

Annual Press Conference

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin

26/27

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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Wed 22 April 2026, 11 am (CEST)

Wilhelm Hallen / Halle F – DSO Rehearsal Venue

Speakers:

Kazuki Yamada – Music Director

Christian Beuke – Managing Director

Marlene Brüggén – Head of Artistic Planning

Johannes Watzel – Violinist and Representative of the Orchestra Board

Claudia Benker-Schreiber – Cellist and Representative of the Orchestra Board

David Adorján – Cellist and Representative of the Orchestra Board

Texts

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| 1. The Season 2026/2027 | 10. Chamber Music Concerts at Clärchens Ballhaus |
| 2. Music Director Kazuki Yamada | 11. 'Notturmo' |
| 3. La voix humaine | 12. Outreach |
| 4. classic:klassik | 13. Music Education |
| 5. Game on Symphony | 14. Biography Music Director |
| 6. Casual Concerts | 15. Biography Managing Director |
| 7. FERRO:TON | 16. Biography Orchestra |
| 8. Chamber Music Concerts at Museum Fotografiska | 17. Online Press Area |
| 9. Chamber Music Series 'Heroines' | |

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin

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The Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin Presents its Season 2026/2027

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

At the annual press conference of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) on Wednesday, 22 April 2026, the new Music Director of the DSO Kazuki Yamada, Managing Director Christian Beuke, Head of Artistic Planning Marlene Brüggemann as well as the orchestra's board – Johannes Watzel, Claudia Benker-Schreiber and David Adorján – presented the projects of the 2026/2027 season in the orchestra's rehearsal hall in the Wilhelm Hallen. Outstanding artists, great works, new formats and exciting experiments – the public can look forward to a season full of discoveries. Subscriptions for the coming season are available as of today; single-ticket sales begin on 15 July 2026.

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Music Director Kazuki Yamada

With the 2026/2027 season – just in time for its eightieth anniversary – a new era begins for the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin: **Kazuki Yamada is taking his post as Music Director.** The 47-year-old Japanese conductor is thus the ninth in an illustrious series that began with Ferenc Fricsay in 1946. "It's a match!" stands at the beginning of the brochure for the new season, and indeed Kazuki Yamada and the DSO is the meeting of two who knew from the first moment that they were destined for each other:

Kazuki Yamada: "After the inspiring encounters I have already had the privilege of experiencing with the DSO, I can hardly wait to develop our artistic relationship further as Music Director – especially in Berlin, where I am at home. The programme of the coming season brings together works by outstanding composers – from the famous to the rarely performed – whose discovery with the DSO is especially dear to my heart. I am very much looking forward to beginning our journey together, also with our wonderful audience."

Christian Beuke: "The new season marks a turning point in many respects: For the DSO, with Kazuki Yamada as its new Music Director, and for me in the first season for which I am responsible. It is a special constellation characterised by great trust, artistic openness and a joint vision. The programmes bear the imprint of this approach: they combine tradition with new perspectives and reveal the full stylistic diversity of the DSO."

The orchestra's board: "The prospect of the first season together with our new Music Director, Kazuki Yamada, fills the orchestra with great anticipation. In the projects we have had thus far one could also feel how inspiring our collaboration is. We musicians are very much looking forward to having our audience participate in it as well."

With six programmes initially, Kazuki Yamada is presenting himself with the DSO. Great classics, the new, the old, the unfamiliar and the unusual stand side by side as equals and as a matter of course:

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The **inaugural concert on 4 October 2026** covers a broad panorama across humanity, spirituality and nature – with Ives' 'The Unanswered Question', Grieg's Piano Concerto (Alice Sara Ott), Anna Clyne's 'Woman of the Mountain' and Debussy's 'La mer'. The concert on **20 December 2026** focuses on spirituality and musical profundity: from Saariaho's 'La passion de Simone' via Bach's famous Chaconne (in a version for orchestra by Hideo Saitō) to Bruckner's unfinished Ninth Symphony. The concert on **26 March 2027** sheds light on connections between Bohemia and America: Florence Price's First Symphony and Dvořák's Cello Concerto (Pablo Ferrández). On **25 April 2027**, a programme with strong impact follows: Rufus Wainwright's 'Dream Requiem' featuring three choirs, soprano Regula Mühlemann and Iris Berben as narrator. The concerts on **7 and 8 May 2027** create a romantic climax with Bacewicz's Overture, Dutilleux's Cello Concerto 'Tout un monde lointain ...' (Jean-Guihen Queyras) and Berlioz's 'Symphonie fantastique'. The musical exploration of the soul in Schönberg's 'Verklärte Nacht' and Strauss' 'Tod und Verklärung' marks the finale on **23 May 2027**, along Fazıl Say's cathartic, infectious Cello Concerto 'Never Give Up' (Abel Selaocoe).

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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Season motto 'Ach, Mensch'

The DSO is presenting its 2026/2027 concert season under a motto that deliberately has many meanings: 'Ach, Mensch'. The themes that have explicitly preoccupied the orchestra in recent years: music by women, works by Black composers, socio-political responsibility and democracy – have become an integral part of its programming and repertoire. The DSO is now expanding its horizon and taking the interjection 'Ach, Mensch' as the point of departure for a season dedicated to human existence in all its facets.

The concert programmes take up large social themes such as participation, sustainability, expulsion, religion and love. They invite you to listen, empathise and reflect on yourself and on the responsibilities of art and society. The DSO does not wish to offer any ready-made answers. Rather, it seeks to offer stimuli, **ask questions – and to do so at every concert**. These questions accompany the symphonic programmes of the season, sometimes contemplatively, sometimes provocatively, sometimes even humorously – often they are from the famous 'Questionnaire' by the writer Max Frisch. They turn the concerts into places for reflection – both inside and outside of the Philharmonie – on art itself and on what it means to be human.

Against this backdrop, **Carolyn Emcke, Michel Friedman, Maja Göpel, Nikolaus Habjan, Navid Kermani** and **Düzen Tekkal** will share their thoughts and perspectives on being human and its many dimensions with the DSO audience in six programmes. And in the intermissions of DSO concerts, **'ASK! The Room for Every Answer'** in the foyer of the Philharmonie offers an opportunity to have a conversation about the music heard and the questions asked with oneself, with others and with the DSO.

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Concerts with guest conductors

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

The DSO continues to be closely connected to its former Music Directors. **Conductor Laureate Kent Nagano** is bringing Schubert's "Great" Symphony in C Major to the stage and, with the world premiere of Yvonne Loriod's 'Pièce sur la souffrance', something close to his heart – as well as a real discovery. **Ingo Metzmacher**, Nagano's successor as Music Director, dedicates himself to 20th-century psalm compositions by Bernstein, Stravinsky and Lili Boulanger.

Long-standing cohorts and new friends are conceiving the other symphonic concerts of the season. **Simone Young** is returning to the DSO with a colourful programme between yearning for death, earthly love, sea and land as well as works by Beethoven, Britten, Lim und Mahler for the season opening at Musikfest Berlin. In the final concert of Berlin's orchestra festival, the DSO can be heard again, this time together with the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin, its Chief Conductor **Justin Doyle**, and intimate Requiem compositions by Duruflé and Schnittke. **Eva Ollikainen** has Thomas Larcher's Second Symphony on the podium, which the composer dedicated to the thousands who have drowned in the Mediterranean.

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Manfred Honeck conducts Mahler's First Symphony on two evenings; **Susanna Mälkki** turns to that composer's 'Resurrection' Symphony. **Anja Bihlmaier's** concert leads by way of Bacewicz and Adams to Beethoven's Seventh, while **Pablo Heras-Casado** places the latter's Fifth alongside Schumann's Piano Concerto and the subtle art of **puppeteer Nikolaus Habjan**. There is also a twin pack of Shostakovich: **David Afkham** conducts the composer's Eighth Symphony and **Daniele Rustioni** his Tenth. Audience favourite **Dalia Stasevska** is a guest twice: once with musical landscapes by Adams, Ligeti, Sibelius and Thorvaldsdottir then a second time with Bruckner's Seventh Symphony. **Fabien Gabel** creates an arc from von Bacewicz's Polish Rhapsody to adventurous music for ballets by Ravel and Roussel.

Two Early Music specialists explore the history of music with their expert ears: **Thomas Hengelbrock** races a line from Haydn's vocal art to Schumann's early symphonic music. In her programme 'Mozart's Requiem – A Tapestry', **Jeannette Sorrell** places the unfinished work by the Viennese composer with four American contemporary composers who address questions of memory, tradition, racism and striving for freedom.

Barbara Hannigan presents, as a soprano and conductor in personal union, Francis Poulenc's monodrama 'La voix humaine' as rousing, multimedia opera performance. **Wayne Marshall** is another such dual talent: he conducts music by Gershwin, Wallen and Weill and takes over the solo part in the 'Rhapsody in Blue'. The third multi-talent is the violinist **Renaud Capuçon**, who interprets from the podium works by Sohý and Brahms.

With a Polish-Bohemian programme – rarities by Bacewicz and Martinů as well as Dvořák's Eighth – **Dinis Sousa** makes his debut on the podium of the DSO, as does **Hankyeol Yoon**, who arrives with Tchaikovsky's 'Pathétique' and Unsuk Chin's 'Frontispiece'. In the new season, **Riley Court-Wood** and **Chloé Dufresne** give their 'Debüt im Deutschlandfunk Kultur'. On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, **Lee Reynolds** conducts the popular shows at Tempodrom with the **Circus-Theater Roncalli**. Finally, **Olha Dondyk**, **Sora Elisabeth Lee**, **Sasha Scolnik-Brower**, **Natan Sugár**, **Ralf Sochaczewsky** and **Molly Turner** stand on the podium of DSO for the radio3 Children's Concerts.

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Guest artists

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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An impressive number of piano celebrities are guests in the DSO's 2026/2027 season – with **Rafał Blechacz, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Jan Lisiecki, Gabriela Montero, Alice Sara Ott, Francesco Piemontesi, Fazıl Say** and **Tamara Stefanovich**. On the violin, **Renaud Capuçon, Veronika Eberle, Vilde Frang, Bomsori Kim** and **Gil Shaham** are heard, and violoncellos are also prominently represented by **Nicolas Altstaedt, Pablo Ferrández, Julia Hagen, Jean-Guihen Queyras** and last year's "Artist in Focus" **Abel Selaocoe**. From the DSO's own ranks, percussionists **Jens Hilse** and **Sergey Mikhaylenko** – together with the artistes of the Circus-Theater Roncalli – can be heard on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The **Trio Catch** and the **Vision String Quartet** are guests in two works for ensemble and orchestra.

This season can once again offer up numerous great voices as well. **Eva Zaïcik** (mezzo-soprano) sings Haydn and Schumann; **Golda Schultz** (soprano) and **Okka von der Damerau** (mezzo-soprano) Mahler's Second; **Jennifer Johnston** and **Catriona Morison** (mezzo-sopranos) bring spiritual music to the stage and bass-baritone **Davóne Tines** a concerto that he wrote himself. **Regula Mühlemann** lends her voice to Rufus Wainwright's 'Dream Requiem', while **Carine Tinney** (soprano), **J'Nai Bridges** (mezzo-soprano), **Siyabonga Maqungo** (tenor) and **Kevin Deas** (bass-baritone) explore Mozart's Requiem in the mirror of the present day.

Two of its highly esteemed partner ensembles in the Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH (ROC) appear on stage with the DSO yet again: The **RIAS Kammerchor Berlin** presents two unusually intimate requiems; the **Rundfunkchor Berlin** is heard Psalm settings by Stravinsky, Bernstein and Lili Boulanger, Mozart's Requiem in combination with pieces by Damien Geter, Eric Gould and Jessie Montgomery, Mahler's 'Resurrection' Symphony and Wainwright's 'Dream Requiem' – in the last-named, the **Staats- und Domchor Berlin** and the **Mädchenchor der Sing-Akademie zu Berlin** join in as well and the actress **Iris Berben** is part of it all as narrator as well. The choir **Cantus Domus** is a guest in a Children's Concert. The authors **Heddi Feilhauer, Malin Schwerdtfeger** and **Neneh Sowe** offer readings as part of the 'Heroines' chamber-music series. Finally, the pianist **David Khrikuli**, the violinist **Geneva Lewis**, the violist **Sindy Mohamed** and the clarinetist **Elad Navon** have their 'Debüt im Deutschlandfunk Kultur'.

New and time-tested concert formats

With its special concerts, the DSO opens up to new target audiences and takes unusual concert programmes into the Haus des Rundfunks: In cooperation with ARD Klassik and Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb), **'Game on Symphony'** on 12 October 2026 presents music from computer games in the concert hall and **live on the video platform Twitch**. The new format **'classic:klassik'**, with podcast hosts **Caro Worbs** and **Miguel Robitzky**, ventures an unconventional look at legendary compositions and on two evenings offers context instead of myths about classical music and stories instead of pious awe.

Entirely new facets can be discovered at **FERRO:TON**. With this **Festival**, which takes place from **28 to 30 May 2027** in the Wilhelm Hallen and in cooperation with the Wilhelm Studios, the DSO networks with the cultural scene of its new home in Reinickendorf. The diverse and innovative concert projects offered here include an evening that puts the performative forms

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of expression of queer communities to the stage and the genre-crossing concert project 'Club Symphony: Technophonic' of the pianist and composer Francesco Tristano, which combines classical orchestral sounds with electronic club music. With a circus programme, a concert for children, numerous chamber music concerts and an open stage for local musical talents, the afternoons of the festival create an open coexistence of the arts and cultural forms that turns the Wilhelm Hallen into a place where people of all ages can meet and participate.

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Six **radio3 Children's Concerts** per season are heard in the Großer Sendesaal as are the opening and closing concerts of the '**Ultraschall Berlin**' festival for new music under the direction of **Vitali Alekseenok** and **Karen Kamensek**.

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The **Casual Concerts** at the Philharmonie have been one of the trademarks of the DSO since 2007. The three evenings of the 20th Casual season are moderated and conducted by **Ingo Metzmacher**, **Anja Bihlmaier** and **Dalia Stasevska**. In collaboration with radioeins, DJs and live acts from the international popular music scene in the lounge will once again turn the foyer of the Philharmonie into a dance floor.

Chamber music in diverse forms

The concerts of the traditional chamber music series will be held at three different venues in the 2026/2027 season: Three evenings at the **Museum Fotografiska** on Oranienburger Straße invite you to engage with contemporary photography. Three discussion concerts in the series '**Heroines**' at the **Villa Elisabeth** present the lives and stores of extraordinary women: Ethel Smyth, Rosa Parks and Margot Friedländer; another evening there is organised by the DSO's orchestra academy. Four more concerts will again be presented in the **Hall of Mirrors at Clärchens Ballhaus**. The popular '**Notturmo**' series, which the DSO has organised together with the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz since 2010, is now entering its 17th season; this time the **Bode-Museum**, the **Museum für Fotografie** and the **Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz** can be explored in concerts and in tours that precede them.

The '**Music and Crimes**' format, introduced in 2023, quickly became a hit with the public. In collaboration with the popular podcast 'ZEIT Verbrechen' and its hosts, it presents new, turbulent crime stories on one evening at the Haus des Rundfunks – with **Sabine Rückert**, the founder of the podcast and editor of the magazine ZEIT Verbrechen, **Andreas Sentker**, Managing editor of DIE ZEIT and editor of the magazine ZEIT WISSEN, and a chamber music ensemble of the DSO.

As part of **Berlin Art Week** in 2026 and the 'Hallen 07' festival, chamber music ensembles of the DSO will once again perform on the grounds of the Wilhelm Studios on 13 September. The orchestra, which since March 2025 has had a new home in the **Wilhelm Hallen in Berlin-Reinickendorf**, is therefore once again making itself at home in its new neighbourhood. On Whit Monday, 17 May 2027, the DSO is also a guest on the **musical stage at the Berlin Zoo**.

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‘Symphonic Mob’ in Berlin, Germany and Europe

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Berlin’s largest spontaneous orchestra, the **‘Symphonic Mob’**, is performing for the 13th time in the 2026/2027 season. Since 2014, the popular and innovative play-along format of the DSO has regularly thrilled more than a thousand enthusiastic amateurs, who will once again join with orchestral professionals to play music under the roof of the Center at the Potsdamer Platz. The concert on 12 June 2027 is conducted by Friedrich Praetorius.

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

As in previous years, this year the ‘Symphonic Mob’ will again be put into action in other towns by local orchestras in cooperation with the DSO, including **Bad Kissingen, Colmar, Göttingen, Munich and Salzburg.**

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Guest performances

In the 2026/2027 season, in addition to its concerts in Berlin, the DSO will again be a presence in musical life both nationally and international. A tour in early July this year will take the orchestra, its Conductor Laureate Kent Nagano and the pianist Mao Fujita to the **Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**, to the **Concertgebouw Amsterdam**, to the **Klavierfest Ruhr** in Wuppertal, to **Kissinger Sommer** and to Passau for **Europäische Wochen**. Shortly thereafter, the orchestra can be experienced with its future Music Director Kazuki Yamada and the saxophonist Asya Fateyeva at the **Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival** and the **Brandenburgische Sommerkonzerte**. In March 2027, the DSO, the conductor Pablo Heras-Casado and the pianist Francesco Piemontesi are guests in **Antwerp** and in May at the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg** with Music Director Kazuki Yamada and cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras. Additional guest performances are being planned.

Records 2025 and an outlook in figures

The DSO continued its extremely positive economic development in the past concert year with a total of 60 events of its own in Berlin. After the record balance sheet of 2.89 million euros in 2024, turnover remained stable on the highest level with 2.88 million euros in 2025.

In the 2026/2027 season, the DSO is giving a total of 65 concerts in Berlin, of which 28 are symphonic concerts, three Casual Concerts and two concerts in the ‘Debüt im Deutschlandfunk Kultur’ series at the Philharmonie, two New Year’s Eve concerts and a New Year’s Day concert at the Tempodrom, four special concerts at the Haus des Rundfunks, two concerts as part of the festival ‘Ultraschall Berlin’, six radio3 Children’s Concerts and 17 chamber music concerts at various venues, including three concerts at the Fotografiska, four each at the Villa Elisabeth and Clärchens Ballhaus and three in Berlin museums. In addition, there will be three days of concerts at the FERRO:TON Festival in the Wilhelm Hallen, as well as one concert day each at Berlin Zoo and at the ‘Hallen 07’ festival as part of Berlin Art Week.

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Kazuki Yamada – Music Director of the DSO as of the 2026/2027 Season

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Kazuki Yamada is taking his post as Music Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) for the 2026/2027 season. The internationally celebrated Japanese conductor is committing to the position at the head of the orchestra for three years for now. In his first season, he is conducting six programmes.

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With the concert on 4 October 2026, Kazuki Yamada is taking his post as Music Director of the DSO. He is thus the ninth in an illustrious series that extends from Ferenc Fricsay by way of Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Chailly, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Kent Nagano, Ingo Metzmacher, Tugan Sokhiev to Robin Ticciati.

Kazuki Yamada has worked with the DSO twice thus far. He gave his debut in the Berlin Philharmonie on 25 April 2024 with Morfydd Llwyn Owen's Nocturne, Brahms' Violin Concerto (soloist: Frank Peter Zimmermann) and Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony. Half a year later, for the concert on 6 September 2024 in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH (ROC), he stood before his future orchestra once again with Tania León's 'Ácana', orchestral songs by Mahler and Ravel (soloist: Julian Prégardien), Charles Ives' 'Three Places in New England' and Aaron Copland's 'Appalachian Spring'. "Verve and wit [that] one might wish from some other conductors" attested the Berlin Morgenpost thereafter.

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Concerts with Kazuki Yamada in the 2026/2027 season

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

With six programmes initially, Kazuki Yamada is presenting himself with the DSO. Great classics, the new, the old, the unfamiliar and the unusual stand side by side as equals and as a matter of course:

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

The **inaugural concert on 4 October 2026** covers a broad panorama with a programme that begins with Charles Ives' 'The Unanswered Question' and continues with a wide variety of perspectives on the relationship of human individual, spirituality and nature – with the expanses of Norway in Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto (soloist: Alice Sara Ott), the search for love at unexpected heights in Anna Clyne's 'Woman of the Mountain' and the Impressionist miracle of waves in Claude Debussy's 'La mer'. Last but not least, Maja Göpel speaks on this evening. The political economist is known for her work on sustainable social change.

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Spirituality and profound musical thought are at the centre of the second concert, on **20 December 2026**, which begins with a hovering excerpt from Kaija Saariaho's 'La passion de Simone' and leads to the Chaconne from Johann Sebastian Bach's Second Partita, which the Japanese Hideo Saitō has arranged for orchestra. The intimate relationship to God that Anton Bruckner shared with Bach is also reflected in his Ninth and final Symphony, which he dedicated to "the dear God" and left to posterity a monumental but unfinished bequest.

The third concert, on **26 March 2027**, is comparatively secular: Kazuki Yamada traces musical connections between Bohemia and America: The "American Ninth" by Antonín Dvořák inspired Florence Price to write her First Symphony, in which she lent sonorous form to legacy of African-American culture from history and the present. Antonín Dvořák, in turn, on seeing Niagara Falls leapt over his shadow and wrote – for what he called a "piece of wood that screeches at the top and drones at the bottom" – an incomparable Cello Concerto (soloist: Pablo Ferrández).

In his fourth programme, on **25 April 2027**, Kazuki Yamada presents an extraordinary work between concert, musical theatre and existential reflection. Rufus Wainwright, famous primarily as a singer-songwriter and composer for stage and film, created in 2024 a powerful musical vision with his apocalyptic 'Dream Requiem' based on the Latin text of the mass for the dead and poem by Lord Byron about the end of the world. In addition to the DSO, three choirs, the soprano Regula Mühlemann and Iris Berben as narrator are contributing to the performance.

Great romantic expression also represents the high point of the two Yamada concerts on **7 and 8 May 2027**, which after Grażyna Bacewicz's Overture and Henri Dutilleux's Cello Concerto 'Tout un monde lointain ...' (soloist: Jean-Guihen Queyras) culminates in the pioneering programme music of Hector Berlioz's 'Symphonie fantastique' – including a tragic love story and rush of psychedelic drugs.

In the finale on **23 May 2027**, one hears the moment at which an artist passes on, which inspired Richard Strauss to write his tone poem 'Tod und Verklärung' – when the body leaves the soul, the C minor shifts to a lucid C major. Arnold Schönberg's Late Romantic 'Verklärte Nacht' after Richard Dehmel's poem also tells of the human psyche and transfiguration. Fazıl Say, by contrast, is very close to the present: His sweeping Cello Concerto 'Never Give Up' (soloist: Abel Selaocoe) is his reaction to the terrorist attacks in Europe and Turkey in the 2010s – a cathartic experience and a plea for courage, resistance and hope.

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Chöre

Overview of the concerts with Kazuki Yamada

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
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Berlin, 22 April 2026

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Sun 4 Oct. 2026

8 pm Philharmonie

Inaugural concert

– Speech by Maja Göpel –

Charles Ives ‘The Unanswered Question’

Edvard Grieg Piano Concerto

Anna Clyne ‘Woman of the Mountain’
(German premiere)

Claude Debussy ‘La mer’

Alice Sara Ott Piano

Maja Göpel Speaker

Sun 20 Dec. 2026

8 pm Philharmonie

Kaija Saariaho ‘Lumière et pesanteur’

Johann Sebastian Bach Chaconne from
Partita No. 2 BWV 1004, arranged for
orchestra by Hideo Saitō

Anton Bruckner Symphony No. 9

Fri 26 Mar. 2027

8 pm Philharmonie

Antonín Dvořák Violoncello Concerto

Florence Price Symphony No. 1

Pablo Ferrández Violoncello

Sun 25 Apr. 2027

8 pm Philharmonie

Rufus Wainwright ‘Dream Requiem’

Regula Mühlemann Soprano

Iris Berben Narrator

Rundfunkchor Berlin

Staats- und Domchor Berlin

Mädchenchor der Sing-Akademie

Fri 7 May 2027

Sat 8 May 2027

8 pm Philharmonie

Grażyna Bacewicz Overture

Henri Dutilleux ‘Tout un monde

lointain ...’ for violoncello and orchestra

Hector Berlioz ‘Symphonie fantastique’

Jean-Guihen Queyras Violoncello

Sun 23 May 2027

8 pm Philharmonie

– Speech by Düzen Tekkal –

Fazıl Say Violoncello Concerto

‘Never Give Up’

Arnold Schönberg ‘Verklärte Nacht’

(version for string orchestra)

Richard Strauss ‘Tod und Verklärung’

Abel Selaocoe Violoncello

Düzen Tekkal Speaker

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ROC Rundfunk
Orchester
Chöre

La voix humaine – Opera Performance with Barbara Hannigan

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

With ‘La voix humaine’, the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) is presenting on Thursday, 14 January 2027 Francis Poulenc’s eponymous monodrama in the rousing interpretation of Barbara Hannigan, who appears before the orchestra in a personal union as conductor and soprano. This multimedia opera performance can be experienced in the Großer Sendesaal of the Haus des Rundfunks.

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With ‘La voix humaine’, Francis Poulenc created a monumental one-person play: Based on a text for the theatre by Jean Cocteau, his opera is about the end of a love affair, with all the facets of hope, self-deception and despair. ‘La voix humaine’ is “a painful and final conversation of a woman (Elle) with her ex-lover,” explains Barbara Hannigan, “in which we only hear her words, not his. This one-sided conversation is absolutely full of contradictions, lies, fantasy and desire. What I am most interested in, is the power, control, weakness and the ever-changing equilibrium of all of these aspects of ‘Elle’. I find myself asking if there even is an ex-lover? What and who really exists within these deep and true emotions of love, loss and loneliness?”

Barbara Hannigan makes the protagonist’s heart-rending dialogue her own in a unique way. In an impressive performance projected live on a large screen above the stage, the Canadian musician merges the roles of conductor and singer, combining with voice, body, gesture and choreography the music, text and plot into an impressive total work of art. On **14 January 2027**, Hannigan, who is herself very transmutable, will preface Poulenc’s opera with ‘Metamorphosen’ by Richard Strauss – a melancholic funeral music with subtle overtones and philosophical depth.

Barbara Hannigan is currently Principal Guest Conductor of the Gothenburg Symphonic Orchestra as well as of the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Associate Artist of London Symphony Orchestra and Professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In August 2026, she will join the Iceland Symphony Orchestra as Principal Conductor and Artistic Director. With her rarely experienced double talent, she can also be heard regularly as a soprano performing programmes of concertos, lieder and chamber music, featuring primarily twentieth-century works. ‘La voix humaine’ will be her debut at the side of the DSO.

Further information at → dso-berlin.de/voix-humaine

An Ensemble of

classic:klassik – Moderated Concerts for Classical-Music Fans and Everyone Who Wants to Become One

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Context instead of myth – together with podcast hosts Caro Worbs and Miguel Robitzky, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) invites classical-music fans and everyone who wants to become one to dive into legendary compositions. The discussion concerts take place on Fridays at 6 pm in the Großer Sendesaal in the Haus des Rundfunks.

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Caro Worbs and Miguel Robitzky get around the Internet a lot – and usually go too deep. For the NDR podcast ‘too many tabs’, the authors and ensemble members of ‘ZDF Magazin Royale’ click from one fact to the next and enter new worlds in the nighttime research frenzy. Together with the DSO, they are now dedicating themselves in depth to classical music, venturing an unconventional look at known and unknown composers and their legendary works and on two evenings offering context instead of myths about classical music and stories instead of pious awe.

The DSO plays, and Caro and Miguel handle the rest – with this concept, the new series ‘classic:klassik’ presents concerts everyone who wanted to know something about classical music but was afraid to ask. Curious, approachable, open, without blinders and as a joint voyage of discovery between the history of music, pop culture and the question “Why do some works still resonate today?” For classical music fans and everyone who wants to become one.

‘No Concert Without a Female Composer!’ is written above the **first concert on 16 April 2027**, in which the two hosts present four female composers and their works to their audience and to each other – with anecdotes, live stories and a lot of live music from the orchestra. You can experience the English composer Ethel Smyth, who had to fight to be allowed to study music and later went to the streets for the right of women to vote, and Florence Price, the first African-American woman to have a symphony performed, who was confronted with racism all her life, and whose music was not rediscovered until more than fifty years after her death.

The **second concert on 4 June 2027** is dedicated to the **‘Beethoven Era’**, to the life, work and times of Ludwig van Beethoven, with all their high and low points – from the living legend to the deaf composer, from the love song to his entry into pop culture. The stories are accompanied by Beethoven’s piano music – from ‘For Elise’ to the ‘Moonlight Sonata’ – and excerpts from his symphonies: the revolutionary Third, the fateful Fifth, the experience of nature in the Sixth and the binding of people in the Ninth.

Additional information at → dso-berlin.de/classic-klassik

An Ensemble of

Game on Symphony – Computer-Game Music in the Concert Hall and on Twitch

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Together with ARD Klassik and Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb), on Friday, 23 October 2026, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) is bringing music from computer games to the concert hall and presenting them live on the video platform Twitch.

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Computer games are part of daily life for people from all age groups, and their importance is growing continuously. In Germany alone, game software had annual sales of 5.5 billion euros in 2025. More than 37 million people here play games on smartphones, consoles or at the computer and enthusiastically immerse themselves in fantastic and remote worlds. Music has always been an integral part of games, usually composed explicitly for them, and it is gaining more and more recognition and has increasingly been performed live in concert halls as well. Even the Grammys have had an award for 'Best Score Soundtrack for Video Games and Other Interactive Media' since 2023.

Not only with new target audiences in mind, **ARD Klassik, the nationwide digitally offerings of the public classical music station**, organised for the first time a concert with computer-game music in 2024. After three dates with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, '**Game on Symphony**' is now being developed into a series of its own, in which several orchestras with radio and public sponsors are participating.

On **23 October 2026**, the DSO, in cooperation with ARD Klassik and rbb, is presenting a concert in this series that will bring to the stage epic music from legendary games series. It will include soundtracks to game series such as 'Tomb Raider', 'Kingdom Come: Deliverance' and 'Final Fantasy', some of which date back as far as the 1980s and have thrilled several generations of gaming fans.

The public is not only invited to attend the concert in the Großer Sendesaal in Berlin's Haus des Rundfunks. 'Game on Symphony' is also bringing the music to where the gaming community feels at home: the **video platform Twitch**. It is used above all to broadcast the games live and permit interaction between the games and their online audience. 'Game on Symphony' will also be streamed live on the YouTube channel of ARD Klassik.

Michael Seal, Associate Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, will be on the podium. The host and musician **Fridl Achten** will be on stage.

Pre-sales begin on 29 April 2026.

In cooperation with

Casual Concerts – Classical and Club Sounds

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

The Casual Concerts with a lounge and live act in the Philharmonie are a trademark of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO). Since 2007, this popular, open and moderated format in cooperation with radioeins has been integral part of the cultural life of the capital and in its 20th season it is being continued with three concerts conducted by Anja Bihlmaier, Ingo Metzmacher and Dalia Stasevska.

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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Classical and club sounds: The Casual Concerts offer the best of both worlds – with no fear of contact and without the concert ritual. These evenings at the Philharmonie are an ideal introduction to the world of classical music, but experienced concertgoers can also learn a great deal here. Enjoying music and understanding music are two sides of the same coin here.

The Casual Concerts of the DSO have been exhilarating Berlin audiences since 2007. The conductors moderate the evening themselves and open for the public unusual approaches to the works played – through personal stories, entertainment details of their making, clear explanations of their content, conversations with soloists and numerous musical examples – until, finally, they are heard as a whole. Listening to both the familiar and the unfamiliar with new ears is the programme here. All tickets are available for the same price of 35 euros (17 euros discounted). The Casual Concerts begin at 8 pm and last a good hour.

The first Casual Concert of the season on Friday, 9 October 2026 is moderated and conducted by **Ingo Metzmacher**, who initiated the format twenty years ago. He is exploring in Stravinsky's 'Symphony of Psalms' and Bernstein's 'Chichester Psalms' colourful settings of the Psalms between Jewish liturgy and the Christian tradition of church music. Using the example of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, **Anja Bihlmaier** is presenting in the second Casual Concert on 17 March 2027, the buoyant and high-spirited sides of the otherwise so serious composer. For the finale of the season, **Dalia Stasevska** and the pianist **Gabriela Montero** are bringing to the stage Ravel's racing, entertaining Piano Concerto in G Major on Saturday, 26 June 2027.

One inseparable part of this successful concept is the **Casual Concert Lounge**. In collaboration with **radioeins of rbb**, live acts and DJs transform the foyer into a dance floor after the concert – with exciting discoveries from the international pop music scene that bring the urban sounds of the metropolis into the Philharmonie and offer danceable sounds that ensure the perfect transition into Berlin's nightlife.

All information at → dso-berlin.de/casual

In cooperation with



An Ensemble of



FERRO:TON – A DSO Festival in the Wilhelm Hallen

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

At the end of May 2027, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO), together with Wilhelm Studios, is presenting the three-day FERRO:TON Festival in the Wilhelm Hallen, where the DSO rehearses. Innovative orchestral projects, offerings for the entire family and integration into the local cultural scene make the festival a weekend of musical experiences for a variety of target audiences.

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In March 2025, the DSO found a new home in the **Wilhelm Hallen in Berlin-Reinickendorf**. The grounds of the former iron foundry are more than 120 years old and house not only the orchestra's rehearsal and office spaces but also numerous cultural and creative enterprises on more than 20,000 square metres: design firms, architecture offices, agencies, ateliers, photo and sound studios – as well as high-quality conference and art events.

As part of Berlin Art Week and the 'Hallen 07' festival, DSO ensembles can be heard on the grounds already for the second time on 13 September 2026; in the coming year, the new DSO quarter will host a three-day festival: **FERRO:TON** is being held from **28 to 30 May 2027** in cooperation with the Wilhelm Studios.

It centres on two concert evenings in the impressive industrial ambience of the listed Hall C: The first addresses in unusual ways the **performative forms of expression of queer communities**. The second brings to the stage – for the first time in Berlin – the genre-crossing concert project **'Club Symphony: Technophonic'** of the pianist, composer and crossover musician **Francesco Tristano**, in which orchestral sounds come together with electronic club music.

On the afternoons, the grounds are open to all: a programme of circus music, a children's concert with Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf', numerous chamber concerts all over the grounds and an open stage for local musical talents who can register in advance create an **open coexistence of the arts and cultural forms** turns the Wilhelm Hallen into a place where people of all ages can meet and participate.

Information at → dso-berlin.de/ferroton

More beginning in the summer of 2026 at → ferroton.music

In cooperation with

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studios

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New Perspectives – Chamber Music Concerts in the Museum Fotografiska

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

For three concerts at the Museum Fotografiska, ensembles of the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) engage in musical dialogues with the photo exhibitions.

The **Museum Fotografiska** of Stockholm, with locations in New York City, Oslo, Shanghai und Tallin, is dedicated to new perspectives in contemporary photography. Since 2023, it has also had an outpost in Berlin in a historical department store building on Oranienburger Straße, which as the Kunsthaus Tacheles played a formative role in Berlin's art scene in the years following German reunification. The three chamber concerts that the DSO will be performing in the building's former ballroom – with programmes that respond very directly to the current photo exhibitions, images from which will appear on a large LED wall to accompany the concerts.

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The human being as individual is at the centre of the first concert, on **11 October 2026**, whose corresponding exhibition explores with found slides family life, privacy and social rituals of the second half of the twentieth century. The **Adamello Quartett** – Clemens Linder and Nikolaus Kneser (violin), Susanne Linder (viola), Adele Bitter (violoncello) – will play string quartets by Hanna Kulenty, Simon Laks and Jean Sibelius that come to terms with the highly personal experiences.

The relationship between intimacy and publicness, self-images and self-censorship in times of social media is the focus of the second exhibition. In the concert on **12 December 2026**, the **Padma Trio** – Kamila Glass (violin), Leslie Riva-Ruppert (violoncello) and Anna Kirichenko (piano) – and the percussionists Gabriel Ducombe, Sergey Mikhaylenko and Rüdiger Ruppert play Symphony No. 15 by Dmitri Shostakovich in a chamber music version – the Soviet composer spent his entire life within the area of tension between internal veracity and external control. Andy Akiho's 'Stop Speaking' for drum and AI-generated playback will also be heard.

The third program on **7 March 2027**, International Women's Day, tells of female self-assertion in a history of music and art that is still dominated by men. **Eva-Christina Schönweiß** and **Bertram Hartling** (violin), **Verena Wehling** (viola) and **Thomas Rößler** (violoncello) perform works by Gabriela Lena Frank, Jessie Montgomery, Florence Price and Caroline Shaw, among others, as well as Daniel Bernard Roumain's homage to Rosa Parks.

The exhibitions are announced shortly before opening. With your concert ticket, you can explore all of the current exhibitions in the museum on the same day.

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Heroines – Chamber Music Concerts in the Villa Elisabeth

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Three extraordinary women and the music of their era are the focus of the three discussion concerts of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) that in the 2026/2027 season are being held in the Villa Elisabeth.

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They are heroines – each in her own way: Three extraordinary women are the centre of the eponymous concert series, which after launching in the Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum last year is now going into its second season with an expanded focus. At the Villa Elisabeth, their stories, work and influence are brought to life on three evenings – in stories by three authors and experts and in compositions that mirror the circumstances of the protagonists' lives and times.

The first concert, on **18 October 2026**, is dedicated to the composer **Ethel Smyth** (1858–1944), who struggled against resistance to her studying music from both her family and society, went on to have a successful career, fought as a suffragette for women's right to vote and wrote a hymn to the British women's rights movement: 'The March of the Women'. DSO audiences will remember above all the powerful sounds of her opera 'The Wreckers', which Robin Ticciati conducted in 2022. **Heddi Feilhauer**, the translator and editor of Smyth's memoirs, is presenting the composer, and Thomas Hecker (oboe), Eva-Christina Schönweiß (violin), Verena Wehling (viola) and Claudia Benker-Schreiber (violoncello) play works by Benjamin Britten, Helen Grime and Smyth.

The second concert, on **6 December 2026**, presents **Rosa Parks** (1913–2005), whose courageous but ordinary protest against racism and unequal treatment in 1955 became a founding moment of the American civil rights movement. Her refusal to give up her seat on the bus for a white man at a time of segregation set a movement in motion that ultimately led to the abolition of the racist Jim Crow Laws. Her story is told by the musicologist, journalist and musician **Nene Sowe**. Byol Kang and Clemens Linder (violin), Annemarie Moorcroft (viola), Mischa Meyer (violoncello) and Benjamin Hochman (piano) play music by the African-American composers Henry Thacker Burleigh, Nokuthula Ngwenyama and Florence Price.

The focus of the final concert, on **9 May 2027**, is **Margot Friedländer** (1921–2025). As a Holocaust survivor, she left Berlin for the USA in 1946, ultimately returning to her hometown in 2010 at the advanced age of eighty-nine. As an eyewitness, she tirelessly combated forgetting and moved thousands with her commitment to humanity and tolerance. **Malin Schwerdtfeger**, the co-author of Friedländer's autobiography, reads from her memoirs; an ensemble composed of Olga Polonsky (violin), Eve Wickert (viola), Claudia Benker-Schreiber (violoncello) and Benjamin Hochman (piano) performs works by Jewish composers such as Hans Gál, Gideon Klein, Gustav Mahler, Ursula Mamlok and Ilse Weber.

An Ensemble of

Chamber Music Concerts in Clärchens Ballhaus

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

With four concerts in the 2026/2027 season, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) continues its revival of the Hall of Mirrors in Clärchens Ballhaus as a site for chamber music in the heart of Berlin.

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Since 1913, Clärchens Ballhaus has been a home and a dream destination for Berliners who are crazy about dancing. Only a few remain today of the more than 900 dance halls in the capital in the early 20th century that invited people to countless pleasures. Clärchens has survived two world wars and more than a century of turbulent history undamaged. In 2024, the rear building on Auguststraße in Berlin-Mitte reopened after an extensive renovation and once again offers relaxed dancing pleasures. Like a time capsule, the ballroom on the upper floor, with its creaking parquet floor, historical panelling and innumerable mirrors still preserves its unique atmosphere today. After great success last season, the DSO is continuing the 'Clärchens' series and with four concert dates in the 2026/2027 season reviving the ballroom with its inimitable patina and fabulous acoustics as a place for chamber music.

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It opens on **1 November 2026** with a classic of the repertoire: Franz Schubert's **Octet**, a divertimento-like study on the path to his "Great" Symphony. Nearly two hundred years after its public premiere, it can be heard with a cast of prominent members of the DSO: First Concertmasters Wei Lu and Marina Grauman (violin), Viktor Bátki (viola), Sara Minemoto (violoncello), Rolf Jansen (contrabass), Thomas Holzmann (clarinet), Douglas Bull (bassoon) and Bora Demir (horn).

A second Viennese programme is being presented by the **Fontane Quartett** of Sebastian Breuninger and Elsa Brown (violin), Annemarie Moorcroft (viola) and Mischa Meyer (violoncello) together with Christine Breuninger-Felsch (contrabass) on **17 January 2027**. Quartets by the timbre master Erich Wolfgang Korngold and the violin virtuoso Fritz Kreisler are juxtaposed by the string serenades of Oscar Straus, who is celebrated for his operettas.

On **21 March 2027**, dance gets its due: A **string quartet** consisting of Jakob Encke and Alice Garnier (violin), Francesca Zappa (viola) and David Adorján (violoncello) evokes the "spirit of the ball house", with an homage to the music got generations dancing – and original compositions and arrangements by Leroy Anderson, George Gershwin, Astor Piazzolla, Kurt Weill and many others.

Legerity and refinement characterise the final programme heard on **30 May 2027**, with, among other things, Bohuslav Martinů's ironic ballet 'The Kitchen Review' and a potpourri from Franz Lehár's 'The Merry Widow' – capably served up by Stephan Mörtz (clarinet), Karoline Zurl (bassoon), Raphael Mentzen (trumpet), Daniel Vlashi Lukaçi (violin), Leslie Riva-Ruppert (violoncello) and Alisa Kratzer (piano).

In cooperation with

Clärchens

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‘Notturmo’ – Nightly Chamber Music Concerts with the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

The ‘Notturmo’ series is a cooperation of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) with the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Since 2010, it has invited audiences to chamber concerts at night in the venues of the Foundation. The three concerts of the 2026/2027 season are being held in the Bode-Museum, the Museum für Fotografie and the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz.

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The 2026/2027 season marks the 17th iteration of the ‘Notturmo’ series, which the DSO presents in partnership with the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz). The concerts draw crowds, and the associated subscriptions are so popular that few tickets if any are available at the box office. Three times each season, ‘Notturmo’ welcomes nocturnal music enthusiasts into the realms of art and knowledge. Beginning at 8 pm, the collections can be explored under the competent guidance of experts. Then at 9 pm, “nocturnes” for a variety of ensembles that last about an hour can be heard. In a dialogue of sound, space and exhibit, the “Notturmi” open entirely new facets of the reception of art and bring music where otherwise only silence reigns at late hours.

The first concert of the series takes place at the beginning of the season on **17 September 2026** on the Museumsinsel Berlin in the **Bode-Museum**, home of the Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst as well as the Münzkabinett. In the Gobelinsaal, Marina Grauman and Eva-Christina Schönweiß (violins), Kim Esther Roloff (viola) und Claudia Benker-Schreiber (violoncello) play Joseph Haydn’s music for the Passion ‘Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze’, which the composer himself arranged for string quartet.

Compositions and arrangements for trumpet ring out on **4 March 2027** in the **Museum für Fotografie** at the Bahnhof Zoo. A special exhibition on the material history of the medium will take place there in March. Falk Maertens, Bernhard Plagg, Alex Rodriguez Parés, Raphael Mentzen and Matthias Kühnle play brass music from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries – from Bach and Zelenka to Joplin and Gubaidulina.

The **Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz** in Berlin-Dahlem preserves archival material spanning eight centuries – from medieval charters to documents from the 21st century. The DSO is a guest there on **3 June 2027** with Ksenija Zečević and Marija Mücke (violin), Annemarie Moorcroft (viola) and Mischa Meyer (violoncello) as well as quartets by Amy Beach, Claude Debussy and Milica Djordjević.

Further information at → dso-berlin.de/notturmo-concerts

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Preußischer Kulturbesitz**

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Orchester
Chöre**

Outreach – The DSO in the City

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

In the 2026/2027 season, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) is once again out and about with musical offerings in various places in the city. Chamber concerts as part of Berlin Art Week and the 'Hallen 07' festival, untamed music in the Berlin Zoo and the 'Symphonic Mob', Berlin's largest play-along orchestra, also invite you to listen and join in outside the usual concert venues.

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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DSO@Berlin Art Week

The encounter of music and (visual) art has been part of the chamber music offerings of the DSO for many years, not least as part of the 'Notturmo' concerts in Berlin museums that have been organised together with the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz since 2010. In addition to the three concerts in the Museum Fotografiska, the orchestra's chamber music ensembles will be heard during Berlin Art Week once again:

On more than 9,000 square meters of the Wilhelm Studios in Berlin-Reinickendorf, the **Berlin Art Festival HALLEN** takes place annually in September, presenting current movements in contemporary art in a historical industrial ambience. The Wilhelm Hallen on the grounds of a former iron foundry more than 120 years old accommodate not only exhibition spaces and numerous cultural and creative organizations but also since March 2025 the orchestra's rehearsal and office spaces – a neighbourhood with potential that led to a first collaboration already in 2025 as part of Berlin Art Week and will also be continued in the FERRO:TON Festival in May 2027.

As part of **Berlin Art Week 2026** and the '**Hallen 07**' festival, chamber music ensembles of the DSO can be experienced yet again on **13 September 2026** – with music in front of works of art, as part of an installation or quite spontaneously in the open air. The ensembles and programmes will be announced on short notice.

Further information at → dso-berlin.de/berlinartweek

In cooperation with

HALLEN 07

The DSO at the Zoo

Berlin's zoo is not only the oldest and best attended in Germany but also one of the most species-diverse internationally. In addition to the only Giant Pandas in Germany, its residents represent more than 1,200 species – from the enormous elephant to the tiny poisonous spider. Since 1844, the Berlin Zoo has invited friends of animals to discover its superlative species diversity. Composers, too, have repeatedly been enthusiastic about and inspired by fauna, as a quick glance at the history of music shows: not only Schubert's 'Trout', Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Flight of the Bumblebee', Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf' and of course Camille

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Saint-Saëns' 'The Carnival of the Animals'. Ideal circumstances for a renewed collaboration between animal and music, zoo and orchestra.

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Two years after its first visit, the DSO is once again a guest in the Berlin Zoo. On **Whit Monday, 17 May 2027**, the orchestra's chamber music ensembles appear on the musical stage of the Zoo's restaurant with a programme for the whole family.

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

A ticket to the zoo suffices: the concerts themselves are free for visitors.

The programme will be announced in July. Additional information will then be available at
→ dso-berlin.de/zooberlin

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Symphonic Mob

As Berlin's largest spontaneous orchestra the 'Symphonic Mob' has since 2014 brought amateur musicians and singers of all ages and levels of musical training together with the professionals of the DSO. Under the motto "You play the music!", the **13th Berlin 'Symphonic Mob'** will take place on **12 June 2027**, this time under conductor Friedrich Praetorius and, for the second time, beneath the transparent roof construction of the Center at Potsdamer Platz (formerly the Sony-Center). The programme features music by Zequinha de Abreu, Mélanie Bonis, Paul Lincke, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Richard Wagner, including two works featuring a choir.

Persistent enthusiasm for this concept has led to the registered umbrella brand 'Symphonic Mob' being used by other orchestras in collaboration with the DSO in numerous cities throughout Europe, in some cases multiple times – with others constantly being added.

Further information on the 'Symphonic Mob' at → symphonic-mob.de/berlin
Registration begins on 24 February 2027.

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With the kind support of



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Discovering Classical Music – Music Education with the DSO

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

The Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) offers a direct, exciting and varied approach to classical music to listeners of all ages in a broad spectrum of concert and educational offerings.

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radio3 Children's Concerts with Open House

Listening, joining in, having fun, discovering music – the radio3 Children's Concerts are the perfect introduction to the miraculous world of classical music. Together with the rbb, **six times a season**, the DSO invites children to its popular matinees. They take place at noon on Sunday in the Großer Sendesaal in the Haus des Rundfunks and offer a rousing and entertaining musical experience to an audience of primary school age. In the 2026/2027 season, the series' offerings are as varied as usual: With Molly Turner and Korngold's film music, it narrates 'The Adventures of Robin Hood'; with Sora Elisabeth Lee and Prokofiev's 'Romeo and Juliet', it tells a great love story; Ralf Sochaczewsky and the choir Cantus Domus present excerpts from Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio'. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Olha Dondyk invites you to the 'Dance into the Spring' with music by Amy Beach, Lili Boulanger, Lesia Dychko and Ethel Smyth. Sasha Scolnik-Brower explores 'The Magical World of Swans'. Natan Sugár rings in the vacation season with composers who were inspired by distant lands. Together with the DSO, host Christian Schruff takes concertgoers aged six to twelve on an entertaining and interactive voyage of discovery, tells gripping stories and presents great music at the same time. Young music fans can join in, speak their piece and experiment – even starting before the concert: At the Open House, children can do handicrafts, sing and get makeup, but above all learn about the instruments from members of the orchestra.

→ dso-berlin.de/childrens-concerts

Participating in the Children's Concerts

The DSO offers school classes from grade three and up an opportunity to **take part in selected Children's Concerts**, for example, with their own choreography, compositions or self-built instruments. Primary school teachers who their class to appear on stage, please send an email to

→ musikvermittlung@dso-berlin.de

Klassik's Not Dead – Chamber Music in Schools

The members of the DSO support the next generations of musicians not only at the Open House or with the 'Symphonic Mob' but also devote their full energy to other educational projects. With ›Klassik's Not Dead‹ they make a very direct contribution to musical education in Berlin's schools: at the Beethoven-Gymnasium, the Canisius-Kolleg, the Droste-Hülshoff-

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Gymnasium, the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Gymnasium, the Heinz-Berggruen-Gymnasium and the Katholische Schule Salvator. In weekly lessons, the musicians attend to chamber-music ensembles of all age groups. In the meantime, more than a dozen are involved with schools. They mentor the students with both words and deeds, sometimes over several years; they follow the musical process from rehearsing the works by way of issues of performance technique up to the performances as chamber ensembles. The results of this collaboration are presented in a public chamber concert in each school year. The next one takes place on 14 March 2027 at 4 pm in the Villa Elisabeth.

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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→ dso-berlin.de/musicinschools

Visiting Rehearsals and Tickets for Pupils

Visiting rehearsals in the Wilhelm Hallen, the DSO's rehearsal space, offers school classes a look behind the scenes of the DSO. Children and teenagers can see from up close the work of a world-class professional orchestra, learn exactly how a classical orchestra functions and gain fascinating insights into the daily life of a large ensemble. Rehearsal visits for grades three and up can be reserved.

Info and registration at → dso-berlin.de/rehearsals

Attending a concert at the Philharmonie is possible for all the DSO's concerts. Registered school classes can purchase tickets for 5 euros each, subject to availability.

Info and registration at → dso-berlin.de/concert-visit

classic:klassik

Together with Caro Worbs and Miguel Robitzky – hosts of the podcast 'too many tabs' and staff members of 'ZDF Magazin Royale' – the DSO has launched the **new series** 'classic:klassik', which approaches legendary compositions of classical music from entirely new directions in two evenings at the Haus des Rundfunks. A deep dive into the history of music, pop culture and the question "Why do some works still resonate today?"

- **'No Concert Without a Female Composer!'** on 16 April 2027, 6 pm
- **'Beethoven Era'** on 4 June 2027, 6 pm

Information at → dso-berlin.de/classic-klassik

An Ensemble of

 Rundfunk
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Poster Competition

The Poster Competition calls on school classes to design a poster and flyer for a women composer from one of two selected DSO concerts. The best poster will be published in the corresponding DSO programme brochure, and the winning class attends the concert for free. The choices are:

- **Clara Schumann** concert on 29 November 2026
- **Unsuk Chin** concert on 21 February 2027

Information at → dso-berlin.de/postercontest

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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Symphonic Mob

As Berlin's largest spontaneous orchestra, the 'Symphonic Mob' has since 2014 brought amateur musicians and singers of all ages and levels of musical training together with professionals from the DSO. Under the motto "You play the music!", the **13th Berlin 'Symphonic Mob'** will take place on **12 June 2027**, this time under conductor Friedrich Praetorius. The programme features works by Zequinha de Abreu, Mélanie Bonis, Paul Lincke, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Richard Wagner.

Continuing enthusiasm for this concept has led to the registered umbrella brand 'Symphonic Mob' being used by other orchestras in collaboration with the DSO in numerous cities throughout Europe, in some cases multiple times – with others constantly being added.

→ symphonic-mob.de

DSO Community Orchestra

For all friends of music who want to dedicate themselves to orchestral performance in the 'Symphonic Mob' not just once but regularly and with professional guidance, the DSO Community Orchestra has offered the perfect opportunity for twenty-three years. Its repertoire is broad, playing music is fun and the end result is contagious. Ambitious concert literature is on the amateur orchestra's programme alongside excursions into the worlds of opera and film music. DSO members regularly take part as soloists or teachers. Heinz Radzischewski, who until in 2019 was assistant principal trumpeter of the DSO, launched the Community Orchestra in 2003 and still leads it today. In the new season, Dvořák's Ninth Symphony 'From the New World' and the already traditional opera and operetta gala, among other events, are on the programme.

Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7:30 to 10 pm in the Wilhelm Hallen. New members are always welcome, and contrabassists in particular are being sought at the moment.

→ dso-berlin.de/communityorch

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Kazuki Yamada – Music Director

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

Kazuki Yamada will assume the position of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) at the start of the 2026/2027 season. He has served as Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) since April 2023 and has held the position of Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo (OPMC) since 2016.

Born in 1979 in Kanagawa, Japan, Yamada maintains a strong connection to his homeland and brings a distinctly “Japanese sensibility” to classical music. He works regularly with the NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra and the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. He regularly tours Japan with the orchestras from Birmingham and Monte Carlo, most recently with the CBSO in summer 2025.

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Yamada is a highly sought-after guest conductor in the realms of symphonic, operatic, and choral music. He made a celebrated debut with the DSO in April 2024 and returned to open the 2024/2025 season, stepping in for the late Sir Andrew Davis. In the same season, he appeared for the fourth consecutive time with the CBSO at the BBC Proms. Further debuts include performances with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Filarmonica della Scala and the Wiener Symphoniker. In 2026, he will make his first appearances with the Bamberger Symphoniker and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra. In the United States, he has conducted the Cleveland Orchestra, following earlier engagements with the Chicago and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and New York Philharmonic.

He also appears regularly with ensembles such as the Oslo Philharmonic, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Orchestre National de France and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. At the Opéra de Monte-Carlo, he has conducted Ravel's 'L'enfant et les sortilèges' and 'L'heure espagnole', and returned in 2026 for Debussy's 'Pelléas et Mélisande'.

Yamada collaborates with renowned soloists including Emanuel Ax, Leif Ove Andsnes, Seong-Jin Cho, Isabelle Faust, Martin Helmchen, Nobuko Imai, Lucas and Arthur Jussen, Alexandre Kantorow, Evgeny Kissin, Maria João Pires, Julian Prégardien, Baiba Skride, Fazil Say, Arabella Steinbacher, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Krystian Zimerman, and Frank Peter Zimmermann.

A passionate advocate for the next generation of musicians, Yamada is a regular guest conductor at the Seiji Ozawa International Academy Switzerland and actively supports the CBSO's education and development programs.

He studied at the Tokyo University of the Arts, where he discovered his deep affinity for Mozart and the Russian Romantic repertoire. He gained international recognition in 2009 when he won First Prize at the 51st Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors. After spending most of his life in Japan, he has resided in Berlin since 2010.

For more information → kdschmid.de/en

438 words (2,915 characters) – April 2026

An Ensemble of

 **Rundfunk
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Chöre**

Christian Beuke – Managing Director

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Christian Beuke studied musicology, business administration and law at the Technische Universität and Freie Universität in Berlin. He began his professional career at METRUM Strategy and Management Consulting, which specialises in cultural institutions, where he advised orchestras, festivals, theatres and museums for six years. In 2012, he went to the Münchner Philharmoniker, where he initially worked as Head of Marketing, Communication and Distribution. In 2015, Christian Beuke was appointed Managing Director of the orchestra and from then on was responsible for the orchestra's entire operations including its move to the Isarphilharmonie, which opened in 2021. From 2018 onwards, he was also Managing Director of the Orchesterakademie der Freunde und Förderer of the Münchner Philharmoniker. From 2021 to 2024, he taught at the Institute for Cultural Management and Media of the University of Music and Theatre in Munich. At the start of the 2025/2026 season, Christian Beuke took on the post of Managing Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO).

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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159 words (1,073 characters) – April 2026

An Ensemble of

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

Berlin, 22 April 2026

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The Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) was highlighted by the renowned national newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung as the “orchestral think tank” among the capital city’s orchestras. It is characterized by the rich dramaturgy of its concert programmes, its commitment to contemporary music and regular discoveries of repertoire, as well as the courage to pursue unusual music presentation formats. The DSO has set innovative impulses with electro projects, the production of extraordinary music films, interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration with ensembles on the independent scene. With its moderated casual concerts including lounge and live act, it has been successfully building a bridge between club and classical music for over 15 years, reaching a broad and diverse audience. Since 2014, it has been bringing amateur musicians together with professionals to form Berlin’s largest spontaneous orchestra, the ‘Symphonic Mob’ – a concept that is now also licensed throughout Europe.

In the 2023/2024 season, the DSO attracted worldwide attention with a feminist music policy initiative under the motto ‘No Concert Without a Female Composer!’; in 2024/2025 it underlined the positioning for an open society and the advocacy for marginalized groups in various concert programmes with the campaign ‘Orchestra for Democracy’. The DSO remained true to this self-image in the 2025/2026 season: under the title ‘Afrodiaspora – Composing While Black’, it became the first orchestra worldwide to place the music of Black composers at the centre of its programming, commissioned new works, and presented cellist Abel Selaocoe as “Artist in Focus”.

With its many guest performances, the DSO is present on the national and international music scene. The orchestra has performed in recent years in Brazil and Argentina, in Japan, China, Malaysia, Abu Dhabi and Eastern Europe, as well as at major festivals such as the Salzburg Festival or BBC Proms. The DSO also has a global presence with numerous award-winning CD recordings. In 2011, it received the Grammy Award for the world premiere recording of Kaija Saariaho’s opera ‘L’amour de loin’ conducted by Kent Nagano.

Founded as the RIAS Symphony Orchestra in 1946, it was renamed the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin in 1956 and has borne its current name since 1993. Since its inception, the DSO has been able to retain outstanding artist personalities. As the first Music Director, Ferenc Fricsay defined the standards in terms of repertoire, acoustic ideal and media presence. In 1964, the young Lorin Maazel assumed artistic responsibility. In 1982, he was followed by Riccardo Chailly and in 1989 by Vladimir Ashkenazy. Kent Nagano was appointed Music Director in 2000. Since his departure in 2006, he has been associated with the orchestra as a Conductor Laureate. From 2007 to 2010, Ingo Metzmacher, from 2012 to 2016, Tugan Sokhiev, and from 2017 to 2024, Robin Ticciati set decisive accents in the musical life of the capital. They will be succeeded by the Japanese Kazuki Yamada, who will lead the DSO as Music Director from the start of the 2026/2027 season.

The Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin is an ensemble of the Radio Orchestra and Choirs gGmbH (ROC Berlin). The shareholders are Deutschlandradio, the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Berlin and Radio Berlin-Brandenburg.

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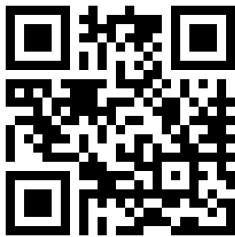
Online Press Area

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

Kent Nagano
Conductor Laureate

In our online press area you will find current press releases, digital brochures, seasonal motifs, documentary photos, artist biographies and images.

Berlin, 22 April 2026



→ dso-berlin.de/press

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