

A FEAST OF FESTIVALS

THE FESTIVAL REGION PRESENTS ITS HIGHLIGHTS



metropolregion nürnberg

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EUROPÄISCHE
METROPOLREGION
NÜRNBERG

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GREETING



In the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg, festivals are a magnet for both locals and visitors from afar, both coming together to enjoy what the region has to offer. For both groups, this region offers them a place to enjoy a little quality of life in a unique format.

The Nuremberg Metropolitan Region confidently refers to itself as the “festival region” – and rightly so. For this festival region is a match for any festival region worldwide, not only because of the sheer number of festivals or the diversity, but also owing to its unique development and charisma. In this respect, the festivals are not mere cultural events, but very much define this region as a locality.

This brochure presents some of the major festivals which appeal to the **heart & mind** alike, at times giving you noticeable **goose bumps**. It goes without saying that there are many more festivals in our metropolitan region whose quality and significance warrant their being mentioned here. However, a choice had to be made. And a jury appointed by the forum ‘Forum Kultur’ laid down three criteria for this decision: the festival must last several days (1), it must be international (2) and have a unique selling point (3). For this reason, you will not find 1-day open-air events (although there are many excellent festivals of this kind!) or much-frequented 1-day events. There simply isn’t enough space.

I would like to thank the members of the jury who had the difficult task of selecting the festivals, and the Landesbank Bayern for backing this publication. Most importantly, I hope you, the readers, enjoy this brochure: May it invite and incite you to pay some of the many festivals in our metropolitan region a visit and experience first-hand the “goose-bump-ridden pleasure”.

Dr. Dieter Rossmeißl

*Full-time Town Councillor
Head of ‘Forum Kultur’
European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg*

A SMALL TASTE OF WONDERFUL DIVERSITY

Admittedly it isn't always easy for those who live in the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg – there are so many different festivals that it's hard to decide what to go to.

Rock musicians, blues stars, songwriters and virtuosos from the world of classical music entice us into their worlds with amazing sounds and venues. Actors and puppeteers mesmerize us with their talent, authors read from their works under the summer skies, and illustrators from across the globe transport us into the world of illustrated stories at the international Comic Salon.

Magicians and artists bewitch us against the historical backdrop of the city of Bamberg, organists take us on musical journeys through time, and film directors present impressive filmmaking across all genres.

No fewer than 200 events make every year an exciting one for the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region. Here is a little taster of what this wonderful festival region has in store for you . . . :

Join us on a thrilling ride through the festival region!

PANOPTIKUM CHILDREN'S THEATRE FROM BAVARIA AND EUROPE

SERIOUS WORK FOR A GRAND LITTLE AUDIENCE

They play with light and movement, with colours and forms – but not with their audience. For the artists performing in the children's theatre festival panoptikum take their young audience very seriously.

In the language of the theatre, they tell the children well-known tales in unique interpretations – or they tell new and fabulous fables. Any subject goes. There is but one prerequisite: imagination! Not something children are lacking!

The audience giggles and is filled with excitement; there are calls, warnings and comments from the audience!

The European-Bavarian children's theatre festival panoptikum was initiated in 2000 by Theater Mumpitz in Nuremberg and now boasts around 20 professional ensembles from Bavaria, the rest of Germany and Europe. At many different venues across Nuremberg, these ensembles put on great productions for their little audiences.

For further information see: www.festival-panoptikum.de







TURKISH / GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

FRIENDSHIP & MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

For almost two weeks, festival-goers can disappear in the world of film and get a feel for Turkish/German dynamics at the same time: film directors, actors and producers from both countries present selected productions at the Turkish-German Film festival.

An international jury then has the difficult task of selecting the best film, best actress, best actor and the three best shortfilms. The audience can relax and enjoy the festival and take in some films from the huge selection on offer. At the end, they, too, get the chance to vote for their favourite.

Whether they win an award or not, this is still a wonderful, and rare, opportunity for filmmakers to meet and greet fellow filmmakers. And the word has spread in the 18 years since this festival has been on the go. Not to be missed!

For further information see: www.fftd.net

MELANCHOLY WITH STYLE

Roth has the blues – and the music scene knows it. Once a year international stars, from James Brown to Gary Moore and Peter Frampton, come together at various venues spread across this little town in the heart of Franconia, lending Roth a New Orleans flair for a few days.

Since 1992, the annual blues festival “Rother Bluestage” has been regular event in the festival calendar of many a blues fan from all over Germany and a must-play venue for many musicians.

For further information see: www.bluestage.de





FÜRTH INTERNATIONAL KLEZMER FESTIVAL

JEWISH ZEST FOR LIFE

Masel tov! Every two years in early March, clarinets, violins, double basses and many more fantastic instruments come together in Fürth to infect us with the zest for life the Jewish people are known for: at the International Klezmer Festival in Fürth musicians from all over the world perform to just under seven thousand enthusiastic music fans.

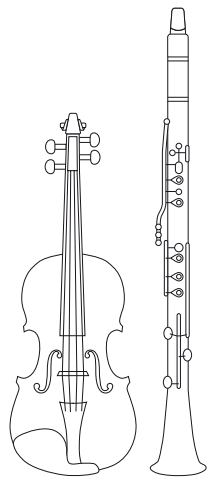
This 'festival of the Jewish song' took place for the first time in 1988. This 10-day homage to Jewish music has since become one of the three biggest klezmer festivals in the world. Besides traditional sounds, this festival has long since enthused audiences with other genres such as yiddpop, klez-jazz, klezmer rock and klezmer punk.

Klezmer sounds are playing and you are sitting still? No way! There is nothing to stop the audience from moving their feet wildly to the beats on stage. If you wish to approach it a bit more professionally, however, why not take part in one of the workshops on offer during the festival. For musicians, too, there are a number of workshops where they have the opportunity to jam with fellow musicians.

Also on offer are films, talks, guided city tours, questions from the audience sessions, bringing audiences a little closer to Jewish culture, both traditional and contemporary.

All this is what often makes the International Klezmer Festival in Fürth one big joyous event. And to make the wait for the next 10-day-long festival seem less long, there is a smaller, 3-day-long klezmer intermezzo.

For further information see: www.klezmer-festival.de



A typical 18th and early 19th century ensemble included a first violin.

In the course of the 19th century, the violin was increasingly replaced as a solo instrument by the clarinet.

STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS



Just a few miles lie between the town of Selb and the border to the Czech Republic. What better a reason for this town to take up this theme in a dedicated festival: at the annual Grenzland (Borderland) Film Festival, which is held one week after Easter, film producers and directors from all over the world come together to present their work.

The organisers select the best of just under 300 shortfilms, documentaries, feature films and children's films to show during the festival. However, it is the audience of this small yet significant film festival that gets to decide who walks away with the awards. But award or no award, in Selb film makers engage in close dialogue with their audiences. Following the showings at the many different individual theatres, discussions take place between directors, actors, producers and the audience, tearing down borders.

For further information see: www.grenzlandfilmtage-selb.de

A CITY WITH THE BLUES

It mightn't be the Mississippi that flows through Fürth. But this town on the river Regnitz definitely has a New Orleans feel to it when international blues musicians unpack their instruments on the town's main square every year. At the 3-day-long, free-entry New Orleans Festival, musicians fire up audiences with Dixie, gospel, blues, boogie woogie, jazz, zydeco, country and rockabilly sounds. The town's main square Fürther Freiheit is transformed into a huge festival ground, where blues fans can sit and enjoy the music with a beer and local delicacies. It goes without saying that there is space to dance, too – and when the music starts to play, your dancing feet will start a-movin'.

For further information see: www.new-orleans-festival.de



INTERNAT. FIGURENTHEATER-FESTIVAL ERLANGEN/NÜRNBERG/FÜRTH/SCHWABACH

PUPPETS AT THE READY!

More than fifty theatre groups from across the globe; round one hundred performances at twenty different venues. The result is ten days of magical theatre. Every two years the international puppet theatre festival takes place at venues across Erlangen, Nuremberg, Fürth and Schwabach.

A good twenty five thousand people visit a whole host of performances, from puppet shows and picture and object theatre to amalgamations of dance, performance and circus, as well as performances that make use of new media such as video projections and interactive technologies. Like no other theatre form before, puppet theatre has pushed its borders to venture into formal newland. This festival is one of the most important “epicentres” for theatrical experiments of this kind. In fact, since it was created in Erlangen in 1979, this festival has become what is now one of the most important picture and object theatre festivals worldwide.

Street theatre, exhibitions, films and workshops, presentations, after-show discussions, debates and the ‘Junge Forum Intermedial’, a theatrical platform for young stage artists, ensure that this fabulous festival goes beyond the four walls of the theatre house.

For further information see: www.figurentheaterfestival.de







“SONGS AN EINEM SOMMERABEND”, KLOSTER BANZ

SERENE SOUNDS IN A MAGICAL SETTING



A meadow, a summer's evening, a stage and “home-made music”: these are the ingredients for the summernight songs event held at Kloster Banz (Banz Abbey) in Bad Staffelstein. Two evenings in July that belong to the songwriters and music-makers.

Well-known performers such as Konstantin Wecker and Ludwig Hirsch have done the honours here. However, one of the clear aims of the organisers is to make this musical highlight more attractive to young people, which is why, since this event began in 1987, the organisers have striven to put together a diverse high-brow line-up. Festival regulars and newbies gather in the meadow or on the stands, with picnic snacks and beverages, and take in the magic of the music well into the night.

For further information see: www.studio-fuer-veranstaltungen.com

INTERNATIONAL COMIC SALON, ERLANGEN

THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRATED WORD

THE ART OF ONOMATOPOEIA



An onomatopoeia – literally the imitation of a sound – is a word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the source of the sounds that it describes.

Who said that storytellers need words? The International Comic Salon in Erlangen has been testimony to the very opposite since 1984. Every two years visitors have every opportunity to see this for themselves – and to discover that the genre “comic” is much more than the funny comic books we remember from our childhoods. More than 400 artists over a total area of around 15,000 square metres come together to pay homage to the illustrated word, making this event one of the most important of its kind in the German speaking world.

The Comic Salon’s around 150 exhibitors present illustrated works covering a wide range of subject matter and styles, making them unbeatable in their field. A jury has the task of deciding what artists and comic books the Max and Moritz Award, which is awarded in different categories, will go to.

At the 4-day-long event, people even have the opportunity to look over the artists’ shoulders as they work. Onlookers are transported into foreign worlds, told funny tales and even political stories about the conflict in the Middle East, for example; they tackle subject matter such as religion, death and adventure, criticise wrongdoings and misdemeanours, prompting visitors to call the world before them into question.

At locations across town, comic fans can enjoy high-brow exhibitions or take a look behind the curtains of the German comic world; they can learn about up and coming comic artists, or visit special-focus exhibitions on the history of the comic, comic and new media, as well as computer animation and film.

Not least thanks to the International Comic Salon in Erlangen do critics in Germany now see the comic genre as a legitimate art form. Indeed, the Erlangen Comic Salon – the festival of the illustrated word – has been instrumental in making the comic become a socially acceptable genre.

For further information see: www.comic-salon.de



ROCK IM PARK

PITCH YOUR TENT FOR THE MUSIC!

Where will you find tattoo-covered heavy metal fans happily partying alongside teenagers with braces? Where else can music lovers go from their tent to three stages on foot? At the music festival Rock im Park in Nuremberg. Every year in June since 1997, around 60 thousand people flock to what is one of the most popular festivals in Europe – this event often sells out weeks in advance.

On designated festival grounds close to the city centre, big international names rock, sing and dance across three stages, entertaining enthralled audiences for three whole days. Festivalgoers from afar and even regulars from the Nuremberg region sleep in tents on the festival grounds.

Not that there is much time to sleep. The performers – 80 bands on average – play from mid-morning till the early hours of the night, and many go on partying long after the music has stopped. Thousands of fans close together for three whole days – what better way to bring people together.

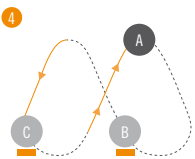
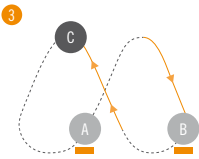
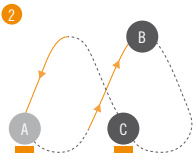
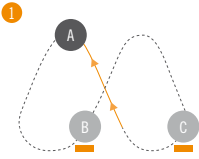
For further information see: www.rock-im-park.com and www.facebook.com/rockimpark





MAGICIANS AND ACROBATS COME TOGETHER

3-BALL JUGGLING: DO IT YOURSELF



Jugglers, magicians and acrobats: visitors must have felt as if they had stumbled across an imaginary medieval world as they strolled through the city centre during the Bamberg zaubert festival. Against the backdrop of the Unesco city of culture, more than 100 artists from 14 countries captivate audiences for three whole days. Bamberg is the epitome of a world of magic.

Every year, at 25 locations throughout the town, artists, magicians, conjurers and masked artists attract a good 150 thousand people to the festival. The event culminates in a parade through the city where visitors can behold the artists and performers. At the end, the festivalgoers get to decide who the Audience Award goes to.

For further information see: bamberg-zaubert.mybamberg.de/festival

TOP-NOTCH THEATRE ON THE OLDEST OPEN-AIR STAGE IN GERMANY

Very soon the Luisenburg-Festspiele will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in its existing form, making it the longest standing summer theatre festival in the German speaking world. Since 1914 this festival has been played exclusively by professional actors and actresses; indeed, the festival cast list reads like a Who's Who of German language theatre and TV celebrities.

Each year, the festival includes a big legitimate theatre production from the classical theatre genre, a high-brow folk play in a class seldom seen these days, and, since Michael Lerchenberg took over as artistic director, a job he is doing fantastically well incidentally, a musical production that is perfect for this open-air venue, for example opera, operetta and special guest appearances. Very popular with old and young alike are the wonderfully professional children's productions, which are a particular favourite with adult audiences, too. The diverse programme and the excellent quality of the productions is what draws more than 130,000 visitors to this unique venue each year – and the figures are on the rise! The performances are on from late May till late August. Come what weather, the audience is seated beneath a protective roof enclosure similar to that in the Olympic stadium in Munich.

For further information see: www.luisenburg-aktuell.de



NUREMBERG INTERNATIONAL ORGAN WEEK – MUSICA SACRA (ION)

INSTRUMENT EXTRAORDINAIRE UNITES VIRTUOSOS

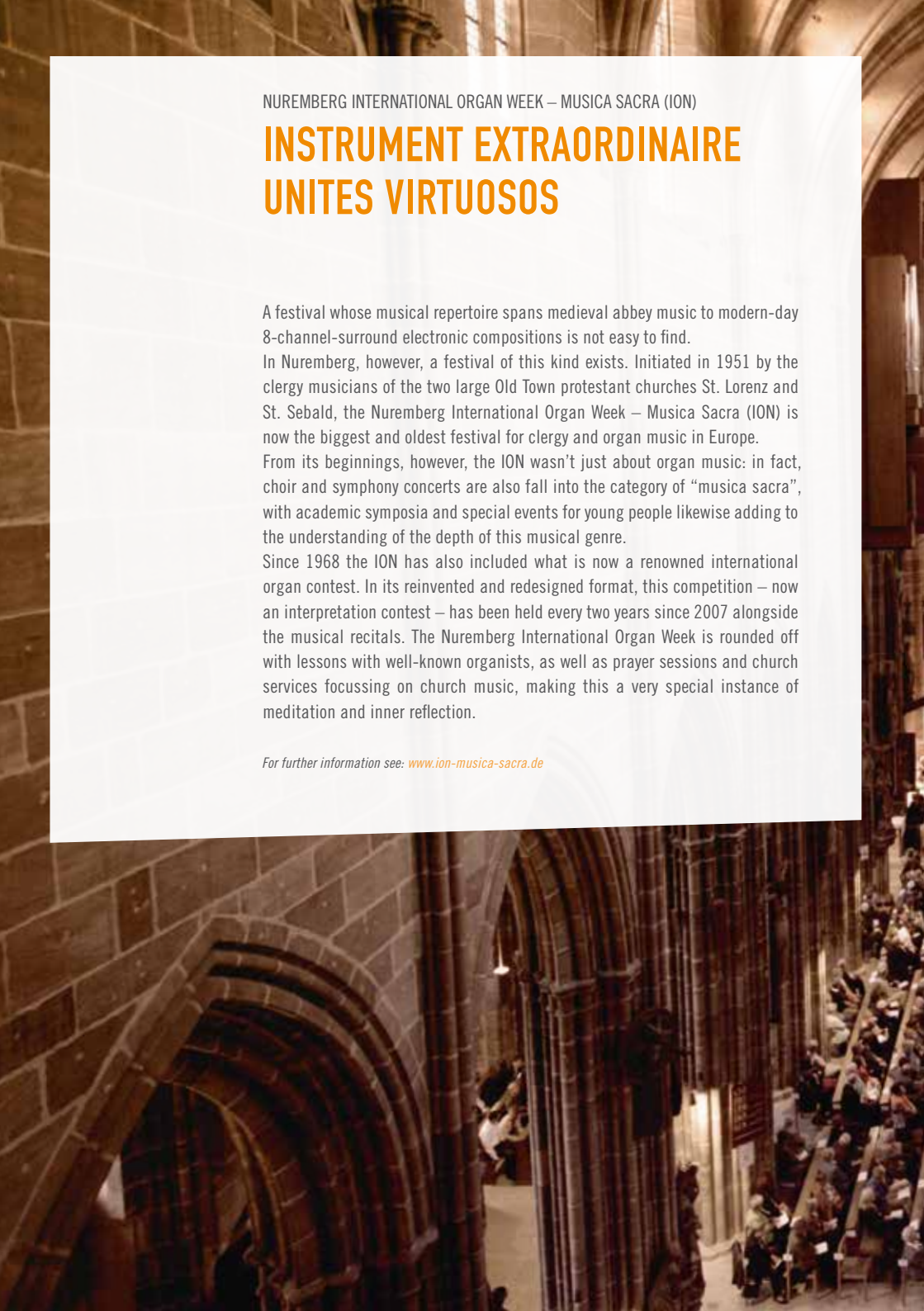
A festival whose musical repertoire spans medieval abbey music to modern-day 8-channel-surround electronic compositions is not easy to find.

In Nuremberg, however, a festival of this kind exists. Initiated in 1951 by the clergy musicians of the two large Old Town protestant churches St. Lorenz and St. Sebald, the Nuremberg International Organ Week – Musica Sacra (ION) is now the biggest and oldest festival for clergy and organ music in Europe.

From its beginnings, however, the ION wasn't just about organ music: in fact, choir and symphony concerts are also fall into the category of "musica sacra", with academic symposia and special events for young people likewise adding to the understanding of the depth of this musical genre.

Since 1968 the ION has also included what is now a renowned international organ contest. In its reinvented and redesigned format, this competition – now an interpretation contest – has been held every two years since 2007 alongside the musical recitals. The Nuremberg International Organ Week is rounded off with lessons with well-known organists, as well as prayer sessions and church services focussing on church music, making this a very special instance of meditation and inner reflection.

For further information see: www.ion-musica-sacra.de





INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL, RODACHTAL

IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP THEY COME

They come together at a place where for decades such a gathering was not possible: every year in Rodachtal, on the border between West Germany and the former East Germany, talented young musicians come to the international youth music festival Jugendmusikfestival and break down barriers in celebration of their mutual understanding. Their motto: "Breaking down Barriers with Young Classics". Language is not an issue, for when the musicians that come from many different countries play together, words are not needed. For six days, they practice together, go on excursions, and perform together to captivated audiences at a total of five venues.

This gathering of young talent makes the festival organisers feel optimistic about the future: "We need young people," they say. "They are the future in a united Europe".

For further information see: www.ijmf.de









COBURG INTERNATIONAL SAMBA FESTIVAL

COLOURS GALORE UNDER THE FRANCONIAN SUN

Once a year sees the town of Coburg shake and quiver: every June hundreds of Samba dancers, capoeira players and musicians gather here, flooding the town with waves of Brazilian rhythms. The International Samba Festival in Coburg is the biggest of its kind outside of Brazil.

One week long for more than two decades now, the old town cobblestone quivers to the beat of dancing feet and the drums of more than 100 Samba bands from all over the world. On the streets and on huge open-air stages, dancers in brightly coloured revealing costumes swing their hips, while singers perform a wide variety of Brazilian music to enthralled audiences – and Capoeira “players” amaze the audience with their acrobatic martial art dances.

Take part in one of the many workshops on offer and learn the skills and the art of Brazilian music and dance. See the Capoeira players put their strength and elegance to the test in shows performed on open-air stages in the Old Town on Friday and Saturday evenings.

And last but by no means least, the 3,000-strong, colourful parade through the town of Coburg is sure to get Samba festivalgoers’ feet moving to the rhythmic beats of Brazilian music.

For further information see: www.samba-festival.de



FRÄNKISCHER SOMMER

TOP VENUES FOR TOP ARTISTS

Top performances at extraordinary venues: at venues spread across Middle Franconia, professional musicians from the region and big names from abroad take to the stages of the music festival “Fränkischer Sommer” from June till August.

Festivalgoers are spoilt for choice: the venues for the classical music or jazz concerts range from old Middle Franconian castles and historical highlights such as the late medieval town of Dinkelsbühl or the medieval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber to the Serenadenhof on the site of the former Nazi party rally grounds in Nuremberg. Market squares in little Middle Franconian towns are likewise transformed into stages during the festival.

Every year, the festival partners work closely to put together a programme that will attract and enthuse audiences of all ages.

For further information see: www.fraenkischer-sommer.de



THE MANY SOUNDS OF PEACE

Music is the ambassador of peace: these are not just empty words but exactly what hundreds of young musicians from all over the world feel every year when, for one month, they come together in workshops, where they learn about classical instrumental music, jazz, world music, dance and music theatre from top renowned teachers who take them by the hand and reveal to them the secrets of their trades.

That said, this extraordinary festival is mainly about young people: they are largely involved in the organisation, giving them the power to turn Bayreuth into a place of opportunities for themselves in the month of August. Workshops end with music recitals played to enthusiastic audiences, revealing immense talent and wonderful combinations, one of the musical highlights being 'Europe meets the Orient'.

Those who make it into the workshops count themselves lucky: the teachers push their young fellow musicians hard, trusting in their capabilities and bolstering self-confidence. The crème de la crème is then chosen to perform in one of the closing recitals, a one-off opportunity to be part of a cultural ensemble that produces fantastic sounds.

For further information see: www.vorsicht-leidenschaft.de



A PIECE OF HISTORY CARVED IN STONE

Stonemasonry steeped in history form the backdrop for this unique open-air theatre: at the cloister theatre festival Kreuzgangfestspiele Feuchtwangen, the ruins of an 8th century Benedictine Abbey are transformed into a theatre. Every year thousands of people gather in the former abbey courtyard and enjoy top legitimate theatre productions.

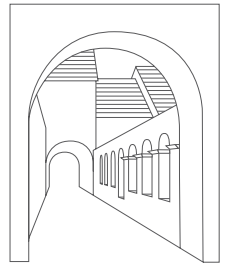
For more than 60 years now, actors, directors, dramaturges, and set and costume designers from all over Germany and beyond have been coming together here in late April to start rehearsing for the large-scale festival that kicks off in June. The festival programme includes productions of works by celebrated greats such as Goldoni, Lessing, Schiller, Goethe and, of course, Shakespeare.

Well-known actors such as Hans Clarin, Ulrich Mattes, Inge Meysel and Jasmin Wagner have played this extraordinary venue, giving resounding performances. Against a more than 1000-year-old historical backdrop, both actors and audience are transported into the big, wide world of theatre.

For further information see: www.kreuzgangspiele.de



WHAT IS A CLOISTER?

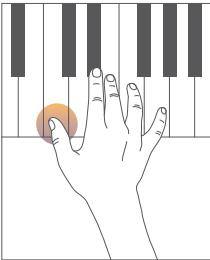


A cloister is a rectangular open space surrounded by covered walks or open galleries; in monasteries and abbeys a cloister separates the world of the monks from the world outside the cloister and was originally one of the most important places in the monastery, where monks would sit between prayers.

ANSBACH BACH FESTIVAL

HERE'S TO COMPOSERS EXTRAORDINAIRE!

VIRTUOSO THUMB TECHNIQUE



Bach is often regarded as the inventor of what is known as the thumb technique, where the thumb is seen as a principal finger in piano scales. This technique took him to a new level of virtuosity and enabled him to play elegant polyphonic pieces.

Johann Sebastian Bach was never here, but the famous composer would have been secretly pleased about something that has been going on in Ansbach every two years since 1947: Bach fans gather for ten days to enjoy exemplary interpretations of Bach's music.

Ansbach, with its countless historical sites, is the perfect setting for the Bach festival. The ceremonial room in the former Margravian residence or the orangery in the residence gardens, for example. St. Gumbertus and St. Johannis churches, and Heilsbronn Cathedral are likewise ideal settings for Bach recitals.

Whether pieces for the piano or harpsichord, orchestras or ensembles, famous violinists or cello soloists, young or established singers, choirs or organists – at the Bach Week in Ansbach, Bach's music is put into authentic contexts each time. Situated in the heart of Middle Franconia, this festival has become a fixed date in the calendar of an international audience for over 60 years now.

For further information see: www.bachwocheansbach.de



TAUBERTAL FESTIVAL

ROCK ROMANTICISM AT ITS FINEST

Rothenburg: some, on hearing this name, will think of the world-famous medieval town, while others will associate it with the Taubertal Festival. You can in fact see the town of Rothenburg from the Eiswiese pastures in the Taubertal. But all eyes will be turned elsewhere the minute the first band starts to play.

The organisers often manage to book well-known bands for the event, but the big names are not what this is about. On the contrary, they want this to be a festival “club show”. The fact that this 3-day event normally sells months in advance shows that they have achieved precisely this. After all, getting as close to stars such as PINK, Bad Religion or Mika as you do here is not a matter of course. “If you go once, you’ll definitely come back,” promise the organisers. “If you are thinking of checking it out, you had better be quick and get your tickets before they sell out.”

For further information see: www.taubertal-festival.de







BARDENTREFFEN OPEN-AIR MUSIC FESTIVAL, NUREMBERG

REJOICE IN MUSIC OF THE WORLD!

For musicians and their fans there is one date that isn't to be missed: the Barden-treffen in Nuremberg. For an entire weekend at the height of summer, the city opens its gates to music from all around the world, and hundreds of musicians transform the downtown streets and squares into one big stage. Street musicians play alongside international stars such as Lila Downs or Julieta Venegas, who do the honours on one of the eight open-air stages.

In terms of musical concept, the event is now based on three pillars: traditions, trends and experiments, meaning everyone and everything has its place here, from old-school songwriters and traditional folk musicians from diverse backgrounds to contemporary interpretations, the latest music trends and experiments in music and song.

The organisers' decision to have a different geographical centre point for the festival every year has never done any harm to the diversity to be found here. The good 200,000 people that come here still have the freedom to choose between oriental sounds, Latin American beats, local bands and countless other musical highlights. This festival has been going strong for more than three decades now – and is entirely free of charge!

For further information see: www.bardentreffen.de



THE THOUSAND VOICES OF THE GUITAR



The people performing here have no need for any rigmarole. Give them a guitar and perhaps a chair and their fingers will quickly start to move across the strings. Sometimes too fast for the eye to follow. For more than ten years now, virtuosos from Brazil, France, the USA and many other countries have been wowing audiences with their musical talent at the Hersbruck International Guitar Festival under the artistic direction of Johannes Tonio Kreusch.

At the 1-week-long festival, the performers carry audiences off into the world of classical guitar music, warm their hearts with feisty flamenco, Latin or gypsy rhythms, surprise audiences with fingerstyle compositions and jazz, or go on criss-cross journeys through all sorts of musical styles and genres.

But that is not all: the festival is accompanied by a series of workshops, classes and advanced guitar lessons. After all, after hearing the pros perform, many of you are sure to get “itchy fingers” that are keen to learn.

For further information see: www.gitarre-hersbruck.de

ERLANGEN POETENFEST

A SUMMER ODE TO LANGUAGE

Once a year Erlangen turns its undivided attention to the magical power of the written word. During the last weekend of August, the town of Erlangen plays host to more than 80 authors, publicists and literature critics, all of whom have come to attend the poetry festival Erlanger Poetenfest, the unofficial kick-off to the German-language literature autumn season. Around 120,000 guests have the pleasure of enjoying readings at various great locations across town, be it in the shade of the trees in the residence gardens, in the theatre house or the orangery.

The Erlanger Poetenfest is one of the longest-standing and most important literature festivals in the German-speaking world; young authors can meet fellow authors who have already made a name for themselves in the literature scene. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons both have the opportunity to do public readings from their latest works – and to discuss them with literary critics afterwards. The festival also features discussion rounds on relevant cultural policy matters, exhibitions, the Erlangen translators' workshop, and music.

For further information see: www.poetenfest-erlangen.de



BAYREUTHER FESTSPIELE

OF VALKYRIES AND ORCHESTRAS

The summer is all about Richard Wagner – and about those who love his music. When the Bayreuth Playhouse opens its doors at the end of July, visitors from all over the world throng into the splendid galleries. Dressed in elegant attire, renowned people from the worlds of politics, film and business join other Wagner fans in the theatre house that was built especially for the Wagner festival in 1872 and enjoy Wagner's world-famous music dramas. The crème de la crème of conductors, orchestras, opera singers and choreographers perform old favourites such as Lohengrin, The Rhinegold, Twilight of the Gods, The Valkyries, Tristan and Isolde, Siegfried or The Flying Dutchmann. Visually stunning choreography, powerful voices and majestic orchestra music take the audience into the very heart of the action on stage.

Naturally, word had gotten out as to just how magical this festival is: Wagner fans are advised to buy tickets in October before the big event to avoid disappointment!

For further information see: www.bayreuther-festspiele.de



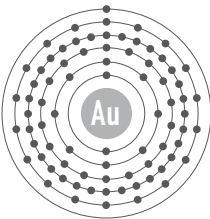


SCHWABACHER KUNSTTAGE: "ORTUNG – IM ZEICHEN DES GOLDES"

PREPARE TO BE DAZZLED!

NOT ALL THAT GLITTERS IS

GOLD ...



Gold (from Indo-Germanic *ghel*: shiny, yellow) is a chemical element with the symbol *Au* (from "aurum": the Latin word for "gold") and atomic number 79.

Every two years, when the town of Schwabach opens its doors to up to 25 artists, the town's basements, vaults and attics dazzle and shine. It's that time again: the art festival Schwabacher Kunsttage is back to dazzle you "under the banner of gold".

The artists take to old washhouses, attics, private rooms, green spaces, galleries and cultural buildings such as the old synagogue, transforming them into golden artistic creations.

The result is a dazzling art discovery tour that takes visitors across the entire town. It's then up to a jury and the visitors to decide who the awards for the best room design will go to.

For further information see: www.schwabach.de/kultur/kulturamt/42514.html





INTERNATIONALE MEISTERSINGER AKADEMIE NEUMARKT

VOICES OF TOMORROW

If you want to be part of this – as an artist at least – you have to rise to a tough challenge first. Hundreds of young singers in London, New York or Nuremberg compete for one of the much sought after places at the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie in Neumarkt. Around 15 make it.

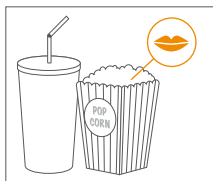
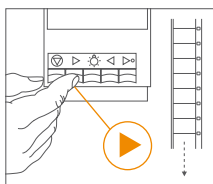
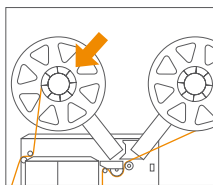
The lucky few in this small but hand-picked group come from all over the world to benefit from singing training with renowned international vocal coaches in the areas of opera, oratorio and song/melody.

The young students are but 20 to 28 years old, but most already have impressive singing careers to speak of – for example as part of the young ensemble at the New York Metropolitan Opera, Juilliard School or in the international opera studios of Zurich Opera House and Nuremberg State Theatre. The public, too, get to enjoy this high-brow event. In fact, you can listen in to classes at the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, most of which are open to the public, or experience the opera stars of tomorrow at one of the four concerts on offer.

For further information see: www.meistersingerakademie.com or www.neumarkt.de

NUREMBERG INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL (NIHRFF)

IN DIGNITY WE TRUST



It's all about one thing: human dignity. The Nuremberg International Human Rights Film Festival is the first of its kind in Germany.

This is also an important forum for excellent feature films, documentaries and animated films. After all, the main aim of the festival is to promote human rights to the masses through the medium of film.

Every two years in October, the NIHRFF puts together a first-rate international programme, opening windows to the wider world. In this way, the NIHRFF contributes to friendship, tolerance and mutual understanding between different peoples and ethnic and religious groups.

Tearing down borders, as well as religious, political and cultural barriers, the international festival takes up the cause against human rights violations and second-class citizen treatment.

The Nuremberg International Human Rights Film Festival awards are followed by the Nuremberg Human Rights Film Festival, which likewise awards a film prize to the best and most courageous human rights film. Time and again the top-cast productions shown here reach wider audiences.

For further information see: www.filmfestival-der-menschenrechte.de

NUREMBERG INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL



INTERNATIONALE HOFER FILMTAGE

DIRECTORS ON THE BALL

At the film festival Internationale Hofer Filmtage there is room for more than just mainstream, for this is where directors upturn social inconsistencies, tell silent tales or tales that otherwise would not be told. Naturally, German films are one of the main emphases here, but foreign productions are on the programme, too.

Well-known faces from the film industry are amongst the guests, with around 180 productions shown on 8 screens at two cinemas over 6 days. The festival covers almost the entire spectrum of the genre film, from feature films, short-films and documentaries to amateur productions by German film academies and debut films.

What used to be a film connoisseurs' insider tip is now a once-yearly must for lovers of a good film production.

For further information see: www.hofer-filmtage.com





LONG LIVE A GREAT COMPOSER

Even way back in the 1920's, composer Max Reger knew his time would come. And right he was. For one month every year, Max Reger's birthplace, the city of Weiden, pays homage to the musician.

Naturally, the main emphasis here is on his musical compositions: students learn them in a host of master classes, presenting their work in various recitals alongside known musicians. Visitors to the Max Reger festival also have the opportunity, however, to learn all sorts of things about Reger, his companions and his era. Besides the musical repertoire, there are also talks, dedicated city tours and an exhibition.

Weiden is the perfect location for this, with the Josefskirche and many other art nouveau edifices. Max Reger would have been pleased. Of that there is no doubt.

For further information see: www.maxregertage.de



VENTURING DOWN NEW THEATRE PATHS

At Arena, experimenting knows no limits: once a year for six days young theatre-makers in Erlangen demonstrate their talent, often leaving the audience in awe. For at the youth theatre festival Arena, no narrative form is off-limits: new media are allowed, as are combinations of dance, theatre, language and anything else the young artists need to tell their stories.

The festival also includes a series of panel discussions and talks. The festival closes with an awards ceremony where selected artists are awarded prizes for their work by an international jury.

For further information see: www.arena-festival.org

AMBERGER KINDERTHEATERFESTIVAL

THE YOUNGEST JURY IN GERMANY

A tough challenge before a tough audience: at the children's theatre festival in Amberg five ensembles battle to win over their audience with playacting, puppet shows, paper theatre, clowns, magic, toy theatre, underwater theatre, marionettes, shadow puppetry and even "paper and stitch" theatre. At the end of the one-week-long festival, a select jury comprising 8 children of pre-school and primary school age select the winner of the much sought after award the Amberger KIT-Preis.

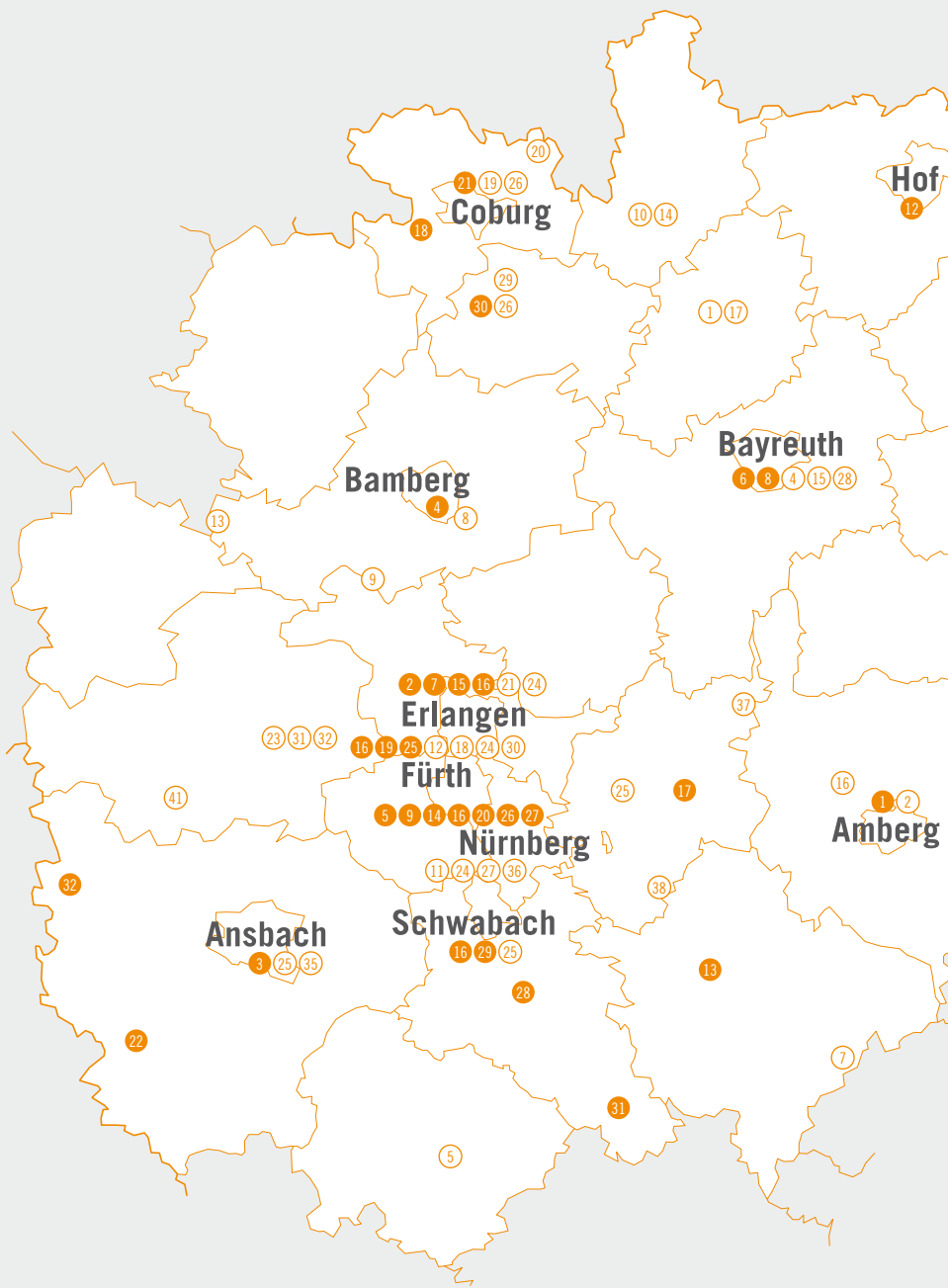
For further information see: www.stadtheater-amberg.de

THALMÄSSINGER KURZFILMTAGE

A UNIVERSE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES

The participants in this festival have fifteen minutes' time, for this is the maximum length of the shortfilms shown at Thalmässing Kurzfilmtage. Any film genre goes – from animated films, feature films and documentaries to black & white or colour videos, with or without sound or talking. At the end of the festival, two prizes are awarded by the audience, and one by the festival organisers.

For further information see: www.kurzfilm-thalmaessing.de





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- 2 Arena ... der jungen Künste
- 3 Bachwoche Ansbach
- 4 Bamberg zaubert
- 5 Bardentreffen Nürnberg
- 6 Bayreuther Festspiele
- 7 Erlanger Poetenfest
- 8 Festival junger Künstler Bayreuth
- 9 Filmfestival Türkei/Deutschland
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Konzerte und Veranstaltungen in
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 Städten Mittelfrankens

EVEN MORE WONDERFUL DIVERSITY

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- ② Amberger Sommer
www.amberg.de
- ③ Bayerisch-Böhmische Kultur- & Wirtschaftstage
www.bbk-weiden.de
- ④ Bayreuther Barock
www.bayreuther-barock.bayreuth.de
- ⑤ Bergwaldtheater Weissenburg
www.bergwaldtheater.de
- ⑥ Burgfestspiele Leuchtenberg
www.leuchtenberg.de
www.landestheater-oberpfalz.de
- ⑦ Burgspiele Parsberg
www.burgspiele-parsberg.de
- ⑧ Caldéron-Festspiele (Bamberg)
www.bamberg.info
www.theater-bamberg.de
- ⑨ Collegium Musicum Pommersfelden
www.collegium-musicum.info
- ⑩ Crana Historica (Kronach)
www.crana-historica.de
- ⑪ Die blaue Nacht (Nürnberg)
www.blauenacht.nuernberg.de
- ⑫ Duettbiennale (Fürth)
www.duettbiennale.de
- ⑬ Ebracher Musiksommer
www.ebracher-musiksommer.de
- ⑭ Faust-Festspiele Kronach
www.faust-festspiele.de
- ⑮ Festival „Zeit für Neue Musik“ (Bayreuth)
www.zeit-fuer-neue-musik.de
- ⑯ Festival Moderner Volksmusik (Sulzbach-Rosenberg)
www.kulturwerkstatt-online.net
- ⑰ Gitarrentage (Kulmbach)
www.musicschool-kulmbach.de
- ⑱ Hört Hört! – Hörfestival (Fürth)
www.hoerfestival.de

- ⑲ Internat. Johann-Strauss-Festival (Coburg)
www.djsg.de
- ⑳ Internationales Puppenfestival
www.puppenfestival-neustadt.de
- ㉑ Kinderfilm-Festival (Erlangen)
www.kinderfilmfestival-mfr.de
- ㉒ Konzerte Stiftsbasilika Waldsassen
www.basilikakonzerte.de
www.waldsassen.de
- ㉓ KunstMarktPlatz (Neustadt a.d.A.)
www.neustadt-aisch.de
- ㉔ Lange Nacht der Wissenschaft (Nürnberg/Fürth/Erlangen)
www.nacht-der-wissenschaften.de
- ㉕ LesArt – Fränkische Literaturtage (Schwabach/Ansbach/Lauf)
www.kubiss.de/lesart
- ㉖ Lied & Lyrik (Kloster Banz + Coburg)
www.liedundlyrik.de
- ㉗ Mittelfränkisches Jugendfilmfestival (Nürnberg)
www.jugendfilmfestival.de
- ㉘ Musica Bayreuth
www.musica-bayreuth.de
- ㉙ Musiksommer Obermain
www.musiksommer-obermain.de
- ㉚ Musikwettbewerb SZENE (Fürth)
www.fuerth-festival.com
www.szene-fuerth.de
- ㉛ Neustädter Schlosshof
www.neustadt-aisch.de
- ㉜ NeuStadtNacht (Kunstverein Neustadt)
www.neustadtkultur.de
- ㉝ Orchesterakademie Pleystein
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- ㉞ Passionsfestspiele (Tirschenreuth)
www.tirschenreuther-passion.de
www.stadt-tirschenreuth.de
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www.rokoko-festspiele.de
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www.stadtverfuehrungen.nuernberg.de
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www.feuertanz-festival.de
- ㊳ Wallenstein-Festspiele (Altdorf)
www.wallenstein-festspiele.de
- ㊴ Weidener Literaturtage
www.weidener-literaturtage.de
- ㊵ Weidener Musiktage
www.maxreger-weidenermusiktage.de
- ㊶ Weinturmfestival (Bad Windsheim)
www.weinturmopenair.de
- ㊷ Wurzer Sommerkonzerte
www.wurzer-sommerkonzerte.de

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„This zero-emission vehicle is not the only world wide success of the metropolitan region of Nuremberg.“



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