **Fedor Teunisse and Boris Acket**

Wed 28.05 / after Sunrise for the sleepers  
Festival centre (in English)

... **Ingo Metzmacher**

KunstFestSpiele Tag Sun 01.06 / 1:15 p.m. on The Unanswered Question  
Festival centre (in German)

... **Moritz Ostruschnjak**

Thu 05.06 / after NON + ULTRAS  
Orangerie (in German)

... **Brigitta Muntendorf**

Sat 07.06 / after ORBIT – A War Series  
DHC-Halle (in German)

Free admission



## Specials

### **Tanzpunkt – Tanzcafé**

Talk with Doris Uhlich

Sat 24.05 / 2:30 p.m.

Festival centre (in German)

Free admission

### **The best of all possible worlds?**

Talk with Mithu Sanyal and Wolfram Eilenberger

Moderation Friederike Westerhaus

Sun 25.05 / 3 p.m.

Arne Jacobsen Foyer

Admission 6 Euro

# **KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025**

## **HERRENHAUSEN GARDENS**

### **Großer Garten, Berggarten and Georgengarten**

The Herrenhausen Gardens, centre of the KunstFestSpiele, are among Europe's finest parks, and received the European Garden Award in 2015. The central festival venues – the Galerie and Orangerie, the Großer Garten and the Arne Jacobsen Foyer – are located in this magnificent setting.

For 350 years they have stood for consummate horticultural art, and attract more than 500,000 visitors from around the world every year. Originating in a court pleasure garden laid out by Princess-Elector Sophie from 1676 to 1714, today they unite three horticultural styles over 135 hectares.

The Großer Garten is impressive as an almost unaltered example of a formally planned Baroque garden with a superb parterre, cascades and fountains. The palace, once the summer residence of the House of Welf, was destroyed during the Second World War and reconstructed as a conference centre and museum in 2013.

Garden- and plant-lovers particularly appreciate the Berggarten. Countless indigenous and exotic plants flourish in this botanical garden, which among other things contains one of the world's largest collections of orchids.

The Georgengarten, which was laid out in the 19th century, is a park in the style of the English landscape gardens. The wide lawns, still ponds and decorative bridges were designed in a deliberate contrast to the ideas of the Baroque.

For more information on the Herrenhausen Gardens please visit: [www.hannover.de/herrenhausen](http://www.hannover.de/herrenhausen)

# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## INGO METZMACHER

### Biography

Whether as an opera conductor, orchestra leader, festival director or book author: Conductor Ingo Metzmacher has distinguished himself through his innovative programming and profound dedication to twentieth and twenty-first century music; to make the new sound familiar and the familiar sound new has been Metzmacher's focus since the beginning of his career.

From 1997 until 2005 Ingo Metzmacher was General Music Director of the Hamburg State Opera. After that he was Chief Conductor of the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam and from 2007 to 2010, he was Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. Since 2016, he has been artistic director of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen. In May 2024, he presents his tenth and last edition of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen under his artistic direction. Highlights of the projects he has conducted at the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen include among others Mahlers 'Symphony No. 8', Bernstein's 'MASS', Schönberg's 'Gurre-Lieder', Goebbels' 'Surrogate Cities', Berlioz' 'Requiem' and the world premiere of Andre's 'rw̄h 1–4'.

Ingo Metzmacher is a frequent guest with major orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Ensemble Modern, as well as at opera houses and festivals such as the Vienna State Opera, the Opéra national de Paris, Milan's Teatro alla Scala, the Salzburg Festival and the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

In the current season, he is conducting a tour of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester for the fifth time and performing with the Gewandhausorchester, the RTVE Symphony Orchestra, the Wiener Symphoniker, the SWR Symphonieorchester, the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester and the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. He also conducted the world premieres of Francesco Filidei's 'Il nome della rosa' at Teatro alla Scala and Georg Friedrich Haas' "...heraus in Luft und Licht..." with Klangforum Wien. Further engagements have taken him to concerts with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic Youth Orchestra as part of the Dvořák Prague Festival. At the Salzburg Festival, he will be the musical director of Hans Werner Henze's 'Das Floß der Medusa'.

Metzmacher's wide-ranging discography includes live recordings of his New Year's Eve concerts in Hamburg from 1999 to 2004 entitled 'Who's Afraid of 20th Century Music?', a complete recording of Karl Amadeus Hartmann's symphonies with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the world premiere of Hans Werner Henze's Ninth Symphony with the Berlin Philharmonic, Olivier Messiaen's 'Eclairs sur l'Au-delà...' with the Vienna Philharmonic. Most recently, he released two recordings with Ensemble Modern: Andre's cycle 'riss' and 'Beschenkt' – 40 miniatures celebrating the ensembles 40th anniversary.

He is the author of two books: 'Keine Angst vor neuen Tönen' [Don't Be Afraid of New Sounds] and 'Vorhang auf! Oper entdecken und erleben' [Curtain Up! Discovering and Experiencing Opera]. In the NDR Kultur podcast series "Metzmacher hört", launched in November 2019 and hosted by Friederike Westerhaus, Ingo Metzmacher embarks on a journey of discovery into the world of 20th and 21st century music.

# KUNSTFESTSPIELE HERRENHAUSEN 2025

## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

### Organizer

An event by the Landeshauptstadt Hannover



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