

Press Release



Two Concerts. A New Sound.

EYOA Big Band Jazz — Making Its Debut in Ludwigshafen and Worms

- **A 19-Piece Orchestra of Outstanding Young Talent from Across Europe**
- **Big Band Jazz at European Youth Orchestra Academy — A First**
- **Works by Ellington, Porter, Goodwin, Corea, and Others**
- **Director: Thomas Siffling**

Mannheim, August 2026 — The European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA) is expanding its artistic scope with a new dimension: for the first time, the “Young European Music Festival 2026” will include Big Band Jazz concerts. The 19-piece Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra brings together young musicians from across Europe, developing an energetic program in just a matter of days. On Thursday, September 10, the ensemble will perform at the Festsaal of the Gesellschaftshaus der BASF in Ludwigshafen — a venue that is also supporting the concert. On September 11, the EYOA Big Band will perform the same program outdoors at the Andreasstift in Worms.

The program takes audiences through the full stylistic range of the genre — from the Swing era to contemporary sounds. Featured works include “In a Mellow Tone” (Duke Ellington), “Easy to Love” (Cole Porter), “Count Bubba” (Gordon Goodwin), and “Spain” (Chick Corea). At the heart of the program is the classic Big Band sound: precision brass writing, room for solo improvisation, and a rhythmic pulse that spans laid-back swing to Latin-influenced grooves. With his own arrangement “Anticipation,” renowned trumpeter and composer Thomas Siffling — who directs the orchestra — adds a personal touch to the program.

Under Siffling’s direction, an ensemble takes shape within just a few days that goes far beyond a conventional concert experience. The young musicians from across Europe meet for the first time at the start of the EYOA bootcamp in Mannheim and arrive at a shared musical understanding with remarkable speed. At the core is a distinctly European spirit: encounter, exchange, and collaborative artistic work across borders.

Festival Context: Young European Music Festival 2026

The Big Band Jazz concerts are part of the “Young European Music Festival 2026,” presented by EYOA from September 9 to 12 in the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region. In total, seven concerts will take place at five venues: Schwetzingen, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg, and Worms. Alongside the chamber ensembles, the program features the Young European Symphony Orchestra under Jan-Paul Reinke and the newly formed Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra under Thomas Siffling. The highlight is the European Gala Concert on September 12 at the Musensaal of the Rosengarten in Mannheim — with Hannes Wagner as soloist (Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto) and the world premiere of Thomas Siffling’s composition “Home.”

About the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA)

www.eyoa.de Funded exclusively through private donations, the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA) is a European youth music project based in Mannheim — inspired by the city’s historic legacy as 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, totaling around 400 young people 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 stands 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 Big Band Jazz Concerts 2026:

1. Thursday, September 10, 8:00 p.m. — Festsaal, Gesellschaftshaus der BASF, Ludwigshafen
2. Friday, September 11, 8:00 p.m. — Andreasstift, Worms (Open Air)
3. Saturday, September 12, 8:00 p.m. (as part of the Gala Concert with Symphony Orchestra) — Musensaal im Rosengarten, Mannheim

www.eyoa.de Further information, tickets, donations, press photos: www.eyoa.de
presse@eyoa.de Media contact: Klaus-Peter Rieser, Tel. +49 174 197 3160, presse@eyoa.de

“Young European Music Festival 2026”:

All Concert Dates and Venues 2026 — Overview

Ticket service: www.eyoa.de

Datum	Veranstaltung	Ensemble	Ort
Mi, 09.09.26	Kammerkonzert	Young European Chamber Music (Streichquartett und Bläserquintett)	Mozartsaal, Schloss Schwetzingen, 20:00 Uhr Eintritt: 29.- €
Do, 10.09.26	Familienkonzert Generalprobe	Young European Symphony Orchestra	Börsensaal, Städt. Musikschule, Mannheim, 15:30 Uhr Eintritt frei
Do, 10.09.26	Jazz Concert	Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Gesellschaftshaus der BASF, Ludwigshafen, 20:00 Uhr Eintritt: 29.- €
Do, 10.09.26	Kammerkonzert	Young European Chamber Music (String Quartet, Wind Quintet)	Kunsthalle Mannheim, 20:00 Uhr Eintritt: 29.- €
Fr, 11.09.26	Sinfoniekonzert	Young European Symphony Orchestra	Brahms-Saal, Städtische Musikschule Heidelberg, 19:30 Uhr Eintritt: 38.- €
Fr, 11.09.26	Jazz Concert (Open Air)	Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Andrea Stift, Worms, 20:00 Uhr Eintritt: 29.- €
Sa, 12.09.26	European Gala Concert	Young European Symphony Orchestra & Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Musensaal Rosengarten Mannheim, 20:00 Uhr Eintritt: ab 45.- €

“Young European Music Festival 2026”:

Complete Concert Program Overview

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: 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: Anne Erdmann-Schiegnitz

Wind Quintet

Jacques Ibert – 3 Pièces Brèves

Jean Françaix – Wind Quintet No. 1

Director: Bernd Ballreich

Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra

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