

KATHARINAS HOFMUSIK: »IN THE NAME OF THE EMPRESS«

Tuesday 11 August – Sunday 16 August 2026

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. Over in St. Petersburg, Catherine aimed to turn her court into a centre of culture to rival those in Europe, inviting eminent Italian composers, such as Baldassare Galuppi, Niccolò Piccinni, Vincenzo Manfredini and Domenico Cimarosa. Meanwhile in Vienna, Joseph Haydn was invited to present his Russian Quartets to Catherine's son Paul and his wife Maria Feodorovna when they visited Emperor Joseph II.

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 16 August 2026** in a concert at the **Stadtkirche Jever** as part of the **37th 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 € 200 to cover travel and living expenses.

Instruments:

Voice (soprano, mezzo-soprano), violin, viola, violoncello, double bass, 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:

Arias and duets by Baldassare Galuppi, Giovanni Paisiello, Vincenzo Manfredini, Domenico Cimarosa, Giuseppe Millico and Niccolò Piccinni
Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 55 in E flat major Hob. I:55 (»The Schoolmaster«)
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. Singers should submit a solo video of a coloratura aria and a cantabile aria in Italian from 1760 – 1790.

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: 31 May 2026

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A collaboration with **Landkreis Friesland**

TUTORS

Alfredo Bernardini / Wind instruments, artistic direction



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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 / Violin



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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 FB0 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. With Skuplik-Akademie (ug haftungsbeschränkt) she created a format for artistic project development. 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« 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.

Catherine Jones / Violoncello



© Catherine Jones

Catherine Jones received her Diploma in Baroque cello at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague after which she held a position with The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra directed by Ton Koopman for 10 years, touring and recording extensively with this group in Europe, America and Asia. In the same period she collaborated regularly with major European ensembles, including The Academy of Ancient Music, The English Concert, Concerto Copenhagen, Dunedin Consort, B'Rock, Pomo d'Oro, I Barocchisti. As a soloist, she has collaborated with renowned musicians and has participated in numerous international projects. She is principal cellist of Ensemble Zefiro, directed by Alfredo Bernardini. After several solo recordings, a new recording of the Porpora cello concerto with Elisa Citterio and Stefano Demichelli which will be released in spring 2026 on Turchini Records. Catherine is Professor of Baroque Cello at the Jacopo Tomadini Conservatorium in Udine.

Alessandro Quarta / Singers, continuo



© Alessandro Quarta

Alessandro Quarta is a conductor and founder of Concerto Romano, an ensemble devoted to the Italian repertoire of the 16th to 18th centuries. He performs regularly in Italy, Austria, Germany, the Benelux countries, Switzerland, the United States and Mexico at venues and festivals such as the Wiener Konzerthaus, Philharmonie Köln, the Boston Early Music Festival and Festival Cervantino. He has received the Prix Caecilia (2015) and the Diapason d'Or (2016), and five stars for »Missing Vittorio« (2024). He has appeared as guest conductor in Rome, Kiel, Darmstadt and Cologne. Since 2007 he has been teaching at the international early music courses in Urbino, since 2018 serving as artistic director of the festival there, and from 2019 to 2025 he was professor of ensemble music in Verona, also collaborating with institutions in Bremen and Cologne.