



PRESS INFORMATION

THE »CONCERT HALL FOR ALL«: AN EXPERIENCE SPACE AT THE ELBPHILHARMONIE

The Elbphilharmonie invites visitors of all ages to actively engage with music through a diverse range of hands-on experiences – whether by exploring instruments, making music together or learning more about the world of music. This inclusive programme is designed especially for those eager to try out an instrument or discover a new musical world for themselves.

The participatory programmes led by the Elbphilharmonie's Education Department are offered in a variety of formats and approaches. The »Klassiko« workshop series introduces participants to different groups of instruments, offering first encounters, for example, with orchestral instruments, the organ, gamelan and non-European percussion instruments. It also includes creative activities such as working with modular synthesizers and early explorations in composition. In contrast, the »Kosmos« format immerses participants in diverse musical genres – ranging from jazz to minimal music – and places a strong emphasis on inclusivity of both children and diverse groups of people. For instance, DJ workshops have already been offered specifically for members of the FLINTA* community (women, lesbians, intersex, non-binary, trans and agender people)*.

The Education Department also oversees five very different ensembles that regularly bring people from across the city's community together to make music at the Elbphilharmonie. These include the Publikumsorchester (Audience Orchestra), the Familienorchester (Family Orchestra), the Kreativorchester (Creative Orchestra), the Gamelan Ensemble and the Chor zur Welt (Choir to the World). Most of these ensembles perform several times a year at the Elbphilharmonie and other venues around Hamburg. The Chor zur Welt, for example, was founded under the motto »Teach Your Soul and Sing!« and regularly takes audiences on vibrant musical journeys through different cultures and regions.

Music education for children and young people is a central focus of the Elbphilharmonie's education programme. The extensive workshop offerings also extend to schools and nurseries: while the youngest are visited by the »Klingendes Mobil« – a van packed with instruments and musical surprises – school classes visit the Kaistudios each weekday morning for »Klassiko« or »Kosmos« sessions. Every season, the Education Department also curates a selection of imaginative concerts for young audiences, known as »Funkelkonzerte« (Twinkle Concerts) for the joy and wonder they spark – clearly visible in the eyes of listeners. These concerts are tailored to six age (or size) groups, from baby concerts (XS) to performances for children aged ten and up (XXL). While families are welcome at public events, school concerts are reserved exclusively for pupils and their teachers. The range includes everything from small, staged sound adventures for those just starting school to full-scale classical or jazz performances for older children in secondary and vocational schools. The



»ZukunftsMusik« (FutureMusic) initiative goes a step further by offering backstage encounters where young attendees can engage directly with professional musicians, ask them questions and learn about their world first-hand. One standout example was the »Let's Play« project in February 2024, where young people experienced gaming away from their own computers. With live gameplay and music performed on stage and streamed on the Twitch platform.

Weekend workshops for families, further education courses for passionate amateurs and master classes for aspiring professionals – such as the inaugural »Elbphilharmonie Jazz Academy« in summer 2021 – offer diverse opportunities for active musical participation that extend from the concert hall into the city and beyond. In recent years, the Education Department has continued to deepen its ties within Hamburg, resulting in many meaningful collaborations throughout the local area.

Events in the »Elbphilharmonie PLUS« series, for instance, typically take place at external venues and enrich the concert hall's programme with fresh and unconventional perspectives. One concert format that is particularly close to the hearts of everyone involved is »Klangzeit« (formerly »Ferne Klänge«), developed with Ensemble Resonanz. This growing inclusion initiative provides people living with dementia and their loved ones with an opportunity to reconnect with music and shared experiences for a few hours. At the University of Music and Performing Arts, Elbphilharmonie educators also lead seminars for students, sharing their expertise in the field. The Education Department also designs, coordinates and hosts the biennial international congress »The Art of Music Education«, organised in partnership with the Körber Foundation. The event brings together music educators from across Europe to engage in exchange, collaboration and professional development.

The Education Department's digital offerings have grown significantly in recent years, not least as a result of the pandemic. Among these is the popular »Kopfhörer« (Headphones) podcast, produced in collaboration with children and releasing a new episode each month.

www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/children-and-families

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