

PABLO CASALS (1876–1973)

"I am a man first, an artist second. My first obligation is to the welfare of my fellow man."

— PABLO CASALS

FOREWORD

Even in my youngers years I was inspired by a man born almost 90 years before me. That man was Pablo Casals. During his inspirational life, the world-famous cellist and humanist revolutionised cello playing and garnered the support of both ordinary people and heads of state alike. His message was simple yet powerful: art and humanity are inseparable. To this day, Pablo Casals holds endless fascination and is a role model for musicians of all ages, something that only a handful of people achieve.

It was Casals's message that provided the inspiration when I joined with other dedicated individuals in 1993 to found Kronberg Academy – as both an institution and as a place to come together for music.

Today, Kronberg Academy is a "place of longing" for many young musicians. Our Casals Forum has become their artistic home. It is here that they meet with the great musicians of our time, to learn from them and perform together with them.

We are grateful that so many people across the world support Kronberg Academy and recognise how much it is needed as a pioneering educational institution. When I say "We", I refer to a community of exceptional artists, enthusiastic sponsors and a highly dedicated team, all of whom share the same values.

It is especially important to me that future generations should develop Kronberg Academy further. So that music can gain in importance, and influence us towards interactions that are wise for people and our planet alike.

Raimund Trenkler

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF KRONBERG ACADEMY







HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

The 20th anniversary of Pablo Casals's death was the catalyst for everything. On this occasion, his widow, Marta Casals Istomin, chose not to commemorate the day in New York, Barcelona or in Casals's later home of Puerto Rico, but instead to take up an invitation to Kronberg in Germany, a town that was completely unknown to her.

She was persuaded to do so by the idea of musicians of all generations from across the globe coming together to make music and learn from one another in honour of Pablo Casals and his message of peace and humanity.

Thus, the first music festival was held in Kronberg im Taunus in 1993 with Marta Casals Istomin and renowned cellist Mstislav Rostropovich (1927–2007) as the patrons. This moment marked the birth of Kronberg Academy.

... AND WHAT KRONBERG ACADEMY STANDS FOR

Pablo Casals lived by the maxim "I am a human being first, an artist second. My first obligation is to the welfare of my fellow man."

Kronberg Academy has followed this guiding principle since its inception. Through its work, it aspires to help instil in musicians a particular mindset:

THAT AS ARTISTS, THEY BEAR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS MUSIC, PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.











Kronberg Academy aims to help maintain a strong and vibrant future at the very highest level for the art form and common language that is classical music.

To further this aim, we support and train a stellar team of particularly gifted young musicians, who already grace many stages across the world.

And we have allies in our work: the leading musicians of our time, ever more of whom themselves once studied at Kronberg Academy.

Here, these world-renowned artists pass on their artistic proficiency and fundamental musical values to the next generation, visiting the Casals Forum week after week as tutors and as musical partners for the young players.





TAILORED TUITION FOR GREAT TALENT

On our specially designed study programmes, gifted young string players and pianists receive comprehensive artistic training. Kronberg Academy offers each individual precisely what they need as youngsters with burgeoning solo careers. And their development into responsible artistic figures is at the heart of everything we do.

PERFORMANCE AS A MATTER OF COURSE

Equally, every public concert, every festival at Kronberg Academy thrives on hugely talented young players coming together with their famous role models. Tuition and performance are therefore closely interwoven in Kronberg – a sort of "dual education" if you will – in a method that has already taken many of our students to the very top.

FRESH OUT OF THE "WORKSHOP" AND INTO THE CONCERT HALL

The result is first-class musical experiences for all that are profound and exhilarating in equal measure. And they have far-reaching appeal. Time and again, our festivals and concerts prove that classical music is a force with the power to move and inspire everyone.

The majority of these concert events take place in the Casals Forum in Kronberg. However, Kronberg Academy also goes "on Tour". Our students are regularly invited to perform together at some of the world's leading concert halls, including Wigmore Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York and Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

FROM KRONBERG INTO THE WORLD -**AND BACK**

Today, Kronberg Academy alumni work throughout the globe as soloists, chamber musicians with renowned ensembles, leaders in prestigious orchestras, artistic directors of festivals and likewise as distinguished professors. As "musical leaders" they exert an influence, they are able to make a difference and people listen to them.

And yet, they continue to return to Kronberg as alumni to draw new inspiration, as well as in the desire to pass something on to the next generation here.





Music must serve a purpose; it must be a part of something larger than itself.

— PABLO CASALS







Anyone who has a special gift also has a special responsibility. Musicians such as Pablo Casals, Yehudi Menuhin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gidon Kremer, Sir András Schiff, Christoph Eschenbach and Daniel Barenboim firmly endorse the aspiration that music should serve the people.

Kronberg Academy strives to be an epicentre radiating the power-giving, energizing effect that music can have on us and our coexistence in every facet of our lives. And it wants to help open the door to the wonder of classical music for as many people as possible.

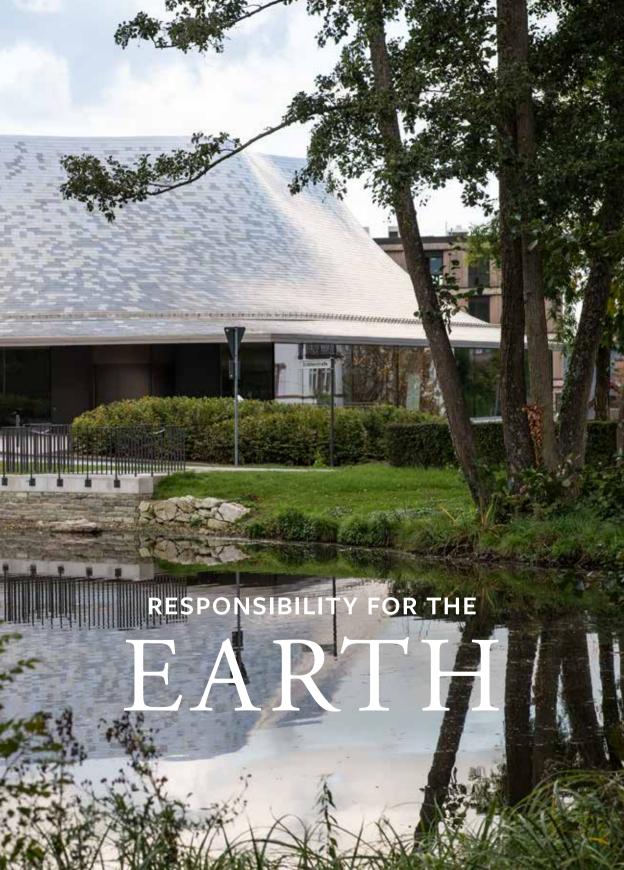
This begins with our study programmes. As part of their training at Kronberg Academy, students regularly invite people to the Casals Forum for whom concert visits would ordinarily be extremely difficult, whether for financial, health-related or other reasons.

At the same time, we actively search for ways to have a positive impact on society with music, and to provide lasting support to people through music. Accordingly, Kronberg Academy is an increasingly sought-after partner for institutions and foundations promoting and carrying out projects in a medical or humanitarian sphere, including the research group for geriatric medicine at Goethe University Frankfurt, the German Child Protection Association and the UNGSII Foundation established to implement the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the UN.













Within the means at its disposal, Kronberg Academy wants to help address the challenges posed to us by the profound transformation of nature and society - particularly climate change.

By constructing the Casals Forum, we have created the first concert hall building in Europe that is capable of climate neutral operation. In 2021 we became one of the first institutions in the field of arts and culture to begin introducing a certified sustainability management system, which will enable us to act with minimum environmental impact and to take sustainability criteria into account in both our academic training and when planning and implementing events.

What is more, the subject of responsibility for our endangered planet likewise features in the syllabus for our study programmes.

... AND FOR OUR LIFE AS A SOCIETY

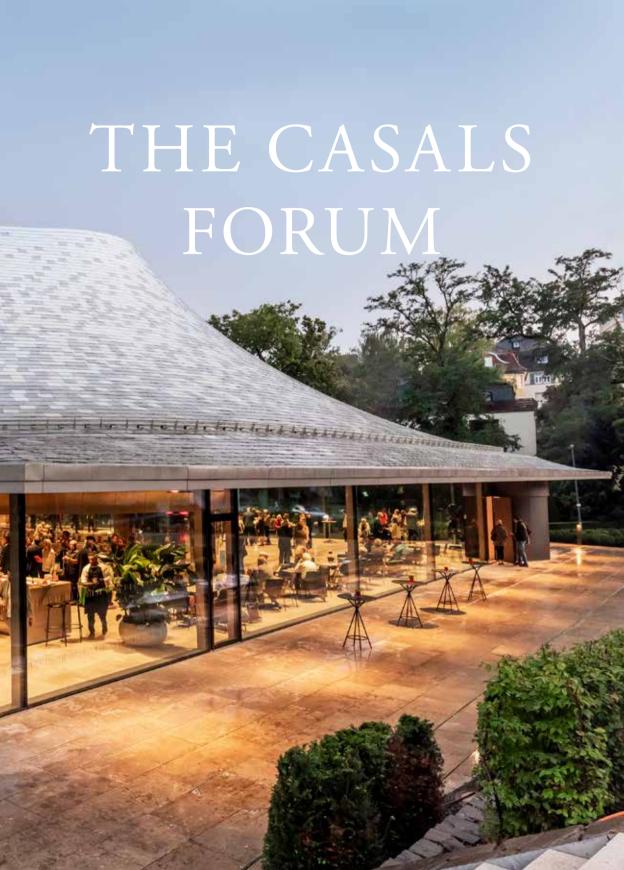
During their training in Kronberg, young musicians from the farthest corners of the globe experience respectful coexistence in a free society.

Throughout their studies, we strive to convey to them knowledge of democratic values - so that they can become responsible ambassadors for international exchange and tolerance in their role as artistic figures.













Kronberg Academy has created a space in which music needs make no compromise: the new Casals Forum.

The heart of the Casals Forum is the large auditorium with its unusual shape and much lauded acoustics. Attached to the main building is a study centre, which provides ideal conditions for musical work.

The prize-winning building complex was designed and planned by the firm Staab Architekten from Berlin together with renowned acoustician Martijn Vercammen. The artists who have visited and played here unanimously agree that we have created a space that sets new acoustic standards and, above all, opens up entirely new expressive possibilities for chamber music in all its many facets. Here, musicians and audience members experience preeminent music making at close quarters and as a collective.

The name "Forum" was not chosen at random. Alongside discussions of a purely musical nature, opinions are exchanged here, debates are held and ideas are developed about the most pressing issues of our time. Other art forms, science, industry and politics also meet with music in the Casals Forum – so that it can help them in their quest for answers. This is a place where music generates impetus and inspiration.



"I long for the day when all people on earth will come together, as in an enormous concert hall: happily united by a love of what is beautiful."

— PABLO CASALS



Since 2022, Kronberg Academy has held the "Praemium Imperiale Grant for Young Artists", an ancillary award to the prestigious Praemium Imperiale, which is seen as the "Nobel Prize of the Arts". This and other accolades provide us with great motivation.

However, for us, the greatest tribute we are paid is the commitment shown by you and by the artists. This is because, as a private institution, the charitable Kronberg Academy Foundation depends on the support of people who share our values and objectives. We are grateful to all those who are among them and who wish to make an active contribution.



Take a cinematic tour of Kronberg Academy and the Casals Forum





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Kronberg Academy's tutors and visiting professors

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