

Musikfestival Bern

Call for Projects 2027

Festival Dates: Wednesday, 1 September to Sunday, 5 September 2027
Festival Theme: "Mask"

Call for Projects – Project and Program Submissions

The curatorial team of the Musikfestival Bern invites ensembles, musicians, institutions and event presenters to submit sketches of project ideas in accordance with the rules and deadline indicated below.

The Musikfestival Bern supports equal opportunity and diversity, whilst seeking to include a range of perspectives, people, social, societal and artistic positions.

Program submissions will be treated as drafts that may be further developed and refined in discussion with the curatorial team. They may also be integrated into a pool of ideas for wider-ranging collaborative projects. The curatorial team is available for inquiries and discussions.

Conditions

The central components of any submission will be a project's substantive relationship to the festival's theme as well as the connection to Bern. Dossiers must include the following elements:

1. Project sketch: Project idea, project form and its relationship to the festival's theme.
2. Connection to Bern: This call for projects is directed at Bernese musicians, presenters and institutions, as well as at musicians who develop a project in conjunction with Bernese musicians, presenters or institutions.
3. Brief description of the ensemble / presenter / artist (with links to recent recordings)
4. The following components would be welcome as part of any project:
 - planned cooperation with Bernese ensembles or presenters
 - planned cooperation with international ensembles / composers / presenters
 - scenographic or interdisciplinary features
 - unconventional performance spaces
 - unconventional scheduling
 - music education / outreach / inclusion project
5. Budget and funding plan, including:
 - an indication of the funding which will be raised by the ensemble itself, including support from funding agencies, foundations and in-kind contributions

- the desired financial contribution from the Musikfestival Bern (note: only supplemental funding would be available)



PROGR

Special Project "Salle Blanche" at the PROGR Auditorium

The auditorium at PROGR – Centre for Cultural Production is an inspiring space with a rich history and professional-level technical infrastructure. PROGR is providing the space — including infrastructure — to the Musikfestival Bern for two weeks in August 2026 at favourable conditions, enabling a "Salle Blanche" (a play on the term "carte blanche" = blank page) for a selected artistic project: Over the course of two weeks, an artistic project can be developed and realised that would not be possible without a two-week residency. It will be performed as part of the festival.

It is possible to apply for the Salle Blanche as part of the project submission. The need for a residency must be justified.



New target group: children and families

The Musikfestival Bern would like to appeal to children and families with its programme in future and is inviting submissions for projects aimed at this target group for the first time as part of this call for projects.

We look forward to receiving relevant submissions and ask that you specify the respective age group.

Funding

The Musikfestival Bern contributes to the costs of the selected projects in the form of a partnership subsidy. It is required that another portion of the budget comes from other sponsors and from in-kind contributions.

Form of Submission

Please submit your programme application by e-mail with attached PDF or video link to info@musikfestivalbern.ch. A written dossier should not exceed 3 A4 pages. Further documents may be requested if necessary.

The final deadline for projects to be implemented at the 2027 festival is 31 March 2026. A response to project submissions will be given by the end of May 2026 at the latest.

Contact Information

Projects must be submitted to the following address, in digital form:
info@musikfestivalbern.ch

Inquiries about funding are answered by Brigitte Kasslatter, Co-Managing Director:
b.kasslatter@musikfestivalbern.ch

Contact the curatorial team:

Tamriko Kordzaia, pianist: t.kordzaia@musikfestivalbern.ch

Vera Schnider, harpist: v.schnider@musikfestivalbern.ch

Christian Kobi, saxophonist: c.kobi@musikfestivalbern.ch

The overall concept of the Musikfestival Bern

The Musikfestival Bern is the most important platform for music in the City and Canton of Bern, and has established itself as festival with national and international appeal. A curatorial team is responsible for the artistic programme, which is devoted to a special theme each year over the course of five days. The stylistic range is wide, ranging from historical to contemporary music, and includes improvisation, experimental and electronic music.

The Musikfestival Bern features surprising programming that bridges different musical styles and periods (composed programs), develops innovative concert forms (including nontraditional performance venues, scenographic elements and interdisciplinary concert forms) and serves as a laboratory for experiments in staging music.

The Musikfestival Bern promotes cooperation between different members of the Bernese cultural landscape, especially independent groups and individuals. It supports international forms of collaboration which are based on exchange and diversity. Bernese musicians and international guests from the fields of composition, performance, performance art, improvisation, directing, philosophy, etc. develop and carry out collaborative projects, concerts, musical-theatrical concepts, workshops and other formats. The festival seeks sustainable forms of cooperation which can be developed over the course of multiple years, which enrich the festival, and which support artistic exchange and international networking.

Music education/outreach is an important component of the Festival and should be already taken into consideration during the planning phase of projects. Educational/outreach projects which involve diverse age groups and segments of the population are conceived as a significant and sustained facet of the overall program.

The Musikfestival Bern strengthens the Bernese population's active participation in culture. In the spirit of making culture accessible, the Festival's events are designed to be as accessible as possible for people with handicaps.