Bundesvereinigung
Deutscher
Musikverbände e.V.

European Championship for Wind Orchestras

BRAWO
Die Blasorchester-Messe

BRAWO, Messe Stuttgart,
20. - 22. November 2026



Cem Özdemir
Ministerpräsident des Landes Baden-Württemberg


Photo credit: Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg / Ilkay Karakurt

Europe is colourful and diverse. It is a place where very different cultures, traditions and languages come together. Music shows just how successfully people can communicate despite these differences. It brings people together, regardless of where they come from. This is also the case at the European Championship for Wind Orchestras (ECWO) 2026 in Stuttgart.

Ten outstanding orchestras from nine countries will compete here. For the first time, the European Championship is being held in Germany as part of the trade fair for Wind Music in Stuttgart. I am delighted that Baden-Württemberg is hosting this event, and, as patron of the ECWO, I warmly welcome all the musicians and members of the audience to our state capital!

This special European Championship brings together outstanding musical excellence and an international flai . Each orchestra brings its own style, its own musical identity and an abundance of talent to the stage. The performances demand precision, expression and perfect ensemble playing – and, of course, the ultimate prize: the title of European Champion.

Beyond the competition itself, the ECWO also offers an opportunity to broaden musical horizons, learn from one another and forge new connections. I am particularly pleased that the Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg, an ensemble from our own state, will also be taking to the stage.

My heartfelt thanks go to the German Federal Association of Music Associations (Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände), all our partners and the many dedicated individuals whose efforts are making the European Championship for Wind Orchestras in Stuttgart possible.

I wish all the participating orchestras every success, the audience a series of captivating concerts, and everyone involved many inspiring encounters.

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Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände e.V.

A greeting from **Jan Matthys** President ECWO



Photo credit: Stephan Vanfleteren

On behalf of the ECWO Association, I would like to welcome you all to Stuttgart, the capital of Baden-Württemberg! The Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände has done a great job in organising an inspiring event for you, and we congratulate and thank them warmly for that!

This weekend the crème de la crème of the wind band world gather to play music, to meet, share and learn from each other. We will witness and experience the huge range of ensemble skills and creativity that reflect the musical richness, colour and diversity of Europe's multi-textured symphonic bands, and hear the broad variety of instrumental textures from across our European community. Our wind bands encompass a wide range of settings: some large, some small; some with strings, others with brass, woodwind and percussion alone. The musical programmes can go in all directions, but one thing is common to all: the celebration of this abundance and richness of orchestral colour! All of this is a culmination of our educational efforts and community support, without which much of it wouldn't exist.

We seek to inspire and connect people, boost self-esteem and make space for a broad spectrum of emotions. In addition, this promotion and presentation of our communal wind music, its players and creators, and the values shared throughout Europe, exemplify the benefits to society at large — social value being every bit as essential as artistic value.

We would like to thank our loyal sponsor Adams for donating several prizes and for supplying all the top-notch percussion on stage.

This edition is special because it is held alongside the BRAWO Music Fair. Please visit the many interesting trade stands to be informed and inspired.

Finally, we would like to invite you to the next edition of ECWO, which will take place in Bern (Switzerland) from 26 to 28 May 2028.

But for now, enjoy your time at ECWO 2026. Enjoy the beauty of sight and sound of the best wind bands in Europe!

A greeting from **Felix Schreiner MdB**

President of the German Association of Music Associations (BDMV)


Photo credit: Tobias Koch

Dear musicians, conductors, representatives of music associations, and friends of Wind Music from across Europe,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the European Championship for Wind Orchestras (ECWO) 2026 in Stuttgart, held alongside the BRAWO Music Fair. For the first time, this prestigious European co - petition takes place in Germany, bringing together outstanding ensembles and diverse musical traditions united by a shared passion for wind music. The ECWO stands for more than musical excellence. It embodies the unifying power of music, cultural exchange, and European cooperation. When orchestras from across Europe meet on one stage, music becomes a universal language that connects people, generations, and cultures.

Held under the patronage of Cem Özdemir, Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg, the ECWO 2026 highlights the importance of wind music and the vital role of music associations, ensembles, and dedicated volunteers in strengthening our cultural life and bringing people together.

An event of this scale would not be possible without the commitment of many people working behind the scenes. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire BDMV office and everyone whose dedication and profe - sionalism have helped bring the ECWO to Germany.

As President of the BDMV, I am proud that we can contribute to raising the profile of wind music in Germany and throughout Europe

I wish all participating orchestras every success, an inspiring competition, and lasting friendships across borders. May the ECWO 2026 be a celebration of musical excellence, cultural diversity, and European solidarity.

I also wish all visitors and exhibitors an enjoyable and rewarding BRAWO, filled with inspiring encounters and the joy of making music togethe .

Let us celebrate the power of music to bring Europe together.

With my warmest regards.

A greeting from **Stefan Lohnert** President of Messe Stuttgart



Photo credit: Terzo Algeri (Fotoatelier M) / Messe Stuttgart

Dear Friends of Wind Music,

This year's BRAWO is all about premieres. One particular highlight will be the first ever hosting of the European Championship for Wind Orchestras (ECWO) in Germany. We are proud that this major event takes place at Messe Stuttgart under the patronage of Baden-Württemberg's Minister-President Cem Özdemir, underlining the cultural significance of wind music and its power to connect across borders. We are looking forward to hearing Europe's finest wind orchestras compete in musical contest! The opening concert on Friday also promises an extraordinary moment: for the first time, the Baden- ürttemberg State Police Orchestra and the Ulm Army Music Corps will share a stage, setting the tone for BRAWO with an impressive sign of cooperation.

On Friday, we will welcome senior citizens' wind orchestras from all over Baden-Württemberg to the Atrium concert stage. Countless children's voices from school choirs will fill our halls at the big „Sing along!" children's choir event. The festive finale on Sunday will be the brass band church service, in which more than 150 musicians will express the spirit of community at BRAWO through the sound of their instruments.

More than 30 concerts on all fair days will give BRAWO the feel of a vibrant festival. At the same time, it will be a place for exchange and further education through exhibitions and workshops. For example, you can marvel at Europe's largest saxophone exhibition, featuring the world's best-known manufacturers. This programme booklet will help you plan your best possible event experience.

My sincere thanks go to all contributors who shape BRAWO with their great commitment and make it a unique meeting place for wind music.

I wish you many musical highlights, inspiring encounters with like-minded people, and unforgettable moments at BRAWO 2026!

Official progra

Friday 20 November – IRTC & Opening

14.00 - 16.00	International round-table conference: the Sound of Europe.
17.00 - 18.00	Opening Ceremony (by invitation only)
18.00 - 19.00	Opening concert: Heeresmusikkorps Ulm and Polizeiorchester Baden-Württemberg

Saturday 21 November – Contest day 1

01	Orchestre d'Harmonie des Jeunes de Strasbourg (France)	10.00 - 10.45
02	Rødovre Concert Band (Denmark)	11.15 - 12.00
03	Christiania Blåseensemble (Norway)	12.30 - 13.15
04	Sinfonisches Blasorchester Tirol (Austria)	14.00 - 14.45
05	Uppsala Blåsarsymfoniker (Sweden)	15.15 - 16.00
06	Musikkforeningen Nidarholm (Norway) – defending champion	16.30 - 17.15

Sunday 22 November – Contest day 2

07	Pihalni orkester ZarjaŠoštanj (Slovenia)	10.00 - 10.45
08	Koninklijk HarmonieOrkest Schelle (Belgium)	11.15 - 12.00
09	Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg (Germany)	12.30 - 13.15
10	Associazione Bandistica InCrescenDO APS (Italy)	14.00 - 14.45

Test Piece
Melancholy Moment by Hubert Hoche


Photo credit: Hubert Hoche

Each wind band will play the Test Piece and an Own Choice program. This year's Test Piece is Melancholy Moment by Hubert Hoche (Germany).

Hubert Hoche (born 1966, Germany) studied composition and conducting at the Franz Liszt University of Music in Weimar, followed by postgraduate studies in composition. He further refined his artistic profile throug studies with Michel Philippot, Bernhard Haitink, and Jan Cober.

His works have received numerous awards, including first prizes for Nebe - bilder and From Heaven High, as well as recognition at several young composers' competitions in Germany. His composition „O quae mutatio rerum!?" won the Hochschulforum junger Komponisten and was broadcast by WDR.

Hoche has collaborated with leading orchestras, ensembles, and soloists, including the Weimarer Staatskapelle, Jena Philharmonic, Thüringen Philharmonie, and rarescale London.
In 2017, his interdisciplinary work MYSTIKA for concert band, dancer, and visual artist premiered at the Stadttheater Fürth. He is also active as a conductor of wind orchestras and choirs. A committed advocate for contemporary music, he co-founded the festival Weimarer Frühjahrstage and founded fla - mabis – contemporary music e.V., serving as its president from 1999 to 2014.

Since 2005 he has been Vice President of the Tonkünstlerverband Würzburg, and since 2023 Vice President of both WASBE Germany and the German Composers' Association (Thuringia).

The jury



Photo credit: Frank Elbert

Dr. Frank Elbert
Germany

Dr. Frank Elbert studied saxophone performance and instrumental pedagogy at the University of Music in Würzburg, where he also completed a postgraduate performance programme with a Concert Diploma. He earned his PhD in music education from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in 2018.
Since 2008, he has taught at Spessart-Gymnasium in Alzenau and has held teaching positions at the University of Music in Würzburg, specialising in saxophone, music education, wind orchestra conducting and rehearsal methodology.
Dr. Elbert has served as Association Conductor of the Vorspessart Wind Music Association since 2007 and as State Conductor of the Bavarian Wind Music Association since 2012. Since 2025, he has been Federal Music Director of the BDMV (German Federal Association of Music Associations). He regularly conducts selection orchestras, leads workshops and serves as a juror at national and international competitions. His numerous publications reflect his expertise in instrumental pedagogy and orchestral practice.



Photo credit: Isabella Ruf-Weber

Isabella Ruf-Weber
Switzerland www.isarufweber.ch

Isabella Ruf-Weber graduated with honours in orchestral conducting in 1989 and also qualified as a flute teacher a the Lucerne Conservatoire. She further specialised in conducting at the University of Michigan (USA) and through advanced studies and masterclasses in Switzerland. She has conducted numerous renowned wind orchestras in Switzerland and Germany, including the Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg and the Landwehr Fribourg Wind Orchestra. She is also passionate about working with young musicians and has led several youth wind orchestras in Switzerland and Germany.
In addition to her conducting career, Isabella Ruf-Weber is active as a guest conductor, lecturer and trainer for conductors and competition jurors. She served as conductor and production manager at the Sursee Municipal Theatre for 20 years, until 2022, and was musical director of the Werdenberg Castle Festival in 2024.
A sought-after jury member at conducting and music competitions, she was awarded the Stephan Jaeggi Prize in 2017 in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Swiss wind music.

The jury

Independent chairman



Photo credit: Shea Lolin



Photo credit: Jan van den Eijnden

Shea Lolin
United Kingdom www.shealolin.co.uk

Shea Lolin is a British conductor, performer and producer, renowned for his innovative approach to contemporary classical music and his commitment to expanding the repertoire for wind ensembles. A graduate of Colchester Institute, he has collaborated with leading orchestras, including the Czech Philharmonic and Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra, and has established acclaimed recording partnerships with major labels. Throughout his career, he has championed the creation of over 400 new works and arrangements, working closely with contemporary composers. As Chair of BASBWE (British Association of Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles), Shea actively promotes the development of wind music in the UK and internationally. He is dedicated to innovative programming, music education and the professional development of musicians. In 2023, he co-founded Mastertrack, specialising in orchestral recording, mastering and audio production. Through his work as a conductor, producer and advocate for new music, he continues to shape the future of wind ensemble performance and repertoire.

Jan van den Eijnden
the Netherlands

Born in Helmond, the Netherlands, he studied music education and French horn in Tilburg. As a professional horn player, he performed with several Dutch symphony and wind orchestras, as well as the wind quintet Fiati, and appeared as a soloist.
He currently works as a cultural education specialist at LKCA, the Dutch National Knowledge Institute for Cultural Education and Amateur Arts, and teaches and coordinates at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Tilburg. He is also active as a conductor.
An experienced jury chairman, he has served at numerous prestigious competitions, including the World Music Contest (WMC) in Kerkrade and the European Championship for Wind Orchestras (ECWO), as well as national youth orchestra competitions.



Photo credit: Associazione Bandistica InCrescenDO APS

Associazione Bandistica InCrescenDO APS, Italy

Conductor: Fabio Porté

Founded in 2010, InCrescenDO is an Italian wind orchestra which gathers musicians from northwest Italy to create powerful, refined musical experiences. Active in prestigious concert halls and European festivals, it has collaborated with leading professionals from the international music scene.

It earned international recognition, including a first prize at CIBM in alencia and two victories at the Flicorno d'Oro in Riva del Garda.

The Orchestra is directed by Fabio Porté, horn graduated from the Conservatory, who later furthered his studies at the European School of Advanced Musical Training

www.orchestraincrescendo.it

Repertoire: Aurora Awakes – John Mackey – Osti Music Inc. – 12:00 Sinfonietta No. 6 „Blossom of the Heart" – Hirokazu Fukushima – Bravo Music – 8:50 | Saxa Picta – Luciano Feliciani – Scomegna Edizioni Musicali – 13:30



Photo credit: Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg

Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Conductor: Björn Bus

The Landesblasorchester BW (LBO), since 1978 an institution of BVBW, is among Germany's leading symphonic wind orchestras, attracting highly accomplished musicians.

It won Vice World Champion at the 2017 WMC and represented Europe at the 2024 WASBE World Conference. Björn Bus, LBO's Music Director since 2014, was born in Brunssum, began as a percussionist before turning to trombone, studied conducting in Groningen and Maastricht with Alex Schillings and Jan Cober, conducts internationally, and is in demand as an adjudicator.

He also serves as WMC Artistic Director and a WASBE board member.

www.landesblasorchester.de

Repertoire: Danse Satanique – Alexandre Kosmicki – HAFABRA Music / Louis Martinus – 10:40 | Melancholy Moment – Huber Hoche – HH.-Musikverlag – 6:00 | Resurrection – Kevin Houben – Houben Editions – 16:30



Photo credit: Koninklijk HarmonieOrkest Schelle

Koninklijk HarmonieOrkest Schelle, Belgium

Conductor: Steven Verhaert

Founded in 1837 in Schelle (Belgium), Royal WindBand Schelle has grown into a regional top orchestra with over 100 musicians from across the country. Performing in the superior division, the band ranks among Belgium's finest amateur wind bands. Musical excellence goes hand in hand with accessibility, youth support, and innovation.

Led by conductor Steven Verhaert the orchestra won first place in 2025 at the Vlamo Open Windband Championship and continues to push boundaries with its flagship concert KlankKleur and international tours—united by a shared passion for music.

www.harmonieschelle.be

Repertoire: Contre Qui, Rose – Morten Lauridsen, arr. H. Robert Reynolds – PeerMusic – 3:40 | Dance of Seven Veils – Richard Strauss, arr. Steven Verhaert – 9:00 | Sand and Stars – Thierry Deleruyelle – De Haske – 20:00



Photo credit: Pihalni orkester Zarja Šoštanj

Pihalni orkester Zarja Šoštanj, Slovenia Šoštanj

Conductor: Miran Šumečnik

The Zarja Šoštanj Wind Orchestra grew from strong industrial and community roots into one of Slovenia's leading wind ensembles.

In 2025 it celebrated 100 years of continuous music-making. A key cultural force in its region, the orchestra performs widely at home and abroad and appears in the highest national concert category.

It became national champion in 2023, receiving a special jury prize, and is committed to nurturing young musicians while creating ambitious concert productions.

Website: https://po-zarja.si/

Repertoire: Arafo, Ensueno de un Paraiso – Ferrer Ferran – ca. 16:00
Poem of Winds – Tilen Slakan – ca. 10:00



Photo credit: Musikkforeningen Nidarholm

Musikkforeningen Nidarholm, Norway

Conductor: Trond Husebø

Musikkforeningen Nidarholm, founded 1924 in Trondheim, Norway. The band has made significant progress during the last decade and has achieved s - lid results at the Norwegian Championship over several years. They secured a historic victory in the national Championships in 2019 and repeated the win in 2022. Furthermore, they emerged victorious at the ECWO 2023 in Amiens, France, and defended the title in Oslo in 2024. They still proudly hold the title of European Champions. Musikkforeningen Nidarholm released their first recording in 2024; Nidarholm Live, and visited the prestigious Innsbrucker Promenadenkonzerte in July 2025. Musikkforeningen Nidarholm is directed by Trond Husebø, originally a viola player, but now a widely recognized conductor acclaimed for his energy and versatility.

Web: https://nidarholm.no

Repertoire: Fanfare and Choral – Egil Hovland – Norsk Musikkforlag – 7:30
This isle is full of noices, 1st movement: The enchanter's plot – John Mackey – Osti Music – 6:00 | Dance Suite – Béla Bartók, arr. Eiji Suzuki – Bravo Music – 16:00



Photo credit: Uppsala Blåsarsymfoniker

Uppsala Blåsarsymfoniker, Sweden

Conductor: Leif Karlsson

Uppsala Blåsarsymfoniker was founded in 2000 by young wind music enthusiasts with the aim to perform original music for symphonic wind band. During the years, the orchestra had a lot of successful concerts and collaborations with other ensembles, artists, conductors and composers.

Uppsala Blåsarsymfoniker is well known within the wind band community in Sweden and is recognized as one of the best amateur orchestras in the country. The orchestra has won the national championship twice and participated in the World Music Contest in Kerkrade 2017 earning a gold medal.

https://www.uppsalablasarsymfoniker.se

Repertoire: Divertimento – Oliver Waespi – Beriato – 14:49
Magellan's Voyage To Unknown Continent – Masanori Taruya – Cafua – 8:15
Machu Picchu – Satoshi Yagisawa – Bravo – 10:00



Photo credit: Sinfonisches Blasorchester Tirol

Sinfonisches Blasorchester Tirol, Austria

Conductor: Bernhard Schlögl

In 2026, the Sinfonisches Blasorchester Tirol celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Musicians from Tyrol, South Tyrol and the surrounding regions perform a diverse repertoire, ranging from church concerts to national and international competitions.

Under the direction of its founder and conductor, Bernhard Schlögl, the orchestra has established itself as one of Austria's most distinguished wind orchestras.

https://sinfonisches-blasorchester.tirol/

Repertoire: Danse satanique – Alexandre Kosmicki – HAFABRA Music – 10:30
Resurrection – Kevin Houben – Houben Editions – 17:00



Photo credit: Christiania Blåseensemble

Christiania Blåseensemble, Norway

Conductor: Guro Haugli

Christiania Blåseensemble was founded in 2008, for and by the music students of Oslo, in cooperation with the Norwegian Academy of Music. Christiania is a project-based ensemble, performing both traditional wind band music and arrangements of symphonic works. One of the main goals of the ensemble is to be a connection between the students and the professional ensembles and orchestras, and also to promote up and coming conductors and composers in Norway. Christiania Blåseensemble was the winner of the 2025 Norwegian wind band Championship.

Guro Haugli is a Norwegian conductor educated at the University of Stavanger and Musikene, Spain and in December 2024 she completed her tenure as assistant conductor of the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianiablaseensemble

Repertoire: Bränningar – Helena Munktell, arr. Anders Högstedt – Skellton – 10:30 | Extreme Make-Over – Johan De Meij – Amstel – 16:30 | Dirty Dancing – Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen – Noteservice – 5:10



Photo credit: Rødovre Concert Band

Rødovre Concert Band, Denmark

Conductor: Klaus Tönshoff

Clarinetist and conductor Klaus Tönshoff is educated at The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen with further studies in Karlsruhe.

Since 1999 Klaus has been a member of The Danish National Symphony Orchestra. Klaus has conducted various ensembles and professional orchestras. Klaus has received a number of danish awards for his efforts in Danish music life.

Rødovre Concert Band was founded in 1968 and today consists of around 75 members. The orchestra has a history with numerous concerts and tours in Denmark and Europe, prestigious competition results, CD releases, premieres etc.

Website: www.concertband.dk

Repertoire: Lux Perpetua – Frank Ticheli – Manhattan Beach Music – 12:00 Exhibition (4 Sätze: A Clear Mind; Two People in a Room; Lemon Love; The Moon is upon Us) – Miho Hazama – Miho Hazama edition – 22:00



Photo credit: Orchestre d'Harmonie des Jeunes de Strasbourg

Orchestre d'Harmonie des Jeunes de Strasbourg, France

Conductor: Maxime Maurer

Founded in 2019, the Orchestre d'Harmonie des Jeunes de Strasbourg (OHJS) brings together young musicians from diverse backgrounds in an artistic and community-driven project of excellence aimed at promoting the original repertoire for wind ensembles.

In six years, the ensemble has established itself as one of the most dynamic wind orchestras in France with world premieres, recordings, a participation at the WASBE Conference 2024 and a french champion title in 2025.

The OHJS is conducted by Maxime Maurer, a 26-year-old conductor. He is the 2025 Music Prize laureate of the Académie Rhénane.

Website: https://ohjscontact.wixsite.com/ohjs

Repertoire: Jubilation – Frédéric Unterfinger – Auto Edition – 11:0
Voyage Initiatique – Alexandre Kosmicki – Hafabra Music – 15:00

Prizes

The following prizes will be awarded in the competition of 2026.

1st prize

ECWO Challenge Trophy
ECWO 1st prize trophy (sponsored by BDMV)
Adams Instrument Voucher € 5.000
A concert performance by an Adams Artist
Diploma with the results

2nd prize

ECWO 2nd prize trophy (sponsored by BDMV)
Adams Instrument Voucher € 3.000
Diploma with the results

3rd prize

ECWO 3rd prize trophy (sponsored by BDMV)
Adams Instrument Voucher € 1.000
Diploma with the results

Special prizes

Best Conductor > € 500 (offered by CISM) and diploma
Best Soloist > € 250 and diploma
Best Section > € 250 and diploma

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BRAWO
Die Blasorchester-Messe

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About us


Photo credit: BRAWO


Photo credit: BRAWO

German Association of Music Associations (BDMV)

The German Association of Music Associations (BDMV) represents over 1.1 million members across approximately 10,000 member associations and more than 15,000 ensembles nationwide. As the umbrella organization for Germany's amateur instrumental music sector, the BDMV supports and promotes the work of predominantly volunteer-run orchestras and ensembles. The BDMV advocates for its members' interests at the political and public levels, provides a wide range of services and advice, and supports musical development and artistic excellence. Its headquarters and service centre are located in Plochingen, Germany.

In 2026, the BDMV is proud to host the **European Championship for Wind Orchestras (ECWO)** in Stuttgart, bringing together outstanding wind orchestras from across Europe for a celebration of musical excellence, cultural exchange and European unity.

BRAWO

The World of Wind and Brass Music comes together at BRAWO!

BRAWO is Germany's first Wind and Brass Orchestra Expo. Enjoy the triad of a comprehensive exhibition, top-class workshops and lectures, and magnificent concerts. Around **150 exhibiting companies** specializing in woodwind and brass instruments are sure to set wind music enthusiasts' hearts racing. In addition to Europe's largest saxophone exhibition, featuring the world's most renowned manufacturers, soundproofed trial rooms are available for trying out the instruments. Over **30 concerts** will offer a diverse musical program and special live moments on all three days of the expo.

Discover all the concerts here:

Friday, November 20. **Saturday, November 21.** **Sunday, November 22.**

The BRAWO Academy offers new perspectives and personalized support. Over **50 workshops**, competitions, and lectures cover every topic in the world of wind music.



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Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien