



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Press release

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Brigitta Muntendorf, the new director of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, focuses on the interplay of art, technology and science, international and local cooperation, a two-day KinderKunstSpektakel and club culture in her first edition of the festival. From 22.5 to 7.6.2026, between Baroque gardens and digital worlds, the public can expect a programme full of innovative artistic formats and new perspectives on art and society. Some 700 artists in different genres are taking part in around 100 events and 23 festival productions and co-productions, including one first performances and five German premieres.

The 17th KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, centred on the magnificent Herrenhausen Gardens, open on Fri 22.5 with Philip Glass's legendary minimal-music opera Einstein on the Beach in a concert performance with Suzanne Vega at Hanover's Neues Rathaus and a specially installed Beach Club at Maschteich. Further highlights follow on the same opening weekend: the German premiere of the apocalyptic-futuristic music-theatre The Day Before, the legendary sound installation The Forty Part Motet by the pioneer of immersive sound art, Janet Cardiff, in the Baroque Galerie Herrenhausen (Sat 23/Sun 24.5) and an eventful KinderKunstSpektakel (Sun 24/Mon 25.5).

Online advance booking for all events in the 2026 festival is open now at kunstfestspiele.de. School pupils and students are entitled to a 50% reduction on all tickets (further reductions at kunstfestspiele.de/tickets).

The KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen are an annual international festival in Hanover. The programme of concerts, music-theatre, hybrid art, performances, dance and installations by international visual artists offers unique artistic experiences every year. With this

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The KunstFestSpiele are presented by the City of Hanover, capital of Lower Saxony.

year's edition the Austro-German composer Brigitta Muntendorf succeeds Ingo Metzmacher as festival director.

Brigitta Muntendorf and the new chief dramaturge, **Thomas Frank**, will introduce the programme of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen 2026 today with Mayor **Belit Onay** and **Eva Bender**, head of the Cultural Department of Hanover.

Further highlights of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen 2026 are the German premiere of **Music Music**, by the choreographer and dancer Trajal Harrell, at the Schauspielhaus; giant bass boxes and a morning ritual at sunrise amidst the Herrenhausen Gardens with the Brazilian shooting star Stefanie Egedy and her installation **BODIES AND SUBWOOFERS (B.A.S.)**; the strolling concert **Voices of the City** with eight of the city's choirs as part of Hanover's Night of the Museums; concerts with the NDR Radiophilharmonie and Sarah Maria Sun; the German premiere of **My Fierce Ignorant Step**, by the Greek choreographer Christos Papadopoulos, and pieces by the Franco-Swedish video artist Julian Charrière and the Belgian director Benjamin Abel Meirhaeghe.

The festival programme is enriched by many new local cooperations this year, and includes events with Hanover's Treppenhausorchester, the Fuchsbau Festival, the Night of the Museums or the Volkswagen Foundation. New spaces for younger audiences to come together are opened up with the first performance of **A Club Opera**, by the Treppenhausorchester, and the new club format **Electric Art Monday**, in the Orangerie, with DJ and producer Cio D'Or and others. And for the first time this year the artist collective **freitagssküche** invites various initiatives, collectives, communities and projects from Hanover to co-host the festival centre on certain days.

Central to the **KinderKunstSpektakel**, for families, children and the young at heart, are artistic works that deal playfully with digitality and technology. Robots, sound-making objects, an extraordinary tennis court, an upcycling workshop for e-waste and a truck in which the laws of gravity are suspended all blur the boundary between art, science and play. An energetic climax will be Simon Steen Andersen's **Piano Concerto**, with the fall of a concert grand from a great height, staged by him with the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the pianist Ning Yu

and the conductor Vimbayi Kaziboni. A special price of 5 euros applies to all KinderKunstSpektakel events.

At the **SpektakelAkademie** the audience and invited guests engage in a critical and active debate with our mediated present, in the sense of an 'académie des représentations', as envisaged by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz - with 'demonstrations of machines, instruments and robots, accompanied by lectures, buskers and art'.

Knowledge is exchanged in immersive and interdisciplinary ways in lectures, discussions, maker-spaces, workshops, tours, installations and artistic presentations. Dialogues between science and art will take place in collaboration with the Volkswagen Foundation, including guests Julian Hetzel, Geert Lovink and Anna-Verena Nosthoff. The KunstFestSpiele will also host a discussion between Aleida Assmann and Jörn Leonhard in connection with the production **The Day Before** in a cooperation with the HANNAH ARENDT DAYS and the Landesmuseum Hannover. For the ninth consecutive year, with the support of the Stiftung Niedersachsen, the KunstFestSpiele are inviting more than 40 students from five universities and colleges to the **Festivalcampus Niedersachsen**.

Belit Onay, mayor of Hanover, and Eva Bender, head of the city's Cultural Department: 'Every year the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen offer unique artistic experiences in the splendid surroundings of the Herrenhausen Gardens. A new, exciting era is now beginning with the new director Brigitta Muntendorf's first season. The Austro-German composer stands for innovative positions at the interface of music, performance and new technologies, and she will take the festival - which is popular well beyond the Hanover region - into the future. We very much look forward to encountering these new artistic perspectives. We're looking forward to the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen!'

Brigitta Muntendorf, new director of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen: 'The KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen are characterised by their unshakeable trust in the powerful role of art - for our (urban) society, our interconnection and our existence as empathic beings. We would like to invite the public to join us in the awakening smile that encounters the age of transformations, hybrid arts, digital transition and natural enquiry with undaunted curiosity, and that takes its chance with the untried. I am grateful for the trust

shown and the support given to me by the city and sponsors, and for my warm welcome into Hanover's urban community.'

The festival will be concluded with a big **community picnic** in collaboration with Kulturstadt Hannover and the event app WAS GEHT.

The **main venues of the KunstFestSpiele** - the Galerie, Orangerie and Arne Jacobsen Foyer - are located in the resplendent Herrenhausen Gardens. The DHC-Halle is in the gardens' immediate vicinity.

Tickets 5-45 euros (plus charges) online at kunstfestspiele.de, at the Schauspielhaus (**Music Music** only) and at all the usual HAZ/NP ticket agencies. KunstFestSpiele tickets entitle the holder to visit the Great Garden 2 hours before the start of an event.

Complete **information** on the 17th KunstFestSpielen can be found at kunstfestspiele.de.

Press photos and information on **press accreditation** at kunstfestspiele.de/presse.

Press contact

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The KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen are presented by the provincial capital of Hanover



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