

34th

LIONS EUROPEAN MUSIC COMPETITION THOMAS KUTI

greeting

for **PIANO**

Competition and concert
of the six best candidates

OCTOBER 22 - 23, 2026

Stadthalle Karlsruhe, Mombert-Saal

FESTPLATZ 9, 76137 KARLSRUHE

KARLSRUHE, GERMANY



program

Lions



*European
Music Competition
Thomas Kuti*

In order to encourage talented young musicians all over Europe a Music Prize is presented annually on occasion of each Lions Europa Forum. In 2026 the instrument is the **Piano**, chosen by the host country, the Lions from Germany.

It is a pleasure to let the LEMC happen for the 34th time now as an implemented part of the Lions Europa Forum. Lions take the chance to do what is necessary to be done: Supporting young people in culture that connects Europe as a whole.

According to this "Leitmotiv" we will enjoy on Friday also the concert of the "**Lions European Chamber Players**" (LECP) – our Lions Orchestra with former prize winners and students from all over Europe. Welcome at the Christus-Kirche, Karlsruhe at 6 pm! Tickets available at the spot.

And we **celebrate the Charter** of the newly founded Lions Club "Resonance Europe" for professional musicians at the end of the concert. The charter diploma will be handed out through our International President Mark Lyon.

In these hard times with struggles and war it is highly relevant to foster under-

standing and friendship – music culture is a perfect bridge for it.

I am very happy about the Volunteers that help us to let this competition happen: Thanks to Lions Friends from France and Germany!

Conditions for participation:
Participants must have their **24th birthday** in 2026 or later.

Each member country of the Europa Forum may nominate one participant for the competition. Preliminary competitions are held in most of the participating member countries or in smaller regional areas.

The prizes will be:

1 st prize:	5'000 €
2 nd prize:	3'000 €
3 rd prize:	2'000 €

And as a special prize:

Prize of the audience: 1.000 €

(sponsored by the Lions of different participating countries, all listeners who are present at the Concert of the Six Best can vote!)

DG Ingo Brookmann

Chairperson LEMC, Chairperson LECP



Donations are always welcome! Just get in touch with the chairperson.

For further information please visit us on facebook or get in contact with:

Ingo.Brookmann@t-online.de – Chairperson –

schedule

1st round

Thursday, 22th October beginning at 9:30 am till afternoon

- obligatory piece:
R. Schumann: Abegg- Variationen op.1
- one piece chosen from the repertoire list
all candidates perform

Please do not enter the concert room during the performances.

2nd round FINAL

Friday, 23th October 12 - 2 pm Mombert-Hall

Greetings:

DG Ingo Brookmann, Chairperson of the LEMC

Concert of the „Six Best“

- new composition of Felix Schausberger "Ocean", written for the Lions Europa Forum 2026 Karlsruhe *also see second last page*
- This piece will be followed by another piece of own choice from the repertoire list.

break

Special Guest - Surprise

Announcement Prize of the Audience

Announcement of the winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes

At the beginning of the 2nd part the audience will be told the names of the six candidates the jury has chosen to perform in the Final.



SOPHIE PACINI

jury

"For Sophie Pacini, the expression of emotion never becomes an end in itself: everything remains play, art, and reflection – surprising and illuminating at every moment."

Neue Zürcher Zeitung

"The ideal interpreter for 19th-century piano music"

MDR Kultur

Since making her concert debut at the age of just eight, the young German-Italian pianist Sophie Pacini has conquered the stages of the world's most prestigious concert halls – including the Philharmonie in Munich and Berlin, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo, as well as venues in Vienna, Hong Kong, Paris, Brussels, and London.

By the age of 19, she had already completed her concert diploma with distinction at the Institute for the Highly Gifted at the Mozarteum Salzburg.

Since then, she has captivated audiences with acclaimed recitals at renowned international piano festivals, such as the Klavier-Festival Ruhr, the Rheingau Musik Festival, the Lucerne Festival, and the MDR Musiksommer, among others.

A project particularly close to the Munich native's heart is her own festival, "Nuancen," launched in 2023 and held in her home community of Aying.

Sophie Pacini performs with distinguished orchestras such as the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Munich

Radio Orchestra, and the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra.

Her outstanding achievements have been recognized with numerous awards, including the International Classical Music Award (ICMA) in 2017 and the ECHO Klassik award for "Young Artist of the Year" (Piano).

Her albums **In Between** (2018), **Rimembranza** (2020), and **Puzzle** (2022) shot straight into the top ten of the German classical music charts.

With her current hit album **bittersweet** (2025), Sophie Pacini once again strikes a chord with the times: inspired by a moving concert at a women's shelter in Munich, she created a deeply personal musical diary intended to offer solace to those facing personal crises. For years, Sophie Pacini has been dedicated to introducing children and young people to classical music; she aims to make the genre accessible to everyone, everywhere, and develops new concert and broadcast formats for radio and television. She is a full member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

She shares a special friendship with the legendary Martha Argerich, with whom she regularly performs duo concerts.

www.sophie-pacini.com



JONATHAN RASPIENGAS

jury

Jonathan Raspiengeas is famous for his professionalism, skill, enthusiasm, humility, and originality wherever he performs, whether as a conductor or pianist, soloist or chamber musician.

He has received and continues to receive support from acclaimed artists such as Thibault Cauvin, Pierre Dutot, Adélaïde Ferrière, Thierry Malandain, and Dominique Rouits, and has worked alongside renowned conductors such as Yutaka Sado, Armin Jordan, Jesús López Cobos, Hannu Lintu, Paavo Järvi, and Claudio Abbado.

At 20, Jonathan Raspiengeas remains the youngest graduate of the conducting program at the École Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot in Paris.

He also holds degrees from the Royal Academy of Music in London (conducting) and the prestigious Juilliard School in New York (Advanced Program Diploma in piano and conducting), and is a prizewinner in international competitions.

jonathanraspiengeas.com



DENYS PROSHAYEV

jury

Foto: © Uwe Arens

“Klangmagier“, „Russischer Eusebius“ and „brillanter Virtuoso von ganz großem Format“ are just a few of the accolades music critics have bestowed upon pianist Denys Proshayev since he won the ARD International Music Competition. Trained by – among others – Prof. Vladimir Krainev (one of the last master students of Heinrich Neuhaus) and maintaining an ongoing artistic dialogue with his mentor Prof. Oleg Maisenberg, Proshayev has developed into an outstanding artist who performs in major concert halls and with renowned orchestras. His extensive repertoire encompasses not only 40 piano concertos and a wide range of chamber music compositions but also numerous solo works spanning all musical eras – including J.S. Bach’s **The Well-Tempered Clavier**, which is due for release on CD soon. His other recordings

are dedicated to works by J.P. Rameau (Sony Classical), as well as J.S. Bach, L. van Beethoven, R. Schumann, and A. Schnittke (Piano Classics).

In 2018, Proshayev co-founded the “Musikfest Melle” with Nadia Mokhtari – Lower Saxony’s first international piano festival. Now entering its eighth year, the event was a resounding success from its very first edition.

Furthermore, Denys Proshayev teaches at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and, as of 2024, holds a full professorship in piano at the Karlsruhe University of Music, where he also heads the keyboard department.

www.proshayev.com
www.musikfestmelle.com

candidates



JAKUB CHWASTYNIAK

age 21

I
F. Chopin

II
F. Chopin

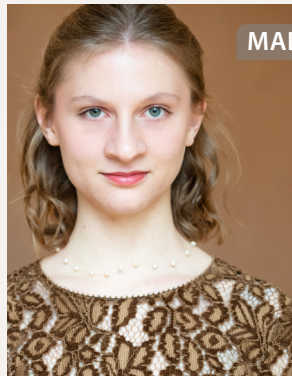
spons. by Poland D 121

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

09:30 am

Ballade Nr. 1 g-Moll op. 23

Scherzo Nr. 1 h-Moll, op. 20



MADITA WARTER

age 20

I
J. S. Bach

II
F. Chopin

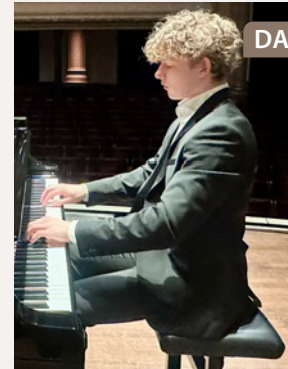
spons. by Austria MD 114

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

09:50 am

Italienisches Konzert BWV 971

Polonaise - Fantasie As-Dur
op. 61



DAVID KOOI

age 17

I
F. Liszt

II
F. Chopin

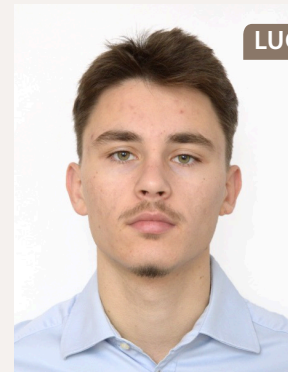
spons. by the Netherlands MD 110

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

10:10 am

Ungarische Rhapsodie Nr. 2
cis-Moll S 244

Ballade Nr. 4 f- Moll, op. 52



LUCA CÎRSTEAN

age 20

I
F. Chopin

II
F. Chopin

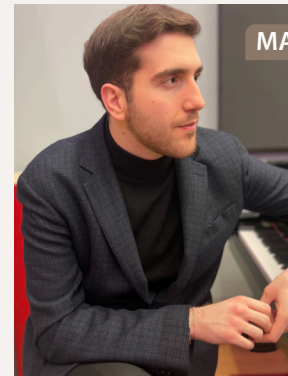
spons. by Romania D 124

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

10:30 am

Scherzo Nr.1 in h-Moll, op. 20

Scherzo Nr.2 in b-Moll, op. 31



MASSIMO TADDEI

age 24

I
F. Chopin

II
R. Schumann

spons. by Italy MD 108

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

10:50 am

Ballade Nr. 1, g-Moll op. 23

Toccata C-Dur op. 7



EMILIS ŠARINSKAS

age 23

I
L. v. Beethoven

II
F. Liszt

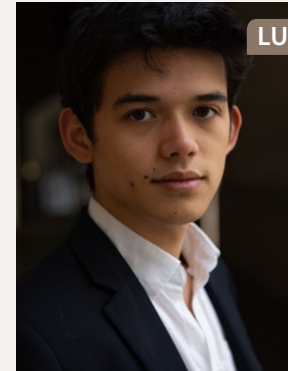
spons. by Lithuania D 131

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

11:10 am

„Rondo all'inghrese -
Wut über den verlorenen
Groschen" G- Dur, op. 129

Rigoletto Paraphrase S 434



LUCAS BISCHOFF

age 23

I
F. Chopin

II
F. Liszt

spons. by France MD 103

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

12:10 pm

Ballade Nr. 1 g-Moll, op. 23

Ungarische Rhapsodie
Nr. 2 cis-Moll, S 244



BURCU YAKAR

age 20

I
Sergei Prokofiev

II
Frédéric Chopin

spons. by Turkey MD 118

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

11:30 am

Sonata No.1 Op.1

Scherzo No. 1



ELISAVET ZERVAKI

age 23

I
J. S. Bach: Italienisches

II
F. Chopin

spons. by Greece-Cyprus MD 117

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

12:30 pm

Konzert BWV 971

Ballade Nr. 1, g-Moll op. 23



TULE DJEVRIJE

age 20

I
S. Prokofiev

II
F. Chopin

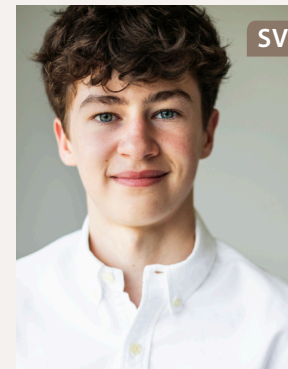
spons. by North Macedonia D 132

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

11:50 am

Sonata No.1 Op. 1

Scherzo No.1 h-moll, op. 20



SVERRE D'HOOGE

age 15

I
G.F. Händel

II
F. Chopin

spons. by Belgium MD 102

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

12:50 pm

Chaconne in G-Dur, HWV 435

Scherzo Nr.1 h- Moll, op. 20



MADIS SIKK

age 20

I
S. Prokofiev

II
F. Chopin

spons. by Estonia D 120

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

13:10 pm

Sonata Nr. 1 f-Moll, op. 1

Ballade Nr. 1 g-Moll, op. 23



CLARA MARGARETHE MANDLER

age 20

I
S. Prokofiev

II
F. Chopin

spons. by Germany MD 111

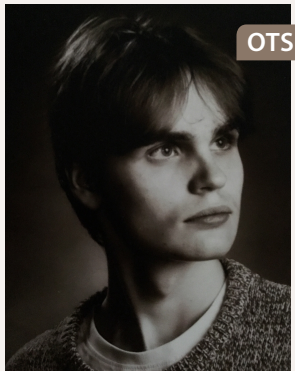
Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

15:10 pm

Sonata Nr. 1 f-Moll, op. 1

Polonaise-Fantasie
As-Dur, op. 61

break



OTSU JOHANNES KALLIO

age 18

I
S. Prokofiev

II
J. Brahms

spons. by Finland MD 107

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

14:30 pm

Sonata Nr. 1 f-Moll, op. 1

Rhapsodie op. 79/1 h- Moll



JAVELYN KRYEZIU

age 22

I
J. Brahms

II
S. Prokofiev

spons. by Switzerland/Liechtenstein MD 102

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

15:30 pm

Rhapsodie op. 79/1 h- Moll

Sonata Nr. 1 f- Moll, op. 1



NIKITA KHNYKIN

age 23

I
F. Chopin

II
F. Chopin

spons. by Norway MD 104

Estimated time of performance
in the 1st round:

14:50 pm

Ballade Nr. 4 f-Moll, op. 52

Scherzo Nr. 2 b-Moll, op. 31

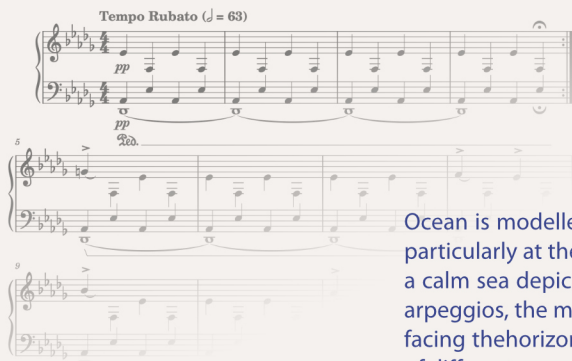


Ocean

for Solo Piano

Schausberger Felix

new composition



Ocean

Brief Description

Ocean is modelled on Mauricio Kagel's etude "An Tasten", particularly at the beginning. The composition starts with a calm sea depicted by an arpeggio. After these opening arpeggios, the melody portrays someone sitting in a boat facing the horizon. The composer uses this melody in lots of different ways or variations throughout the entire composition. Thus, the melody slowly develops into a storm-raging near the horizon. Then this storm gradually approaches the small boat. The wind seems to calm down, but all of a sudden it picks up speed again. The boat is tossed around and finally torn apart by the sheer force of the storm. The melody, now in pianissimo, recurs for the last time, while the man drowns and the boat is sinking to the bottom of the sea.

Felix Schausberger



Felix Schausberger, who lives in Vöcklamarkt (Upper Austria), was born on 17 January 2005. He has been playing the piano since 2011. Felix Schausberger is a passionate pianist and performs regularly with four bands (Vision, Big Band Syndicate, the jazz ensemble of the Upper Austrian Music School in St. Georgen, Zu Dritt).

He has been studying composition with Erland M. Freundenthaler at the Anton Bruckner Private University in Linz since 2024. Felix Schausberger has written extensively in a number of genres, including orchestral pieces, ambient, jazz-fusion, chiptune and more. His prolific output as composer includes more than 100 compositions, most of them genre-bending.

Additionally, he has been producing and composing electronic music under the moniker 'Huabun' since 2016. His orchestral work *Motion* was premiered at the Brucknerhaus Linz in May 2026.

His composition *Ocean* for piano will be the compulsory piece in the final of the Lions European Music Competition 2026 in Karlsruhe.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact him:

✉ felix.schausberger@gmx.at or ☎ +43 660 34 85 155



You ... find the European idea important!
... want to promote networking
and collaboration among
young talents in Europe!
... are looking for a good
opportunity to do so!



Then you've come to the right place!
The "Lions European Chamber Players" bring together music students and past winners of the European Lions Music Prize from across Europe to form an orchestra. They meet once or twice a year for rehearsals and to host a charity concert. The ensemble was founded in 2024, with concerts held in Augsburg and Bordeaux (F).

A charity concert in Dublin followed in 2025. In 2026, the orchestra gathered in Leer (East Frisia) to rehearse and perform a concert on September 19, followed by a charity concert at the Europa Forum here in Karlsruhe on Friday.

Plans for subsequent years include concerts in Augsburg, Venice (Italy), and Győr (Hungary).

The project has been funded by donations from the very beginning. We are grateful for every donation!!!

The costs for the project in 2026 will be approx.

€ 100,000.

Please donate to:

Spendenkonto Stiftung der Deutschen Lions

Frankfurter Volksbank **IBAN: DE40 5019 0000 0000 4005 05**

BIC: FFVBDE33XXX

► **PURPOSE: „LECP“** ◀

The Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti is for years kindly supported by:



(associated with the LC Leer-Ostfriesland/Germany)

