



# 15<sup>th</sup> Swiss International Music Academy

MUSIKINSEL RHEINAU - SWITZERLAND

July 11<sup>th</sup> - July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## MASTERCLASSES 2025:

PROF. NORA CHASTAIN VIOLIN

PROF. PHILIP A. DRAGANOV VIOLIN

PROF. ANDREAS JANKE VIOLIN

PROF. MIHAELA MARTIN VIOLIN

PROF. HARTMUT ROHDE VIOLA

PROF. THOMAS SELDITZ VIOLA

PROF. THOMAS GROSSENBACHER CELLO

PROF. FRANS HELMERSSON CELLO

PROF. TROELS SVANE CELLO

registration deadline  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*SPECIAL GUEST: PROF. JULIA FISCHER*

**SOLOIST AWARD 2025: PERFORMING AS SOLOIST WITH THE  
BODENSEE PHILHARMONIE KONSTANZ**

# YOUTH CLASSICS

## SWISS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY

**Masterclasses for young talented musicians**

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The YOUTH CLASSICS Swiss International Music Academy (SIMA) is a private organization promoting young musical talents from Switzerland and abroad. The SIMA offers the opportunity to participate in exclusive masterclasses during the summertime to advanced musicians intending to study music as well as to college students.

The high-quality and intensive program consists of solo lessons with internationally renowned teachers, as well as rehearsals with piano accompanists, chamber music lessons, chamber orchestra rehearsals and different workshops.

Giving young musicians the opportunity to perform in concerts is an essential part of SIMA's conception. During the whole academy, teachers and students live on the campus of the "Musikinsel Rheinau", allowing the personal encounter between inspiring teachers and students, as well as the intensive exchange among peers.

We are looking forward to welcoming motivated young musicians to the 15<sup>th</sup> Swiss International Music Academy at the Musikinsel Rheinau.





## **CURRICULUM**

- Intense solo lessons
- Rehearsals with piano accompaniment
- Chamber music lessons
- Several group workshops
- Sound adjustment center with Stefan-Peter Greiner and Lauri Tanner
- Performances during studio classes and in-house concerts
- Public SIMA concerts featuring participants in Rheinau, Schaffhausen and Zurich
- Physiotherapy
- leisure activities

# MEET THE SIMA FACULTY

## NORA CHASTAIN VIOLIN

California-born violinist Nora Chastain is violin professor at the Universität der Künste (UdK) in Berlin and has taught for 30 years at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste. As one of Europe's most sought after teachers, Nora Chastain has amongst her students international prize winners, concertmasters of major European orchestras, members of well-known chamber ensembles and faculty members of universities of music. She regularly gives masterclasses and serves on juries of international competitions. A main focus of her teaching is the integration of the American and European traditions of violin playing of the last 50 years. [www.norachastain.com](http://www.norachastain.com)



## PHILIP A. DRAGANOV VIOLIN

Philip A. Draganov is professor of violin at the Bern Academy of the Arts (HKB), teaches the violin class at the PreCollege Music of the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) and regularly gives masterclasses in Europe and Asia. Among his current and former students are winners and prizewinners of international competitions (Marschner, Spohr, Kreisler, Michael Hill, Menuhin, Tibor Varga, Postacchini, etc.) as well as concertmasters and members of various European orchestras. He serves on juries of international competitions and also conducts various orchestras. [www.draganov.ch](http://www.draganov.ch)



## ANDREAS JANKE VIOLIN

Andreas Janke is the first concertmaster at the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and professor of violin at the Zurich University of the Arts. He is an esteemed prizewinner at prestigious international competitions (Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, Fritz Kreisler Competition in Vienna, the Prague Spring competition a.o.). Together with pianist Oliver Schnyder and cellist Benjamin Nyffenegger, Janke is part of the Schnyder Trio, whose debut release with RCA Sony featuring the Schubert piano trios was named «reference recording» by «Die Bühne» and selected as the «Best Swiss Classical Album of the Year» by the Aargauer Zeitung. [www.oliverschnydertrio.ch](http://www.oliverschnydertrio.ch)



## MIHAELA MARTIN VIOLIN

Mihaela Martin has performed with leading orchestras such as the BBC Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic as well as the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Since 2017, she is artistic director of the Rolandseck/Bad Honnef Chamber Music Festival and frequently collaborates with musicians Daniel Barenboim, Sergei Babayan, Lera Auerbach a.o.. Mihaela Martin is a professor at University of Music in Cologne, at the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin and at the Kronberg Academy. She gives masterclasses throughout the world and is a regular jury member at international competitions such as the Queen Elisabeth (Belgium), Enescu (Romania) and Tchaikovsky (Russia). [www.mihelamartin.com](http://www.mihelamartin.com)



## HARTMUT ROHDE VIOLA

Violist and conductor Hartmut Rohde delights the audience with his tone and musical language as well as his special commitment to the respective style. Rohde is one of the leading European violists and a founding member of the Mozart Piano Quartet, with which he received the OPUS Klassik Award in 2018. Chamber music partners include D. Geringas, J. Jansen, J. Widmann, L. Vogt and E. Bashkirowa. Performances on tours take him as a conductor to music centers such as the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Tonhalle Düsseldorf, the Hamburg Laeiszhalle a.o.. Hartmut Rohde has been a professor at the UdK Berlin since 1993 and is an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music London. [www.hartmut-rohde.de](http://www.hartmut-rohde.de)



# MEET THE SIMA FACULTY

## THOMAS SELDITZ VIOLA

Violist Thomas Selditz comes from a family of musicians. He was principal violist under Daniel Barenboim at the Staatskapelle Berlin. Later he taught as a professor in Hannover and Hamburg until 2010, when he was appointed professor for viola at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. As a chamber musician, he has been invited to many renowned international music festivals and has released more than 20 CD recordings for numerous labels including Sony, Largo Records, Phoenix a.o.. His CD with works for viola and piano by Henri Vieuxtemps was awarded with the Diapason d'Or/France and the German Record Critics' Award in 2003.



## FRANS HELMERSON CELLO

Swedish cellist Frans Helmerson began his musical training with Guido Vecchi before moving on to study with Giuseppe Selmi and William Pleeth. Sergiu Celibidache and his mentor Mstislav Rostropovich also played a very influential role in his artistic development. In 1971, he won the renowned Cassado Competition in Florence – the first of many distinctions. In addition to his career as a soloist, chamber musician and conductor, Frans Helmerson taught for several years as a professor at the conservatories in Cologne and in Madrid. 2011 - 2016, he has been teaching as a guest professor at the Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin. 2016 saw him gain an additional professorship at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin. Frans Helmerson has been teaching on the Kronberg Academy Study Programmes as a principal professor since 2006.



## THOMAS GROSSENBACHER CELLO

Thomas Grossenbacher was the solo cellist of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich until 2020. After studies at the Zurich Academy, he studied with David Geringas at the Lübeck Academy. Menahem Pressler, Robert Mann, György Ligeti and Alfred Schnittke have as well had a great influence on his artistic development. His recordings, particularly Richard Strauss's Don Quixote (Arte Nova) with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, conducted by David Zinman, were highly acclaimed. Besides of his career as a cellist, Grossenbacher is a professor at the Zurich University of the Arts. Many of his students have won prizes at international competitions or have leading positions with renowned orchestras and chamber music ensembles.



## TROELS SVANE CELLO

Troels Svane studied with David Geringas at the Musikhochschule Lübeck and became second solo cellist of the Copenhagen Philharmonic at the age of 18. He was the assistant to David Geringas for 11 years before he was appointed professor for violoncello at the Musikhochschule Lübeck in 2004. Furthermore he has a cello class at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin. His students are prize winners at prestigious international competitions (ARD, Feuermann, Geneva, Isang Yun, Rostropovich, Tchaikovsky) and members of renowned chamber music ensembles and orchestras such as the Armida Quartet, the Berlin Philharmonic and the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks.



## **FACULTY CHAT**

### **DISCUSSION ROUND WITH THE SIMA FACULTY**

The members of the SIMA faculty are among the worlds' most successful teachers and artists. The "faculty chat" gives the participants the opportunity to ask questions. "Are you getting nervous before a concert?" or: "Does one really have to practice scales?" "What are you doing during the hours before a performance?" All these are possible questions during this interesting and exciting discussion round between faculty and participants at the SIMA 2025.



## **SPECIAL GUEST JULIA FISCHER**

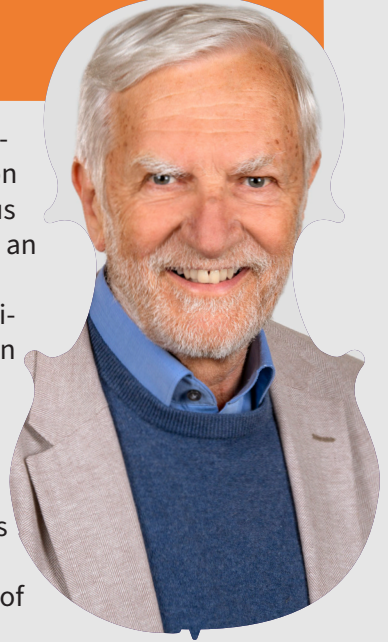
One of the world's leading violinists since 20 years, Julia Fischer is a versatile musician also known for her extraordinary abilities as a concert pianist, a chamber music and a violin teacher. At the age of 9 she started studying with the renowned violin professor Ana Chumachenco, later becoming her successor. The first prize at the international Yehudi Menuhin Competition in 1995 was one of the milestones in her early career and she has since performed with top orchestras worldwide, frequently working with renowned conductors. Over the course of her artistic career Julia Fischer has released numerous critically acclaimed and awarded CD and DVD recordings, first under the Pentatone label and later under Decca. Julia Fischer holds numerous awards including the Federal Cross of Merit, Gramophone Award and the German Culture Prize.

During the SIMA 2025, Julia Fischer will give a special masterclass to selected participants of the SIMA 2025 (The choice of participants is made by the artistic direction - applications for the Julia Fischer masterclass are not possible).

## **“MUSIC AND BRAIN” - LECTURE AND TALKS WITH NEUROLOGIST DR. JÜRIG KESSELRING**

Prof. Dr. Jürg Kesselring was Head Physician for Neurology and Rehabilitation at the Valens Rehabilitation Centre for over 30 years and has published numerous specialist books and articles in specialist journals as an author and editor.

At the SIMA 2025, participants will have the extraordinary opportunity to get to the bottom of the question of how our brain works (from the perspective of a musician), how it can be influenced, what “success” or “failure” can mean and much more during a lecture by Prof. Kesselring followed by a discussion. A passionate cellist himself, Prof. Kesselring provides highly interesting insights into the world of neurological processes that take place during the process of musical work, whether on stage or during practice.



## **IMPROVISATION WITH TIM KLIPHUIS**



Master improviser Tim Kliphuis will host small groups and one-on-one lessons, covering a wide range of subjects as taught in his courses at the Conservatoire of Amsterdam. Starting with basic principles of improvisation, such as imitation, rhythm and tonality, the students are introduced to a more ear-based, confidence-building approach of music on their instrument.

During 3 days, non-classical styles such as folk and jazz will be studied, giving the students a broader understanding of the music world which is vital in their careers as 21st-century musicians.

# SPECIAL PRIZES AND AWARDS

## PERFORMING AS SOLOIST WITH THE

## ***BODENSEE PHILHARMONIE KONSTANZ***

The ***Bodensee Philharmonie Konstanz*** was founded in 1932 as a concert and theatre orchestra. Today it is known as one of the most important cultural forces of Southwestern Germany and plays an important role in the Swiss concert world, too. **At the 15th SIMA 2024, one outstanding participant will be selected for performing as soloist with the Bodensee Philharmonie Konstanz during the season 25/26 or 26/27.** The selection will be made throughout the SIMA 2025 by the SIMA faculty members. (Applications for the soloist prize are not possible).



## TOMBOLA FOR BOW REPAIRING

Lauri Tanner, “Head of Bow Making and Restoration” at **Florian Leonhard Fine Violins in London**, will give 5 free bow repairings at the SIMA 2025. The 5 winners will be drawn by a tombola during the SIMA 2025.



## SPECIAL PRIZE “SOLOIST VIOLIN”

YOUTH CLASSICS SIMA is lending a violin built by renowned violin maker Stefan-Peter Greiner at the SIMA 2025 for the period of 2 years. The instrument will be awarded to an outstanding talent of the SIMA 2025. The prize will be presented at the final concert of the SIMA 2025 at the Zurich University of the Arts.

Stefan-Peter Greiner is one of the world stars of modern violin making. His violins are among the best instruments in the world. Numerous soloists who could play on a Stradivarius, prefer a violin by Greiner instead. Soloists playing Greiner's violins include Christian Tetzlaff, Antje Weithaas, Hanna Weinmeister, Leonidas Kavakos a.o. Above that, Greiner's violins are played by musicians in many chamber music ensembles and in almost all of the world's top orchestras.

[www.greinerviolins.com](http://www.greinerviolins.com)



## BOW AWARD BY FLORIAN LEONHARD FINE VIOLINS

**Florian Leonhard Fine Violins** will award a master bow to a selected participant of the SIMA for the period of 2 years.

The prize will be presented at the closing concert on July 20th, 2025, at the Zurich University of the Arts.



FLORIAN  
LEONHARD  
FINE VIOLINS

## SIMA SOUND ADJUSTMENT CENTER AND BOW MAKING WORKSHOP WITH STEFAN-PETER GREINER AND LAURI TANNER

As “Violin maker in residence at SIMA”, internationally acclaimed violin maker Stefan-Peter Greiner will be at the SIMA 2025 for the 6th time. It will again be possible for the participants to actively participate in the process of creating a new violin by sawing and carving the wood themselves in Stefan-Peter Greiner's workshop. Greiner is also available to answer questions about sound optimization.



Lauri Tanner is the „Head of Bow Making and Restoration“ at Florian Leonhard Fine Violins in London.

Early on in his career as a violin maker, Lauri specialized in bows. He will be leading a workshop at SIMA 2025 on “The History of Bow Making” and explaining to participants what makes a good bow and what to look out for when choosing a bow.

In addition to the workshop, he will be on hand to answer participants' questions about their bows.

# COSTS FOR 15TH SIMA 2025

## CHF 890 /€ 890

- Every student who is accepted to the SIMA 2025 receives a full scholarship for the course fee. The fee includes only room and board (double- or multi- bed room, 3 meals a day)
- Costs for room & board SIMA 2025, **departure on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025** after the final concert at the Zurich University of the Arts: **CHF 890.- / € 890.-**  
*The SIMA 2025 final concert will take place at 5 pm on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2025, at the Zurich University of the Arts (the concert will finish around 8 pm).*
- Costs for room & board SIMA 2025, individual **departure on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**, after breakfast at the IBIS Budget Hotel: **CHF 980.- / € 980.-**
- **Application fee: CHF 100.- / € 100.- (will be subtracted from total costs)**

Applications without bank receipt proving the payment of the application fee will not be processed. The application fee will be subtracted from the total costs. In case the applicant does not receive a place at the SIMA 2025, the application fee will be paid back. In case the participant cancels his/her participation, the application fee will not be refunded.

## GUARDIANS & FAMILY MEMBERS

- Participants under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian\*
- Parents/adult siblings pay CHF 100.- or € 100.- per night for a double room with full board

*\*For participants older than 12, there is no possibility for parents to stay overnight on the Musikinsel due to capacity limits.*

**[www.youth-classics.org](http://www.youth-classics.org)**

**Registration deadline: May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**





# ADDRESS

MUSIK  
INSEL

*Rheinau*

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