

Press release

24 September 2024



Waldemar Alder on the banjo and Lotte Gerson playing saxophone, ca. 1931, photographer unknown, Bauhaus-Archiv Berlin

2024 Bauhaus Music Festival

Music festival on freedom and exile

17–19 October 2024

Press conference: 1 October 2024, 10 am

the temporary bauhaus-archiv, Knesebeckstr. 1, 10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

Please contact Bureau N (stefanie.lockwood@bureau-n.de) if you wish to attend.

“I felt released, freed,” recalled composer Ruth Crawford Seeger after visiting the Bauhaus Dessau in 1931. Freedom and exile are the highly topical themes of this year’s Bauhaus Music Festival (17–19 October 2024). The three-day festival celebrates the musical life and works at the historic Bauhaus and highlights its artistic and political positions, past and present.

The Bauhaus Music Festival is organised by the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung and directed by Michal Friedländer, Kai Hinrich Müller and Karl-Heinz Steffens.

Sensational musical find: Marc Blitzstein’s avant-garde opera “Parabola and Circula”

The festival kicks off with a sensational discovery: While researching musical life at the Bauhaus, scholars unearthed the 1929 avant-garde opera “Parabola and Circula” by the American composer Marc Blitzstein. It was supposed to debut at the Bauhaus theatre in Dessau, but never made it to the stage. Inspired by Blitzstein’s occupation with Constructivist Art, “Parabola and Circula” tells the story of a romance between a square and a dot, accompanied by many other geometric figures. Excerpts from the opera will be performed at the festival’s opening at the temporary bauhaus-archiv for the first time ever.

Kai Hinrich Müller, artistic director of the Bauhaus Music Festival: “I’m absolutely thrilled that ‘Parabola and Circula’ will finally be performed after almost one hundred years. I have never encountered an opera constructed this way – one could describe it as a ‘Bauhaus opera’. With its striking autobiographical and historical references, it portrays a ‘destroyed paradise’, as Marc Blitzstein himself suggested.”

Festival opening with performances by Cathy Milliken and Jocelyn B. Smith

The festival opens with a second highlight – a live performance of the 2017 radio play “Driving with Fatima” by singer Jocelyn B. Smith and composer Cathy Milliken on piano. “Driving with Fatima” is dedicated to the writer Fatima Dike who grew up in the South African township of Langa where she lives again today. On a drive through Langa, she relates stories of home and exile, modernity and tradition, which Cathy Milliken intertwined to create a radio play.

The far-reaching influence of the Bauhaus on the world of music

Many of the big names in the music world of the 1920s and 1930s – from Alban Berg and Béla Bartók to Arnold Schönberg and Ruth Crawford Seeger – maintained close contacts with the famous school of art and design in some way or the other.

Annemarie Jaeggi, director of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung, on this year’s festival: “The Bauhaus exerted a strong appeal that extended far beyond the realms of architecture and art. With the Bauhaus Music Festival, we wish to highlight the numerous crossovers between the artistic and musical avant-garde of that period. We’re focusing on that sense of freedom that was so palpable at the Bauhaus as an occasion to highlight the highly topical issues of freedom and exile.”

The 2024 Bauhaus Music Festival will present works by Arnold Schönberg, Kurt Schwitters, Johann Sebastian Bach, Béla Bartók, Alban Berg, Stefan Wolpe, Cathy Milliken and Ruth Crawford Seeger. Numerous artists and renowned soloists like Claudia Barainsky, Kolja Blacher, Gunnar Brandt-Sigurdsson and Jocelyn B. Smith, and the Deutsches Kammerorchester Berlin will come together to jointly explore the musical life and work at the Bauhaus.

Programme 17–19 October 2024

For concert accreditation, please contact Bureau N: stefanie.lockwood@bureau-n.de

Thursday, 17 October, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm and 7 pm

Venue: the temporary bauhaus-archiv

Lunch concert and opening concert with works by Marc Blitzstein and Cathy Milliken

Performers: Michal Friedländer, piano, Alma Sadé, soprano, Noam Heinz, baritone, Cathy Milliken, piano, Jocelyn B. Smith, vocals

Free admission with [registration](#), event language: German

Friday, 18 October 2024, 7 pm – 9 pm

Venue: St. Elisabeth

Concert with works by Béla Bartók, Alban Berg and Johann Sebastian Bach

Performers: Karl-Heinz Steffens, conductor, Kolja Blacher, solo violin, Deutsches Kammerorchester Berlin, Gabriel Adorján, concert master of the Deutsches Kammerorchester, Michal Friedländer, piano, Yael Kareth, celesta and harmonium, Ryoichi Masaka, oboe, Lara Meyer-Struhoff, harp, Mario Kopf, bassoon, Martin Münzberg, percussion, Eloy Pérez, trumpet, Ruth Ron, flute, Yaron Rosenthal, piano, Parisa Saeednezhad, clarinet, Jan Schlichte, percussion, Leonard Weiss, percussion

[Advance ticket sales](#), event language: German

Saturday, 19 October 2024

Venue: Villa Elisabeth

3 pm – 5 pm: Moderated concert “Portrait of Stefan Wolpe”

Performers: Gunnar Brandt-Sigurdsson, tenor, Johan Bossers, piano, Michal Friedländer, piano, Christhard Gössling, trombone and trumpet, Yuval Herz, violin, Yael Kareth, piano, Alexandra Kehrle,

clarinet, Gur Liraz, banjo, Anastasia Maschkowski, violin, Norbert Nagel, alto saxophone, Yaron Rosenthal, piano, Toni Rymer, violoncello, Parisa Saeednezhad, bass clarinet, Karl-Heinz Steffens, clarinet

Free admission with [registration](#), event language: German and English

6:30 pm – 8 pm: Concert with works by Kurt Schwitters, Arnold Schönberg and Ruth Crawford Seeger
Performers: Claudia Barainsky, soprano, Gunnar Brandt-Sigurdsson, tenor, Karl-Heinz Steffens, conductor, Susanne Behrens, violin, Michal Friedländer, piano, Yuval Herz, violin, Fiona Jäntti, violin, Yael Kareth, piano, Sibylle König, cello, Mario Kopf, bassoon, Anastasia Maschkowski, violin, Ruth Ron, flute, Toni Rymer, violoncello, Parisa Saeednezhad, clarinet and bass clarinet

[Advance ticket sales](#), event language: German

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm: Jazz and bebop at the Bauhaus

Performers: Tal Balshai, piano, Heinrich Köbberling-Udo, percussion, Norbert Nagel, saxophone and trumpet, Jan Roder, bass, Karl-Heinz Steffens, clarinet

Free admission with [registration](#)

Education programme

As part of the Bauhaus Music Festival, several joint projects with local schools will take place and present their results at Villa Elisabeth. Saturday's festival programme (19 October 2024) includes several public workshops for children and families (10 am – 12.30 pm, 2 pm – 4, free admission with [registration](#)). In a moderated concert on Saturday afternoon entitled "Portrait of Stefan Wolpe", visitors can learn about the life and works of this influential Bauhaus student and composer (3 pm – 5 pm, free admission with [registration](#)).

Event venues

the temporary bauhaus-archiv
Knesebeckstraße 1
10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

St. Elisabeth + Villa Elisabeth
Invalidenstraße 3
10115 Berlin-Mitte

Tickets and prices

Advance tickets via [Eventbrite](#): €20 / €10 (reduced) plus fees

Box office: €20 / €10 (reduced)

For more information about the programme and tickets, visit www.bauhaus.de/music

Download press material: www.bauhaus.de/presse

The 2024 Bauhaus Music Festival is made possible with the kind support of the Capital Cultural Fund.

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bauhaus-archiv museum für gestaltung

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