

KATHARINAS HOFMUSIK: »A NIGHT IN PETERSBURG«

Tuesday 12 August – Sunday 17 August 2025

The **Musikfest Bremen** invites you to apply for its fifth Atelier in Jever for talented young musicians!

Jever, a city in Lower Saxony, is steeped in history. At one time ruled by Catherine the Great, a descendant of the house of Anhalt-Zerbst, it is the ideal inspiration for a musical journey through the European Enlightenment. This year, we turn our attention to Catherine's court in St. Petersburg, which she aimed to turn into a centre of culture to rival those in Europe. For this, she invited eminent Italian composers, such as Baldassare Galuppi, Niccolò Piccinni, Vincenzo Manfredini and Domenico Cimarosa. The Russian Ambassador to the court in Vienna even tried to secure Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's services.

On our campus at the historic Mariengymnasium, a stone's throw away from the palace of Jever, arias, duets and instrumental music by these composers will be studied on period instruments under the artistic direction of **Alfredo Bernardini** and **Alessandro Quarta** with their outstanding team of internationally acclaimed tutors and experts in historically informed performance. With the aid of masterclasses, ensemble sessions and lectures, participants will be immersed into the music and culture of the 18th century.

The results will be presented on **Sunday 17 August 2025** in a concert at the **Stadtkirche Jever** as part of the **36th Musikfest Bremen**.

We are looking for:

Exceptional students and young musicians at the start of their career. **Participants must have experience with period instruments.** The minimum age for participation is 18, there is no upper limit, but young musicians (up to ca. 30 years) will have priority.

The Atelier is fully funded, including a grant covering all tuition fees, hotel accommodation and breakfast. Each participant will receive an additional allowance of € 250 to cover travel and living expenses.

Instruments:

Voice (soprano, mezzo-soprano), violin, viola, violoncello, flute, oboe, horn, bassoon, harpsichord/fortepiano. Only instruments from the classical period (original or copies) and/or with classical set-up will be accepted, including classical bows and gut strings.

Pitch: A = 430 Hz

Repertoire:

B. Galuppi, Concerto in G minor; W. A. Mozart, Sinfonia in G major K. 110/75b; G. A. Ristori, »Anima bella« from »Calandro«, N. Piccinni, »Ah, non resiste il core« from »Tigrane«, V. Manfredini »So, che a torto amor condanna« from »Armida« et al.

Successful applicants will receive the full repertoire and their individual parts before the start of the Atelier.

How to apply:

Please fill in the form on <https://musikfest-bremen.de/en/concerts-tickets/musikfest-atelier/> and attach an up-to-date CV and a link to a recent video in which you play a piece from 1760 – 1820 on a classical instrument, either as a soloist or in your ensemble. Sopranos are to send a video of a coloratura-aria from Mozart's »Lucio Silla« or »Mitridate«. Mezzo-sopranos are to send a video of »Venga pur« or »Già dagli occhi« from Mozart's »Mitridate«. The artistic direction will decide about your participation.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact Christina Fürstenwerth cfuerstenwerth@musikfest-bremen.de

Deadline for applications: 25 May 2025

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A collaboration with **Landkreis Friesland**

TUTORS

Alfredo Bernardini / Wind instruments, artistic direction



The Italian oboist Alfredo Bernardini studied early music in the Netherlands, where he graduated in 1987. He has since performed all over the world as a member of ensembles such as Hespèrion XXI, Le Concert des Nations, La Petite Bande, The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, The English Concert, Bach Collegium Japan and others. In 1989 he founded the Ensemble Zefiro. He is involved in over 100 CD recordings, received the Cannes Classical Award in 1995 for his recordings of oboe concertos by Vivaldi, and the Diapason d'or in 2009 with the Ensemble Zefiro for Handel's Fireworks Music, as well as several other international awards, including the Grand Prix du Disque, Choc de l'année du Monde de la Musique, Editor's Choice and Classic Disco del Mese. He is currently professor at the Mozarteum University of Salzburg. He has written several articles on the history of the oboe and has built copies of historical oboes.

Veronika Skuplik / Baroque violin



Veronika Skuplik travels all over Europe, Israel, the US, Australia, New Zealand, China and Korea for concerts, recordings and teaching activities. The internationally renowned violinist primarily plays in solo ensembles such as Concerto Palatino, Weser-Renaissance Bremen, the FBO Consort, la dolcezza, UrgentMusic and with her duo partners Andreas Arend (lute) and Jörg Jacobi (organ). She is a lecturer for baroque violin and viola at the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen and gives masterclasses in Europe and US. Veronika Skuplik's discography comprises over 120 CDs, including five of her own productions: »Silk & Tweed« with Andreas Arend, a trilogy of Austrian violin sonatas from around 1680: Violino 1 (the Strad: »Skuplik brings to these intricate miniatures an aristocratic poise ...«), Violino 2 »Catena Bohemica« (nominated for the longlist of the German Record Critics' Award) and Violino 3 »Il Ciclo Della Vita«. »Umbra Ambra«, a CD recording by her ensemble UrgentMusic with alto soloist Wiebke Lehmkuhl, was released in December 2023.

Ira Givol / Violoncello



Ira Givol is a versatile cellist, performing on both modern and historical instruments. He studied with Hillel Zori, Frans Helmerson, Lawrence Lesser and Rainer Zipperling, and graduated from the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln.

As a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in renowned venues such as the Berlin Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, Kennedy Center Washington, and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. With the Tel Aviv Trio, he won numerous international competitions, including the Joseph Joachim Competition (2002) and the Vittorio Gui Competition (2003).

He is a co-founder of the 64 things show, a permanent member of Il Gardellino (since 2009) and the Geneva Camerata (since 2013). His recordings have been released by Deutsche Grammophon, Sony, Accent, and Passacaille.

Since 2019, he has been the artistic director of the Kölner Fest für Alte Musik.

Alessandro Quarta / Singers, Continuo



Alessandro Quarta, conductor, is the founder of the vocal and instrumental ensemble Concerto Romano. His performances and CD recordings have received critical acclaim, including the Prix Caecilia in 2015 and the Diapason d'or in 2016. As a conductor and harpsichordist, he collaborates with numerous ensembles, including the Boston Early Music Festival Ensemble, Progetto Syntagma and Darmstädter Barocksolisten. He has been guest conductor at Teatro di Roma, Teatro Comunale di Ferrara, Theater Kiel, Staatstheater Darmstadt and Oper Köln as a Baroque opera specialist. Quarta teaches ensemble music at the Conservatorio E. F. Dall'Abaco in Verona. He teaches at FIMA's International Early Music Courses and is artistic director of the Festival Internazionale Urbino Musica Antica.