
The aim of NASOM is to offer support for international performances of promising young talents with the help of a global network of embassies, cultural forums and consulates. A further objective of NASOM is to draw more attention to the fact that Austrian music creation – beyond the traditional – is as vibrant, modern and culturally diverse as ever.

The young artists accepted for this program were selected in cooperation with the Music Information Center Austria (mica), the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw), the Mozarteum University Salzburg, the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna (MUK), the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (KUG), the Anton Bruckner Private University in Upper Austria, as well as local music event organizers and music journalists.

Here once again, young emerging musicians from the genres classical, jazz, world, contemporary and pop music were chosen to participate in this sponsorship program.
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Classical Music
Duo Karner und Wagner

A young duo following its own creative vision and defying rigid classical music patterns in the most exciting manner. The musicians Vera Karner and Dominik Wagner enjoy looking outside of the box and experimenting with the high art of building bridges to other forms of music. In their music pieces, the two 20-year-olds, who were both bestowed with the Fanny Mendelssohn Award, take Viennese classical music on a journey to melodies and sound traditions of far-away countries. Combining alleged musical opposites as a sonic exchange, they ignite an exciting intercultural dialogue. So far, this concept has been enthusiastically received everywhere they go. Approximately 30 composers have already offered to compose works for Vera Karner and Dominik Wagner and support them in their musical endeavors. Currently they are working with three composers to put their project into practice.

Vera Karner (clarinet)
Dominik Wagner (double bass)

Website: www.hellostage.com/Vera-Karner-and-Duo-Karner-Wagner
Email: vera.karner@googlemail.com
Pacific Quartet Vienna

Characterized by its delicate and genuinely warm sound, the music of this quartet repeatedly culminates in a true chamber music firework. Pacific Quartet Vienna consists of the four musicians Yuta Takase, Eszter Major, Chin-Ting Huang and Sarah Weilenmann, who prove to be a wonderful team with an exceptional understanding for charging every single tone with amazing atmosphere and infusing every melody with deep passion. The multiple award-winning and internationally performing string quartet, which was founded in 2006 at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, has dedicated itself to both classical music (Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Anton Webern, Johannes Brahms) and contemporary music (Georg Friedrich Haas, Reinhard Karger), but always has its very own unique and exciting approach.

Yuta Takase (violin)
Eszter Major (violin)
Chin-Ting Huang (viola)
Sarah Weilenmann (cello)

Website: www.pacificquartet.com
Email: info@pacificquartet.com
Expressing chamber music in a whole new scope of sound: already falling out of the ordinary with their rare piano quartet lineup, the international performing and multiple award-winning artists Katharina Engelbrecht, Magdalena Eber, Jan Ryska and Mari Sato of the Stratos Quartett know how to impress their audience with their very unique approach. Far away from any conventional patterns, the quartet always gives an artful nod to classical music forms, but still tells a very diverse and lively tale of their exciting explorations in chamber music.

Katharina Engelbrecht (violin)
Magdalena Eber (viola)
Jan Ryska (cello)
Mari Sato (piano)

Website: www.stratosquartett.at
Email: info@stratosquartett.at
Three musicians from different backgrounds that have come together to express and highlight this aspect in the most masterful way. Together as the Trio Immersio, the Ukrainian violinist Vira Zhuk, the Polish-Austrian cellist Anna Maria Niemiec and the Georgian pianist Mariam Vardzelashvili explore the past centuries of Viennese music history, ranging from classical to modern music. Primarily dedicated to works from Austrian composers, the Vienna-based trio has already won multiple awards, including the Bank Austria Art Prize and the Fidelio-Competition-Award, and has emerged as a regular performing guest at several prestigious classical music venues, such as the Wiener Musikverein and the Wiener Konzerthaus.

Vira Zhuk (violin)
Anna Maria Niemiec (cello)
Mariam Vardzelashvili (piano)

Website: www.trioimmersio.com
Email: varmariam@gmail.com
Vivid Consort

Ranging from sounds of the Middle Ages, music of the Renaissance, to sonic explorations of the Modern Era, the Vienna-based recorder trio Vivid Consort has no limits when it comes to the selection of their repertoire. Christine Gnigler, Sheng-Fang Chiu and Lorina Vallaster prove themselves as passionate musicians that enjoy unconventional approaches and defy stylistically restricted paths. The sound language of Vivid Consort is definitely very unique and is manifested in tremendous musical diversity.

Christine Gnigler (recorder, vocals)
Sheng-Fang Chiu (recorder)
Lorina Vallaster (recorder, vocals)

Website: www.vividconsort.com
Email: vivid.consort@gmail.com
Jazz
First Gig Never Happened

On a quest to get to the roots of the glory days of jazz, the three musicians Alexander Fitzthum, Lisa Hofmaninger and Judith Schwarz are deeply immersed in the music of great legends, such as Charles Mingus and Thelonious Sphere Monk. Always with a tribute and respectful nod to the geniality and virtuosity of their idols, the intention of the trio is to not just reinterpret their music, but to find their own independent and innovative version. Featuring the timeless musical aspect of their heroes and yet expressing their passion with means of the modern age, First Gig Never Happened manages to create something new from the old, something that makes you tingle with excitement and has an incredibly effortless feel.

Alexander Fitzthum (hammond, rhodes, piano)
Lisa Hofmaninger (bass clarinet, soprano saxophone)
Judith Schwarz (drums)

Website: www.firstgigneverhappened.com
Email: firstgigneverhappened@gmail.com
The music of HI5 does not have a lot in common with conventional jazz music in the traditional sense. With such a vast variety of styles, the sound of the musicians Chris Norz, Philipp Ossanna, Matthias Legner and Clemens Rofner is hard to define. Their music includes elements of modern jazz, prog-rock of the 1970s, minimalist trip-hop, post-rock, chamber music and electronic music. A challenging mix, that often bears the danger of reaching too far and missing the mark. However, this is not the case with HI5. The Tyrolean band manages to stay on track by following a sonic approach that achieves great impact and intense atmosphere through its restraint.

Matthias Legner (vibraphone)
Chris Norz (drums, electronics)
Philipp Ossanna (e-guitar, synthesizer)
Clemens Rofner (bass)

Website: www.hi5music.at
Email: booking@hi5music.at
Although all four musicians come from the musical background of jazz, the genre plays a less important role in the music of this band. Of course Alexander Kranabetter, Philipp Harnisch, Ivo Fina and Johannes Wakolbinger have some jazz elements sounding through their tracks, but it is not a style-defining factor. The band Month of Sundays intends to build bridges and span the musical arc to many other genres, such as (post-) rock or chamber music. There is also always something psychedelic included. With the principle of less is more, the quartet focuses on reduced forms and thereby manages to create vast spaces that are filled with tons of atmosphere. The music is wrapped in gentle and mysterious sounds that are run through more simple and repetitive structures, while growing steadily in their intensity and impact. From the first to the last tone, this makes the music quite suspenseful, but at the same time keeps it very accessible.

Alexander Kranabetter (trumpet)
Philipp Harnisch (alto saxophone)
Ivo Fina (guitar)
Johannes Wakolbinger (drums)

Website: www.monthofsundays.at
Email: mail@monthofsundays.at
Sinfonia De Carnaval

Sinfonia De Carnaval has found its comfort zone in a musical world, where there are no boundaries between different stylistic forms and where the doors are always open for artistic freedom. In their music pieces, Anna Lang and Alois Eberl, the two creative heads behind this project, act as fantastical sound painters that bring together various sound colors in an impulsive and imaginative approach. The duo combines modern jazz with Latin American rhythms, freely performed music with written sheet music, and grooves of various formations with pulsating intensities. The music pieces created by this duo tell mysterious and exciting tales that consistently allure the recipients to listen more closely.

Anna Lang (cello, e-cello, piano)
Alois Eberl (trombone, accordion, loops, vocals)

Website: http://www.anna-lang-cello-piano.at/de/projekte.html
Email: alois-musik@gmx.at
This clarinet quartet, consisting of Oscar Antoli, Stephan Dickbauer, Daniel Moser und Leonhard Skorupa, has left all boundaries behind to enthrall listeners with a unique and outstanding crossover mix that combines various musical styles and playing forms. The music of Woody Black 4 merges traditional jazz with modern performing styles, sometimes with an added pinch of chamber music, a drop of pop, or a quick dip into contemporary music. The quartet has an excellent understanding of transforming diversity into a unique pulsating whole, which creates a powerful sound that knows how to grip the listener from the very first tone.

Oscar Antoli (clarinet, bass clarinet)
Stephan Dickbauer (clarinet)
Daniel Moser (bass clarinet)
Leonhard Skorupa (bass clarinet)

Website: www.woodyblack4.com
Email: info@woodyblack4.com
Alpine Dweller

A band that has found their musical orientation „somewhere in between“. The music of the young Styrian and Upper Austrian musicians Joana Karácsonyl, Flora Geißelbrecht and Matthias Schinnerl unites seemingly incompatible styles, by merging folk music influences with sophisticated urban songwriting and combining traditional music of distant regions with pop. With the very broad instrumental range of guitar, ukulele, jaw harp, viola, harp and percussion, the trio Alpine Dweller is able to create a beautiful new music style that entices the listener to experience big emotions with melancholic melodies and then again fragile dreams with tremendous restraint. A great promise to the future.

Flora Marlene Geißelbrecht (viola, harp, vocals)
Joana Marialena Karácsonyl (cello, vocals)
Matthias Franz Schinnerl (guitar, ukulele, vocals, jaw harp)

Website: www.alpinedweller.com
Email: alpinedweller@gmx.net
Breathing new life into long forgotten song material and making it accessible with a new and modern approach - this is probably the most fitting description for the band Die Wandervögel. On a quest to find uncharted musical treasures, Bryan Benner, David Stellner and Raphael Widmann travel through musical history to discover and collect long lost German, Austrian and Yiddish folk songs, that tell both humorous and tragic stories and bring listeners to laugh, cry and think. The music of this band is an exciting reinterpretation of the allegedly old with a respectful bow to the origin, while it always offers a refreshing modern tone.

Bryan Benner (vocals, guitar, mandolin)
David Stellner (vocals, guitar)
Raphael Widmann (vocals, violin)

Website: www.diewandervoegel.at
Email: mail@davidstellner.com
Golnar & Mahan

A sound that unites various musical traditions and ignores stylistic boundaries. The two musicians Golnar Shahyar and Mahan Mirarab, both originally from Iran and now based in Vienna, have made a name for themselves as free musical spirits that have raised tonal diversity to a breathtakingly beautiful art form in their many projects. Working as a trio together with Amir Wahba, they have further developed their ideas into a powerful and captivating sound world. Their music pieces are defined by a passionate and profoundly touching mix of Persian folklore, European jazz, African rhythms and a lot more.

Golnar Shahyar (vocals, guitar, piano, percussion)
Mahan Mirarab (guitar, oud)
Amir Wahba (percussion)

Website: www.golnarandmahan.com
Email: info@golnarandmahan.com
Kusimanten

Always to be found in vast spaces of stylistic freedom, the music pieces of the Kusimanten, consisting of the musicians Marie-Theres Härtel, deeLinde and singer Tamara Lukasheva, resemble an eventful journey through various sound fields - from classical music to chamber music, from jazz to folklore, from musical traditions of the European West to those of the East. Sometimes you can even discover some funk and pop music. However, it is not only the stylistic diversity that sets the tone and turns the music of this band into an exceptional experience. It is above all the unconventional approach with the single elements that is beyond the scope of the ordinary. While also tinkering with experimental music and free forms, the band Kusimanten relishes in improvisation and leaves enough space for oblique sounds.

Marie-Theres Härtel (viola)
deeLinde (cello)
Tamara Lukasheva (vocals)

Website: www.kusimanten.jimdo.com
Email: mariethereshaertel@gmail.com
Turumtay Zaric

A project in the sense of returning to the musical roots. The Turkish-born Efe Turumtay and the Serbian-born Nikola Zaric, two experts on the subject of world music, have come together to search for the musical traditions of their respective home countries and include them in their compositions with an innovative and fresh approach. The duo invites the listener to a playful and impulsive dance, while indulging in the most beautiful melancholy, then again switching to fiery and stormy virtuosic tones that are accompanied by gentle and body tingling sounds. A tremendously fantastic and exciting musical drama.

Efe Turumtay (violin, oud, vocals)
Nikola Zaric (accordion)

Website: www.turumtayzaric.com
Email: stephanie.kroen@medienmanufaktur.com
With the Airborne Extended Quartet, the musicians Sonja Leipold (harpsichord), Caroline Mayrhofer (recorders), Doris Nicoletti (flutes) and Elisabeth Plank (harp) unite instruments that are rarely heard together. The chosen sound world, which at first can seem to be very delicate, later often even challenging, sometimes playful, sometimes even abysmal, fascinates and excites various audiences and composers: So far the ensemble has performed multiple prestigious premieres, for example premieres by Alexander Kaiser (2016), Sylvie Lacroix (2017), Margareta Ferek-Petric (2017), Matthias Kranebitter (2017), Mirela Ivcevic (2017), Clemens Gadenstätter (2018), Joanna Wozny (2018) and Bernhard Lang, whose work „Monadologie XXIX“ was premiered by this ensemble in London in 2014.

Doris Nicoletti (flutes)
Caroline Mayrhofer (recorders)
Elisabeth Plank (harp)
Sonja Leipold (harpsichord)

Website: www.caroline-mayrhofer.net/neue-musik/airborne-extended
Email: airborne.extended@gmx.at
Duo Siedl/Cao

In project Zicla, the duo of Cao Thanh Lan and Gregor Siedl dedicated itself to the unusual instrumentation of clarinet, prepared zither and live electronics. In the project Parallel Asteroid, the duo united saxophone and analog synthesizer. The music of this duo is generally characterized by the exploration and research of musical structures that create tension in their compositional forms and improvisational interactivity, while consistently arousing curiosity.

Gregor Siedl (clarinet, saxophone, electronics)
Cao Thanh Lan (piano, zither, analog synthesizer, electronics)

Website: www.siedlcao.com
Email: siedl.cao@gmail.com
Kevin Fairbairn

The trombone player Kevin Fairborn, originally from the USA, has dedicated himself entirely to contemporary and experimental music. As a former instrument maker, he knows his instrument like no other and has studied with the great Mike Svoboda. Kevin Fairbairn frequently collaborates with composers such as Sehyung Kim and Klaus Lang.

Kevin Fairbairn (trombone)

Website: www.kbcfair.com
Email: kbcfair@gmail.com
The electro-acoustic duo Nimikry unites the rhythm and sound world of electronic and contemporary music. With iterating and overlaying metrics, they maintain a fragile balance between comprehensibility and digressiveness. As is typical for contemporary music, the duo’s extended techniques involve the electro-acoustic amplification of otherwise quietest noises and the timbre of the classical instruments viola and flute, while also moving in the direction of noise pop and classical music remixes.

Rafal Zalech (viola with digital fingerboard, live electronics)
Alessandro Baticci (augmented bass flute, live electronics)

Website: www.nimikry.com
Email: nimikrymusic@gmail.com
Vierhalbiert

With Vierhalbiert, the sound worlds of old and contemporary music collide with the instrumentation of a baroque violin, a baroque cello, a violin and a cello. In the programming, the works of the past and the present are laid side by side next to each other and also juxtaposed. This not only creates great contrasts, but also ignites a dialogue of forms, tone and sound languages of various styles, taking the audience on a musical journey that sometimes feels completely new and at other times seems very familiar.

Anna Tausch (baroque cello)
Barbara Riccabona (cello)
Sofie Thorsbro Dan (violin)
Claudia Norz (baroque violin)

Website: www.sofiethorsbrodan.com/projects-vierhalbiert-de
Email: tausch.anna@gmail.com
It is probably not far-fetched to assume that this band has something else in mind than ordinary concepts. The Viennese band Hearts Hearts cultivates pop music as an art form, transforming it from the banal to an intense and intimate sound experience. With a minimalistic and subtle approach, Johannes Mandorfer, Daniel Hämmerle, David Österle and Peter Paul Aufreiter form a sound that has a lot of atmosphere and depth amidst electronic elements and analog instruments. The listener is captured by the delicate melodies, the melancholic undertones and the soft and gentle voice of Daniel Hämmerle. An effect that is quite rare in today’s era of pop music.

David Österle (vocals, piano)
Daniel Hämmerle (guitar, vocals)
Peter Paul Aufreiter (bass, electronics)
Johannes Mandorfer (drums)

Website: www.heartshearts.net
Email: contact@heartshearts.net
When speaking of extraordinary jazz and pop artists from this country, you can hardly get by without mentioning the name Lukas König, also known as KÖNIG. As a member of the ingenious avant-garde jazz-electronic-funk-pop-quartet Kompost 3 and a musician that is involved in many, many projects, Lukas König has now created his own musical niche as a solo artist, where he can explore every ounce of musical creativity. His sound creations might be pigeonholed in the categories „unusual“ and „weird“. His tracks combine elements of jazz with complex hip-hop beats, wild electronics and various soul samples that are all merged into a new sound language - one that is highly entertaining and challenging at the same time. Just the right thing for those, who are eager to find a refreshingly unique and different listening experience.

Lukas König (drums, vocals, electronics)

Website: www.laubrecords.com/lukas-koenig
Email: lukaskoenig@laubrecords.com
Leyya

As one of the latest rising stars of the Austrian music scene, the Upper Austrian electro-pop band Leyya has already succeeded in making an international name for itself with a few spectacular singles (among others „Superego“) and the highly praised debut album „Spanish Disco“. Listening to the songs of Leyya, it immediately becomes clear that this is a young ambitious band trying to define electro-pop with a fresh and new approach. Music that is not shallow and disposable, but artistically created with a lot depth and individuality with sound aesthetics that appear somewhere between pop, electro and trip-hop.

Marco Kleebauer (synthesizer, guitar)
Sophie Lindinger (vocals, synthesizer)
David Wöhler (drums)
Tobias Wöhler (bass)

Website: www.leyya-music.com
Email: leyya.music@gmail.com
Lukas Lauermann

The highly praised cellist Lukas Lauermann undoubtedly belongs to Austria’s most exceptional musicians with international appeal. The vast amount of projects with artists from various genres in the fields of music, theater, film and sound design testify to his work as „Austria’s top pop cellist“. His trademark is his sensitive and melancholic performance style, as well as his immensely broad musical expression. He is an expert on both classical and chamber music, has a knack for pop and rock music, and beyond that enjoys tinkering with sounds of jazz and electronics. Lukas Lauermann also loves the experiment and the artful exploration of sounds, which is especially evident in his solo project works that show a clear proximity to film music with a lot of imagery and dramatic moments.

Lukas Lauermann (cello, amplified cello)

Website: [www.lukaslauermann.net](http://www.lukaslauermann.net)
Email: lukaslauermann@gmx.net
Soia

Pop from a different angle. Soia has managed to create music that clearly stands out from ordinary pop conventions and unifies various influences to a very detailed sound that will hardly fit into any given musical pigeonhole. The music includes many different elements: various jazz and world music samples, heavy and at the same time delicate hip-hop beats, deep bass lines, experimental electronic gimmicks, gentle lounge-like sounds, funky elements and a lot of soul, which is especially due to the exceptional voice of the singer, who truly takes the songs to the next level.

Sophia Hagen (vocals)
Daniele Zipi (keyboard)
Florian Faltner (bass)
Julian Berann (drums)

Website: www.soia.at
Email: sophia.hagen@gmx.at