



Be Embraced & Music of Today – Summer / Autumn 2026

A Symphonic & Chamber Music Journey Across the Balkans and Europe

July 28 – September 14, 2026

A Life-Changing Musical Experience

Step into a summer that goes beyond music.

Be Embraced 2026 brings together talented young musicians from the Western Balkans, Europe, and beyond for an intensive, fully funded orchestral journey.

In addition, chamber music masterclasses will be provided as part of the project Music of Today.

Over 48 days, you will rehearse, perform, travel, and grow—artistically and personally—within an inspiring international community.

Why Join

- Perform in a professional touring orchestra
- Work closely with renowned European mentors
- Participate in advanced orchestra and chamber music masterclasses
- Travel and perform in multiple countries and renowned venues
- Build lasting professional and artistic networks

The Experience

Residencies and Training

The program begins with two intensive artistic residencies:

- Shkodra, Albania (July 29 – August 14)
- Essen, Germany (August 28 – September 4)

Participants will engage in orchestral and chamber music rehearsals, sectionals, and masterclasses led by distinguished European musicians.



International Concert Tour

Between and after the residencies, the orchestra will tour the Western Balkans and Germany:

- 14 symphonic concerts
- 5 chamber music performances
- Performances in concert halls, theatres, and historic venues
- Audience reach of 10,000+

Repertoire

The program features a dynamic and challenging repertoire, including:

- Beethoven | Wagner | Dukas | Enescu | Britten | Respighi

Additionally, the WBYO will perform new works by emerging Western Balkan composers.

During the 2nd orchestra residency in Essen, Germany, the WBYO members will also work on the newly commissioned WBYO work, *Accordion Concerto Op. 144* by Stefan Heucke. The soloist will be the newly appointed accordion player, Marko Kassel.

Eligibility

We seek passionate, committed young musicians eager to develop and collaborate.

- Ages 16–27 (up to 30 for concertmaster)
- Advanced musical training
- Open to applicants from the Western Balkans, EU, and other countries

Fully Funded Opportunity

Focus on your music while we handle all logistical arrangements:

- Travel expenses covered
- Accommodation provided
- Daily meals or allowances
- Full access to all orchestra and chamber music masterclasses



How to Apply

Please get the following ready:

- Complete the online application form.
- Prepare your CV highlighting your musical experience.
- Write a personal statement.
- Include a recent photo.
- Submit at least two audition videos using an unlisted link.

Your audition should include the following:

- Showcase your best technical performance.
- Play orchestral excerpts from the program.
- Make sure your audio is clear, and your playing technique is easy to see.

Audition requirements:

- Your best solo technical performance.
- Orchestral excerpts from the 2026 concert programme.
- Clear audio and visible playing technique.

Selection Process

Applications are reviewed by our artistic team.
You will receive your result within 15 working days after the deadline.

Be Part of Something Bigger

This is more than a project.
It's a journey of music, collaboration, and discovery.

Make 2026 your year. Be Embraced.

Apply Now

<https://t1p.de/6nnpr>

Contact

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