



Summa Cum Laude
International Youth Music Festival Vienna

Under the patronage of



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Österreichische UNESCO-Kommission
Austrian Commission for UNESCO

**Mediaservice "Summa Cum Laude" Youth Music Festival
7th to the 11th of July 2012, <http://www.sclfestival.org>**

Summa Cum Laude Festival conquers Austria

More than 100 concerts by 1.500 young musicians from all continents of the world in the most beautiful venues in Austria! In early July, Vienna and the surrounding regions are center stage for one of the largest youth music festivals in Europe: the Summa Cum Laude (SCL) Festival, which is under the patronage of Nikolaus Harnoncourt and, for the first time in 2012, of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO.

The SCL music festival has in recent years become the largest of its kind in Austria and one of the most important in Europe. From the 7th to the 11th of July 2012, 35 ensembles, orchestras, choirs and symphonic bands from 18 countries from all continents are performing in Vienna, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Burgenland and in Austria's neighboring countries Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. More than 100 concerts, of which around 40 are in Vienna alone, will be staged - most of them with free admission. Prominent examples are the opening event at St. Stephen's Cathedral, the final event in the Vienna Town Hall, the open-air concerts on the square in front of the baroque St. Charles's Church and at Schönbrunn Palace. Other concert venues include the Jewish Museum, the "Haus der Musik", the Minorite Church, the Ehrbar Hall and the Wiener Konzerthaus, where the grand gala concert will be held. In addition, seminars and courses will be held at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Highlights of the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Konzerthaus

The major highlights of the festival are the SCL competition in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the gala winners' concert in the great hall of the Wiener Konzerthaus. "The impressive and world famous atmosphere of these musical venues is the major highlight for the groups. We maintain an intensive intercultural exchange with over 100 events in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and of course in Austria," says Jürgen Partaj, the artistic director of the SCL-Festival. In addition to numerous world-class youth music groups, one orchestra, an initiative by Zubin Mehta, stands out: the "Galilee String Orchestra" from Israel, which will be performing at the Jewish Museum on the 8th of July. "This wonderful orchestra consists of young Jewish, Christian and Arab musicians," adds Partaj.

Jury with "Grammy Award" winner Ortner

The juries that evaluate the winners in the three categories "choirs", "orchestras" and "symphonic bands" are from six nations and are composed of high-profile experts such as Simon Carrington, Georg Mark, Aleksandar Markovic, Angelika Möser and "Grammy Award"-winner Erwin Ortner.

Children and youths perform for "Licht ins Dunkel"

The focus of the SCL Festival is the collective music-experience of its participants, aged 8 to 26 years. In addition to the concerts and the competition they will also be attending numerous workshops. During the 4 days of the festival, donation boxes for "Licht ins Dunkel", Austria's largest humanitarian aid organization, supported by the Austrian broadcasting corporation, will be available at all event venues in Vienna. "Our concerts are free of admission fees and we hope that our visitors will donate generously for "Licht ins Dunkel". The net donations will go towards the cultural and educational association "Ich bin ok", explains co-organizer Christian Bender.

More information:

All Vienna concerts at a glance:

<http://www.sclfestival.org/concerts2012.htm>

Video:

<http://www.sclfestival.org/impressions>

SCL Logo:

http://www.sclfestival.org/press_logos.htm