

Chamber Music Highlights at the "Young European Music Festival 2026"

- Two chamber concerts for strings and winds in Schwetzingen and Mannheim
- String quartet and wind quintet featuring nine young musicians from seven European countries
- Unique works by Arriaga, Shostakovich, Ibert, and Françaix

Mannheim, August 2026 – *As part of the "Young European Music Festival 2026" presented by the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA), two chamber concerts will take place on September 9 and 10 in Schwetzingen and Mannheim. Both the program and the lineup are exceptional: a string quartet and a wind quintet – featuring nine top-talented young musicians from seven European countries – will perform works by Arriaga, Shostakovich, Ibert, and Françaix.*

The opening work is by Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga – the "Spanish Mozart," born in Bilbao in 1806, who died in Paris at just 20. His String Quartet No. 1 surprises with its thematic clarity and a maturity that belies his age. Contrasting this is Dmitri Shostakovich's Eighth String Quartet, Op. 110 (1960) – one of the most personal works in the entire classical repertoire. Written in just three days following a visit to the ruins of Dresden, it bears the inscription "To the memory of the victims of fascism and war." The quartet quotes Shostakovich's own four-note motif and folk songs – a work that leaves no room for detachment.

The wind quintet opens with Jacques Ibert's "3 Pièces Brèves" (1930) – light, witty, full of French elegance. Jean Françaix's Wind Quintet No. 1 (1948) continues this esprit – a work that sounds as if it were composed in high spirits on a long summer afternoon.

All performers are EYOA alumni – young professional musicians from various European countries who participated in previous EYOA bootcamps and have returned. The ensembles are led by educators from the Mannheim Municipal Music School: the string quartet by Anne Erdmann-Schiegnitz, the wind quintet by Bernd Ballreich.

The Setting: Young European Music Festival 2026

The chamber concerts are part of the "Young European Music Festival 2026," which the EYOA presents from September 9 to 12 across the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region. A total of seven concerts will take place at five venues: Schwetzingen, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg, and Worms. In addition to the chamber ensembles, the Young European Symphony Orchestra under Jan-Paul Reinke and the newly formed Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra under Thomas Siffling will perform. The highlight is the European Gala Concert on September 12 at the Musensaal of the Rosengarten in Mannheim – featuring Hannes Wagner as soloist (Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto) and the world premiere of Thomas Siffling's composition "Home."

About the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA)

The European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA) is an exclusively donation-funded European youth music project based in Mannheim, inspired by the city's historic legacy as the home of the Mannheim School. Since 2019, it has brought together approximately 50 to 80 young musicians between the ages of 14 and 18 from across Europe each year, with a total of around 400 young people participating to date. Its mission is to foster cultural exchange, musical excellence, and European values across national borders. Participants are selected by an international jury and develop an ambitious concert program during a ten-day intensive bootcamp, which is then performed at public venues throughout the region. EYOA serves as a musical statement for peace, diversity, collaboration, and European solidarity. It is supported by private members, donors, and regional partners, as well as the European Parliament, the City of Mannheim, and the Europa-Union Baden-Württemberg as official patrons. Additional key supporters include Jeunesses Musicales, the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Rotary Club Mannheim-Rhein-Neckar, and the SINFONIMA Foundation. Further information at www.eyoa.de

EYOA Chamber Concerts 2026	
Dates and Venues	
Wednesday, September 9, 2026: Mozartsaal, Schwetzingen Palace – 8:00 PM	
Thursday, September 10, 2026: Kunsthalle Mannheim – 8:00 PM	
Ensemble Lineup	
String Quartet: Violin I: Iago Huerta (Spain), Violin II: Antonia Zgółka (Poland), Viola: Beatriz Almeida (Portugal), Cello: Cătălin-Mihail Pop (Romania)	
Wind Quintet: Flute: Hana Zvagen (Slovenia), Oboe: Alejandro Tomás Ponce (Spain), Clarinet: Amaia Romero Vigule (Spain), Bassoon: Håkon Meyer (Denmark), Horn: Ester Fumagalli (Italy)	

For further information, tickets, donations, and press photos: www.eyoa.de
Media contact: Klaus-Peter Rieser, Tel. +49 174 1973160, presse@eyoa.de

„Young European Music Festival 2026“

– Concert Dates and Venues Overview

Ticket service: www.eyoa.de

Date	Event	Ensemble	Venue
Wed, Sep 9, 2026	Chamber Concert	Young European Chamber Music (String Quartet & Wind Quintet)	Mozartsaal, Schwetzingen Palace, 8:00 PM, €29
Thu, Sep 10, 2026	Family Concert / Open Rehearsal	Young European Symphony Orchestra	Börsensaal, Municipal Music School Mannheim, 3:30 PM, Free admission
Thu, Sep 10, 2026	Jazz Concert	Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	BASF Gesellschaftshaus, Ludwigshafen, 8:00 PM, €29
Thu, Sep 10, 2026	Chamber Concert	Young European Chamber Music (String Quartet & Wind Quintet)	Kunsthalle Mannheim, 8:00 PM, €29
Fri, Sep 11, 2026	Symphony Concert	Young European Symphony Orchestra	Brahms Hall, Municipal Music School Heidelberg, 7:30 PM, €38
Fri, Sep 11, 2026	Jazz Concert (Open Air)	Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Andreasstift, Worms, 8:00 PM, €30
Sat, Sep 12, 2026	European Gala Concert	Young European Symphony Orchestra & Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Musensaal, Rosengarten Mannheim, 8:00 PM, from €45

„Young European Music Festival 2026“

– Full Concert Program

Ticket service: www.eyoa.de

Young European Symphony Orchestra

- Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn: Concert Overture in C major
- Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35 (Soloist: Hannes Wagner, 2026 SINFONIMA Competition Prize-Winner)
- Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93

Conductor/director: Jan-Paul Reinke

Young European Chamber Music

String Quartet

- Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga: String Quartet No. 1
- Dmitri Shostakovich: String Quartet No. 8, Op. 110

Director: Anna Erdmann-Schiegnitz

Wind Quintet

- Jacques Ibert: 3 Pièces Brèves
- Jean Françaix: Wind Quintet No. 1

Director: Bernd Ballreich

Young European Big Band Jazz Ensemble

- Thomas Siffling: Anticipation (arr. Chris Perschke)
- Sammy Nestico: Basie – Straight Ahead
- Peter Herbolzheimer: Blues in Latin
- Duke Ellington: C Jam Blues (arr. Dave Wolpe)
- Gordon Goodwin: Count Bubba
- Neal Hefti: Cute
- Cole Porter: Easy to Love (arr. Sammy Nestico)
- Duke Ellington: In a Mellow Tone (arr. Oliver Nelson)
- Sammy Nestico: It's Oh, So Nice
- Neal Hefti: Li'l Darlin'
- Jason Marshall: Ms. Garvey, Ms. Garvey!!
- Michel Camilo: One More Once (arr. Ed Gent / D. Bacon)
- Chick Corea: Spain (arr. Paul Jennings)
- W. C. Handy: St. Louis Blues (arr. Sammy Nestico)
- Sammy Nestico: The Queen Bee
- Bert Joris: Walking Tiptoe

Director: Thomas Siffling