

KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Press kit 2026

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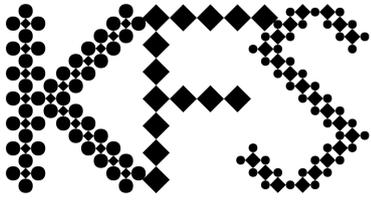
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KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Press release

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Hannover, 2.3.3026

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 six 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

kunstfestspiele.de

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.

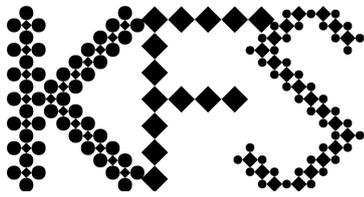
Tickets 5-45 euros (plus charges) online at kunstfestspiele.de, at the Schauspielhaus (**Music Music** only) and at all the usual HAZ/NP ticket agencies. KunstFestSpiele tickets entitle the holder to visit the Great Garden 2 hours before the start of an event.

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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KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Fact sheet

Duration and programme facts

Fri 22.5 - Sun 7.6 2026

17th edition of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, 1st edition under the directionship of Brigitta Muntendorf

23 productions as well as talks, guided tours, workshops and the Festivalcampus Niedersachsen a part of the SpektakelAkademie

approx. 100 events on 18 days, including one world premiere and six German premieres, with around 700 participating artists

Opening programme

Fri 22.5

Time tba

Wild Conversation ~Music Tennis~

Syotaro Hayashi

Pop-up performances in the city center

3-8 p.m.

The Forty Part Motet

Janet Cardiff

Sound installation in the Galerie

6:30 p.m.

Festival opening

Neues Rathaus / Terrace Gartensaal

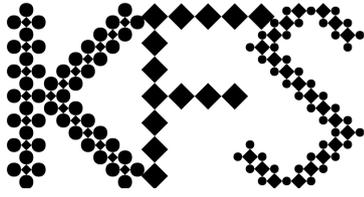
7:30-10:50 p.m.

Einstein on the Beach

Philip Glass / Ictus Ensemble /

Suzanne Vega / Collegium Vocale Gent / Tom de Cock

Concert / Beach club at Neues Rathaus / Kuppelhalle



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Sat 23.5

Time tba

Wild Conversation ~Music Tennis~

Syotaro Hayashi

Pop-up performances in the city center

3-8 p.m.

The Forty Part Motet

Janet Cardiff

Sound installation in the Galerie

6-6:30 p.m.

BODIES AND SUBWOOFERS (B.A.S.)

Opening with Stefanie Egedy

Live performance / Sound installation at Großer Garten /
Rasengarten

7:30-8:45 p.m.

The Day Before

Brigitta Muntendorf / Christiane Jatahy / Rosa Montero

Music theatre at DHC-Halle

9:30-10 p.m.

BODIES AND SUBWOOFERS (B.A.S.)

Stefanie Egedy

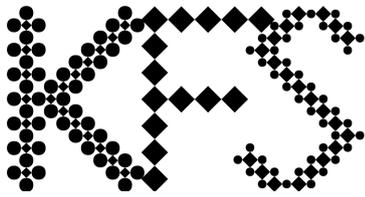
Live performance / Sound installation at Großer Garten /
Rasengarten

9-10:15 p.m.

The Day Before

Brigitta Muntendorf / Christiane Jatahy / Rosa Montero

Music theatre at DHC-Halle



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

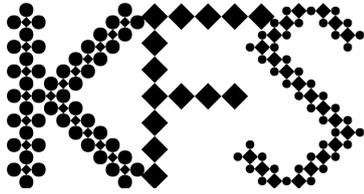
Venues – addresses and directions

Großer Garten, Galerie, Orangerie, Arne Jacobsen Foyer, Ehrenhof,
Tagungszentrum Schloss Herrenhausen and Festivalzentrum
Herrenhäuser Straße 3, 30419 Hannover
U4 or U5 to Herrenhäuser Gärten

DHC-Halle
An der Graft 3, 30167 Hannover
U4 or U5 to Herrenhäuser Gärten

Neues Rathaus
Platz der Menschenrechte 1, 30159 Hannover
Bus & Bahn U1, U2, U4, U5, U6, U8, U11 to Aegidientorplatz
Bus 120 to Rathaus / Friedrichswall
Bus 100, 200, 800 to Rathaus / Bleichenstraße

Schauspielhaus
Prinzenstraße 9, 30159 Hannover
All tramlines (except U10 and U17) to Kröpcke
U10 and U17 to Hauptbahnhof/Rosenstraße
Bus 100, 121, 128, 134, 200 to Thielenplatz/Schauspielhaus



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

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.

Box office **Großer Garten**

Herrenhäuser Straße 5, 30419 Hannover
Mon to Sun / 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

HAZ & NP Ticketshop – Musik Kiosk am Kröpcke
Georgstraße 35, 30159 Hannover
Tue to Sat – 12 to 6 p.m.

HAZ & NP Ticketshop – Theater am Aegi
Aegidientorplatz 2, 30159 Hannover
Mon to Fri – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HAZ & NP – Ticketshop Hannover City
Lange Laube 10, 30159 Hannover
Mon to Fri – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phone +49 (0)511 12 12 33 33
Web <https://tickets.haz.de>

Eventim
CTS/Eventim-Vorverkaufsstellen
Phone 01806 / 570070
Web www.eventim.de

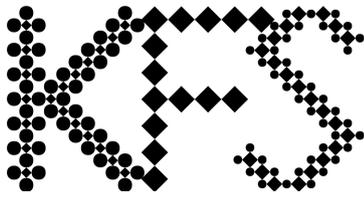
Box office

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

Information on discounts is available at kunstfestspiele.de/tickets.



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

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

Böttcherstraße 7

D-30419 Hannover

E-Mail info@kunstfestspiele.de

Web kunstfestspiele.de

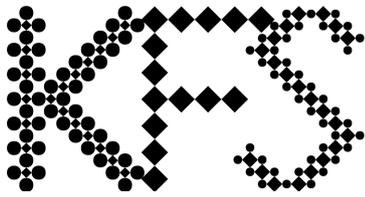
Social Media

facebook.com/kunstfestspiele

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



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

KinderKunstSpektakel

Sun 24.5 / 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Mon 25.5 / 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Orangerie / Galerie / Großer Garten / Ehrenhof / Festivalzentrum / Arne Jacobsen Foyer

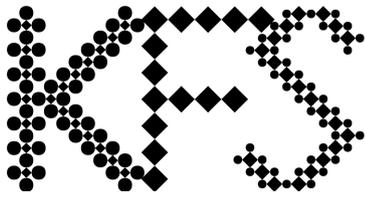
Tickets 5 euros per event*

The **KinderKunstSpektakel** continues and extends the festival's traditional family day. It's a two-day eventful wonderland for young and old. Fantasy meets technology here, the orchestra encounters live electronics, tennis plays sound art and the laws of gravity are suspended inside a converted truck. Organic robots, noise-making objects and unusual formats blur the boundaries between art, science and play. The focus is on artistic work that deals lightly with digitality and technology. Many other activities, such as the **BUSCH Babys** art education program in cooperation with the Wilhelm Busch Museum and events with free entry such as the **kestnerkids workshops** for children in cooperation with the Kestner Gesellschaft, turn these two days in addition to the excellent cuisine at the festival center into a creative and colorful festival experience.

The performances last between 15 and 60 minutes and can easily be combined with one another and with the installations.

* The **Weird Machine Wreksop**, the **Talk** and the **kestnerkids workshop** 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.

With the kind support of hanova.

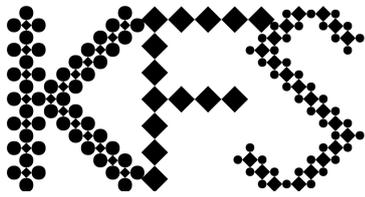


KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

SpektakelAkademie

The **SpektakelAkademie** runs in parallel with the KunstFestSpiele programme in the spirit of an *Académie des représentations* as envisioned by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz: with "demonstrations of machines, instruments, and automata, accompanied by lectures, jugglers, and art." It's a series that invites the public to engage critically, zestfully and playfully with the issues of digitalisation, technological development and the mediatisation of contemporary life. Knowledge is exchanged in an interdisciplinary and immersive manner in lectures, discussions, maker spaces, echo salons, workshops, guided tours, installations and artistic presentations. The programme dispenses with the separation of art from art education, seeing the staging of the educational aspect and participatory form as an artistic act.

The **SpektakelAkademie** has the aim of reflecting realistically on our post-digital present, and of schooling the imagination in strategies of self-empowerment. Together with the **KinderKunstSpektakel** it explores the new visionary spaces of our rapidly changing world.



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Herrenhausen Gardens

Großer Garten, Berggarten und 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.

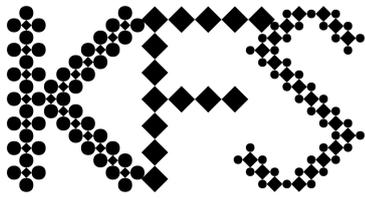
For 350 years they have stood for consummate horticultural art, and attract more than 500,000 visitors from around the world every year. Originating in a court pleasure garden laid out by Princess-Elector Sophie from 1676 to 1714, today they unite three horticultural styles over 135 hectares.

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



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Brigitta Muntendorf, Biography

The Austro-German composer Brigitta Muntendorf is one of the most influential musicians of her generation. She works in a range of genres in instrumental, orchestral and choral settings, develops new concepts of radical listening, environmental story-telling or immersive theatre and undertakes artistic research into 3D audio and AI voice-cloning.

She was appointed professor of composition at the Cologne University of Music and Dance in 2018. In 2024 she became a full member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and in 2015 of the Berlin Academy of Arts.

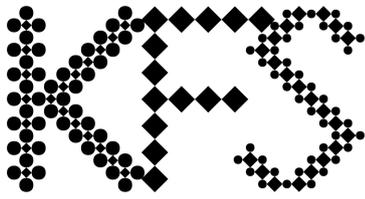
Her compositions have been much acclaimed. In 2014 Brigitta Muntendorf's awards included the Composer Prize of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, and in 2017 she was the recipient of the German Musci Authors' Prize in the Young Talent Award category, as well as scholarships to the Cité internationale des arts Paris, the Villa Kamogawa (Goethe Institute) in Kyoto, Japan, and elsewhere. In 2023 she received the German Record Critics' Award for her *Trilogy for Two Pianos*.

Muntendorf's works have been commissioned and presented by major international festivals of music and art, including the Vienna Festival, Ruhrtriennale, Kyoto Experiment, ULTIMA Festival Oslo, Donaueschinger Musiktage, Bregenzer Festspiele, Time:Spans New York, Münchner Biennale or the Festival d'Automne in Paris.

Important recent large-scale stage works include the two dance-theatre projects *Bilderschichten* (with MOUVOIR 2019) and *Archipel* (with Sou Fujimoto/MOUVOIR, Ruhrtriennale/Theater der Welt 2021), *MELENCOLIA*, with the Ensemble Modern (Bregenzer Festspiele 2022, Holland Festival 2024, Berliner Festspiele 2025) and the 3D-audio oratorio *ORBIT - A War Series* (Venice Biennale 2023, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg). Muntendorf's new music-theatre, **The Day Before**, directed by Christiane Jatahy, will receive its first performance at the Vienna Festival and its German premiere at the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen.

In 2025 Brigitta Muntendorf became the artistic director of the international KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen in Hanover.

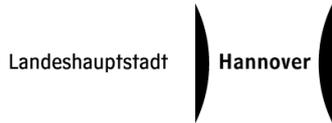
As of March 2026, KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, Hanover



KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

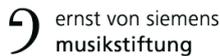
Sponsors and partners

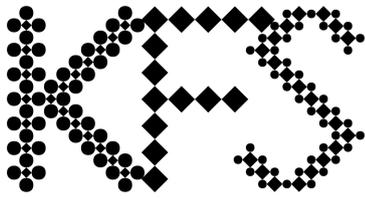
An event by the Landeshauptstadt Hannover



This year, the KunstFestSpiele is once again being supported by numerous companies and organisations.

Sponsors





KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Cooperating partners

FREIE REPUBLIK
WIENER
FESTWOCHE

musica festival
strasbourg

PO
Percussions
de Strasbourg

**NDR RADIO
PHILHARMONIE**

Niedersächsisches
Staatstheater
Hannover

F
Festival
Theaterformen

TREPPENHAUS
Orchester

VolkswagenStiftung

KMG:

FUCHSBAU FESTIVAL

**HANNAH
ARENDT
TAGE**
HANNOVER

**Landesmuseum
Hannover**
Das WeltenMuseum

d&b
audiotechnik

kestner
gesellschaft

GRAUWINKELS
SCHLOSSKÜCHE

B
Wilhelm Busch
Deutsches Museum für
Karikatur & Zeichenkunst

**WAS
GEHT**

**STADT
TEIL
KULTUR.**
Stadtteiltreff Sahlkamp

tanzn.z
niedersachsen

Partners festival centre

freitagsküche

Herrenhäuser

Elkershausen
Naturkost
für Euch nah!

voelkel

Cultural partner

NDRkultur