

APPLY NOW!
CLOSING DATE:
**23 NOVEMBER
2025**

INFORMATION FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

CHAMBER MUSIC

CONNECTS THE WORLD

8–17 MAY 2026



Crespo
Foundation

www.kronbergacademy.de

CASALS FORUM



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A unique project known as *Chamber Music Connects the World* takes place in Kronberg (Germany) once every two years. It is next scheduled for 8–17 May 2026.

Here, outstanding young musicians (Juniors) join forces with world-famous artists (Seniors) to spend ten days making chamber music together. An intensive period of rehearsals in ensembles made up of different players is followed by several concerts.

The gap between the different generations of musicians is thus bridged and ideas can flow freely in both directions.

Established in cooperation with the Crespo Foundation.





Kronberg Academy was founded in 1993 with the aim of providing training, support and encouragement for exceptionally gifted young musicians. In Kronberg they have an opportunity to meet great artists, to learn from them and to play music with them and other promising young musicians.

The Kronberg Academy study programmes for young string soloists is supported and enriched by a series of internationally renowned events and many other measures such as masterclasses, scholarships and the arrangement of performance opportunities.

The *Chamber Music Connects the World* project enables selected young artists to take part in a unique, intensive, high-calibre chamber music experience.

Some 25 young musicians will be invited to take part in *Chamber Music Connects the World* as Juniors, making music together with following Seniors:



GIDON KREMER

GIDON KREMER VIOLIN

Over the decades of his global career as a soloist, chamber musician and artistic director, Gidon Kremer has established a reputation as one of the most original, uncompromising and authentic musicians of our time. He set up the chamber music festival in Lockenhaus (Austria) so as to share his ideals with his friends and chamber music partners. In order to pass on his ideas and to provide practical support for young musicians, in 1997 he founded the Kremerata Baltica chamber orchestra. He has been a member of Kronberg Academy's Artistic Council for many years.



CHRISTIAN TETZLAFF



ANTJE WEITHAAS

CHRISTIAN TETZLAFF VIOLIN

Christian Tetzlaff is considered one of the most sought-after and exciting violinists of his generation. With an unusually broad repertoire, he gives around 100 concerts a year. He sees music as a language that is able to express existential insights. Christian Tetzlaff founded his own string quartet as long ago as 1994 and today he is still as passionate about chamber music as about his work as a soloist with and without an orchestra. He has been a principal professor at Kronberg Academy since 2012.

ANTJE WEITHAAS VIOLIN

Antje Weithaas brings her compelling musical intelligence and technical mastery to every detail of the music. She won the Kreisler Competition in Graz in 1987 and the Bach Competition in Leipzig in 1988, as well as the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover in 1991. As a soloist, Antje Weithaas has worked with numerous major German and international orchestras. In the chamber music realm, she works closely with cellist Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, pianist Martin Helmchen and harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani. For ten years she was the artistic director of Camerata Bern. Since 2004 she has been a professor of violin at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler. She has been a principal professor at Kronberg Academy since 2017.



TABEA ZIMMERMANN



GARY HOFFMAN

TABEA ZIMMERMANN VIOLA

For many years, Tabea Zimmermann has been regarded as one of the most renowned musicians of our time. Arguably the finest violist in the world today, she owes her success not only to her exceptional talent, but also to the training by excellent teachers, a tireless enthusiasm to communicate her understanding and love of music and an uncompromisingly high quality standard. As a soloist she regularly works with the most distinguished orchestras worldwide. Since 2023, she has been a professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt. She has been a principal professor at Kronberg Academy since 2017.

GARY HOFFMAN CELLO

Gary Hoffman is one of the outstanding cellists of our time. He gained international renown on being the first North American to win the Rostropovich International Competition in Paris in 1986. Gary Hoffman is a frequent soloist with the world's most noted orchestras, and he performs in major concert halls and festivals throughout the world. He is a regular guest of string quartets including the Emerson, Tokyo, Borromeo, Brentano and Ysaÿe ensembles. In 2011, Gary Hoffman was appointed Maître en Résidence for the cello at the prestigious Chapelle de Musique Reine Elisabeth in Brussels. As a visiting tutor, he has regularly taught the students of Kronberg Academy since 2008.



STEVEN ISSERLIS



RICHARD GOODE

STEVEN ISSERLIS CELLO

Steven Isserlis is passionately devoted to both historical performance practice and contemporary works. His chamber music concerts and his other projects – along with writing and playing for children, musical education being another of his major interests – are the fruit of his imaginative ability, his creative skills and his intuitive nature. Since 1997 he has been the Artistic Director of the chamber music festival IMS Prussia Cove in Cornwall.

RICHARD GOODE PIANO

Richard Goode has been hailed for music-making of tremendous emotional power, depth, and expressiveness, and has been acknowledged worldwide as one of today's leading interpreters of Classical and Romantic music. In regular performances with the major orchestras, recitals in the world's music capitals, masterclasses in person or online, and through his extensive and acclaimed Nonesuch recordings, he has won a large and devoted following. He served as co-Artistic Director of the Marlboro Music School and Festival in Vermont from 1999 through 2013. In 2021, he joined the Peabody Conservatory as Distinguished Artist Faculty.

APPLY NOW!

YOUNG VIOLINISTS, VIOLA PLAYERS AND
CELLISTS, BORN IN OR AFTER 1998



1. **ONLINE APPLICATION FORM**
www.kronbergacademy.de/en/concerts-projects/festivals/chamber-music-connects-the-world
2. **RECOMMENDATION/REFERENCE**
from a well-known artist
3. **(ARTISTIC) CURRICULUM VITAE WITH A PHOTOGRAPH**
(minimum size: 1000 x 1500 px, 300 dpi)
4. **STATEMENT** explaining why you want to take part in *Chamber Music Connects the World*
5. **RECENT UNCUT VIDEO RECORDING ON YOUTUBE**
of the works listed below
(upload You Tube-Links in application form)

VIOLIN

1. Classical sonata (all movements)
(preferably one of the following sonatas: Mozart B flat major KV 378, Mozart E flat major KV 380, Mozart B flat major KV 454, Mozart A major KV 526 or a Beethoven Sonata, Schubert Fantasy in C major D 934 or Schubert Sonata in A major D 385) **AND**
2. First movement of a violin concerto from the 19th or 20th century

VIOLA

1. Schumann Märchenbilder **or** a Brahms sonata **or** Schubert Arpeggione Sonata (all movements) **AND**
2. Stamitz Concerto in D major or Hoffmeister Concerto in D major
(first and second movements in each case)

CELLO

1. Classical sonata (all movements)
(preferably a Beethoven sonata, Beethoven variations or Schubert Arpeggione Sonata) **AND**
2. Cello concerto by Dvořák, Elgar, Lalo, Prokofiev, Schumann or Shostakovich, or similar

APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from young violinists, viola players and cellists who were **BORN IN OR AFTER 1998**. These must be submitted online by **23 NOVEMBER 2025** at the latest:

www.kronbergacademy.de/en/concerts-projects/festivals/chamber-music-connects-the-world

All specified documents (see left-hand page) must be enclosed with the online application form.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS AND AUDITIONS

APPLICANTS WILL BE SHORTLISTED ON THE BASIS OF THE RECORDINGS AND DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED.

Therefore, please ensure that your recording is both musically and technically of high quality.

Only a small number of applicants will be shortlisted and then invited to take part in live auditions. The auditions serve primarily as an opportunity for Kronberg Academy to get to know the 25 or so shortlisted applicants and their chamber music capabilities.

Applicants who are invited to the auditions will be contacted by **19 DECEMBER 2025** at the latest.

The auditions will be held in Kronberg, Germany on **27TH AND 28TH JANUARY 2026**. The members of the jury will be Gidon Kremer, Raimund Trenkler (Founder and Chairman of the Board of Kronberg Academy) and Friedemann Eichhorn (Director of the Kronberg Academy Study Programmes).

In the auditions, applicants will be asked to play chamber music works with members of the Aris Quartett (without a prior rehearsal). Information about the works to be played will be sent with the invitation to the audition.

ACCOMMODATION

Juniors will be given a fixed daily allowance for the duration of their stay. The allowance is intended to cover the cost of board and accommodation and is paid out in Kronberg. Kronberg Academy will arrange accommodation for participants with private hosts in Kronberg for the length of the project. Alternatively, we will be pleased to send you a list of hotels and guest houses on request. (Please note, however, that the cost of any hotel accommodation must be borne by the applicant.)

REPERTOIRE

During the preparation phase of *Chamber Music Connects the World*, 23 chamber music works for strings – from trios to string orchestra, with and without piano – will be explored.

THE ENSEMBLES

An appropriate number of ensembles will be formed to perform the 23 chamber music works. Each ensemble will include one Senior as a teacher and chamber music partner. Each Senior will be in charge of several ensembles.

The intention is for each Junior to have the opportunity to play chamber music with at least two of the Seniors. Juniors will therefore be assigned to the appropriate number of ensembles.

JUNIORS WILL BE ALLOCATED to the different chamber music ensembles and repertoire on the basis of the auditions (see above) and their applications. These decisions will be taken by the Director of Kronberg Academy, Raimund Trenkler, in consultation with the Seniors. In some cases, it may be possible to take account of requests to work with specific chamber music partners or to play specific pieces.

Juniors will be informed about the ensembles in which they will be playing by **2 MARCH 2026** at the latest. They will also be sent copies of the scores.

PROCEDURE

REHEARSAL PHASE

The ensembles follow a fixed programme of rehearsals, which should give each Junior the opportunity to play in ensembles with at least two Seniors.

CONCERTS 9 – 17 MAY 2026

Chamber Music Connects the World will culminate in eight concerts in Kronberg, in which all ensembles will perform at the big hall of the Casals Forum in Kronberg.



**Crespo
Foundation**

Chamber Music Connects the World – a Kronberg Academy project, sponsored by the Crespo Foundation.
www.crespo-foundation.de

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