

The 2026 Mozart Week Festival in Salzburg between 22 January to 1 February 2026

MOZART: LUX ÆTERNA

The 2026 Mozart Week Festival is marking the 270th birthday of Salzburg's immortal *genius loci*

The Magic Flute • Vienna Philharmonic • Igor Levit • María Dueñas • Renaud Capuçon • Karina Canellakis • Philippe Jaroussky • Daniel Hope • Emily D'Angelo • Jordi Savall

Every Mozart Week Festival is already a celebration of the life and works of Salzburg's *genius loci*, but 2026 marks no fewer than two great Mozart anniversaries. Not only does the 2026 Festival coincide with the 270th anniversary of Mozart's birth but it is seventy years since the world's most important Mozart Festival was summoned into life in 1956. The Festival's intendant, Rolando Villazón, recalls that "Mozart first saw the light of the world in Salzburg in 1756 but it was not until 1791, with his all too early death, that events came full circle and he achieved immortality. **Mozart: lux æterna** is the motto of the 2026 Mozart Week Festival and we shall be celebrating this 'perpetual light', giving us two good reasons to present a new production of the composer's penultimate opera, *The Magic Flute*. Our aim is to recapture the magic of Mozart's masterpiece and to explore its imaginary and imaginative world, while combining these elements with a subtle tribute to the composer and to the idea of his slipping away into a world of radiant immortality. And so magic and the year 1791 will form the common thread that links together our concerts, our fully staged productions, our *Trazom* events and everything else that makes up our programme in 2026."

Mozart: lux æterna – at the heart of our 2026 Mozart Week Festival is a new production of the most popular opera of all time: Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. The director is Rolando Villazón, and Roberto González-Monjas will be conducting the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra. These fully staged performances will be framed by a full programme of around seventy other events. The orchestral concerts and chamber recitals will, as always, showcase the most eminent performers but we shall also be celebrating far more than this with two world premieres, two farewells and a number of other anniversaries. Two new works by the young Salzburg composer Karim Zech will be receiving their first performances, while two legendary ensembles that will be retiring from the concert platform in 2026 will be appearing one last time at the Mozart Week Festival. They are the Cappella Andrea Barca and the Hagen Quartet. Two long-standing friends of the Festival who share a birthday with Mozart will be joining the group of handpicked artists who are coming here next January: Renaud Capuçon and Emmanuel Pahud. Our anniversary programme is rounded off by a puppet show, live music, performance art, films including rarities about Mozart, readings, interviews with artists, a pub quiz, family concerts and lots more besides. The first festival of the new year has been bringing the world's finest Mozartians to Salzburg since 1956 and 2026 will be no exception. Among the artists we are expecting are Ádám Fischer, Igor Levit, Karina Canellakis, María Dueñas, Robin Ticciati, Magdalena Kožená, Daniel Ottensamer, Jordi Savall and Le Concert des Nations, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, the Danish Chamber Orchestra with Emily D'Angelo, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Christina Pluhar and her ensemble L'Arpeggiata, Philippe Jaroussky, Xavier de Maistre, Avi Avital, Daniel Hope, Iveta Apkalna, Kit Armstrong and, of course, the Vienna Philharmonic, which has been the Mozart Week Festival's steadfast companion since 1956.

The Mozarteum Foundation's president, Johannes Honsig-Erlenburg, has issued the following statement: "270 years of Mozart and seventy years of the Mozart Week Festival! How could Mozart's universe be celebrated more appropriately than with his unfathomable and at the same time profoundly moving opera *The Magic Flute*? This is a very special gift on the occasion of this double jubilee, combining, as it does, the unique Mozartian qualifications of the International Mozarteum Foundation, the charisma and love of his fellow humans on the part of our artistic director Rolando Villazón and you yourselves. A very warm welcome to our jubilee celebrations!"

Mozart: lux æterna – Two fully staged productions

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* K620

In the final hours of his life Mozart imagines himself attending a performance of *The Magic Flute*, a performance that is simultaneously taking place in his head and at the Theater auf der Wieden. All the characters are somehow related to their creator on a symbolic or metaphysical level. Playful elements pervade this new production, which is true to the spirit and to the letter of the original, turning Mozart's immortal singspiel into a magical operatic experience.

All three areas of the International Mozarteum Foundation's work are on display to ensure that this production is historically authentic. These are its artistic branch, its two Mozart Museums and its scholarly arm. All three are working together on this large-scale project. The Foundation's head of research, Ulrich Leisinger, is serving as dramaturge on the production; the director of the Mozart Museums, Linus Klumpner, is acting as an adviser and is also curating a special exhibition in its famous premises; and the Mozart Week Festival's intendant, Rolando Villazón, is himself directing this most popular opera of all time in the Haus für Mozart. Villazón is internationally acclaimed as a director who since 2010 has worked on eleven productions for seventeen different companies, including *Die Fledermaus* for the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, *La sonnambula* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris and at the Dresden State Opera and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival. This autumn he is directing *La sonnambula* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Conductor and cast are handpicked: Roberto González-Monjas will be conducting the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra and a first-class team of soloists headed by Kathryn Lewek as the Queen of the Night, Franz-Josef Selig as Sarastro, Magnus Dietrich as Tamino, Emily Pogorelc as Pamina, Theodore Platt as Papageno and Tamara Ivaniš as Papagena.

The Magic Flute was first performed on 30 September 1791 and by next year it will be able to look back on an incredible success story that by then will have lasted 235 years. Since 1791 not a single year has passed when there has not been a performance of Mozart's singspiel somewhere in the world. Every year *The Magic Flute* has been one of the most frequently performed of all operas.

The Old Tree, or Franzi's Journey to the End of the World

Salzburg's world-famous Marionette Theatre is mounting a revival of *The Old Tree, or Franzi's Journey to the End of the World*, a heart-warming piece for young and old alike that was first seen at the 2023 Mozart Week Festival and that is aimed at everyone who cares about the environment. In their search for a very special tree Franzi and her friends set off on an adventure, in the course of which the most important concerns of conservationists and of all who are worried about climate change are staged in a serious, charming, exciting and sympathetic way, accompanied by arrangements of Mozart's music. The original

production and the concept on which it was based are the work of the Austrian tenor Paul Schweinester, whose staging was acclaimed by audiences and critics alike when it was first seen in 2023.

A coproduction of the International Mozarteum Foundation and the Salzburg Marionette Theatre in cooperation with Vienna's University of Music and Performing Arts.

Mozart: lux aeterna – Concerts

Sumptuous orchestral sonorities

For the last seventy years a close artistic friendship has been forged between the Vienna Philharmonic and the Mozart Week Festival. In January 2026 one of the world's most famous orchestras will be conducted by the American Karina Canellakis, while the young and acclaimed Spanish violinist María Dueñas is making her eagerly awaited debut at the Festival. This will be the third time that Robin Ticciati has conducted the orchestra at the Mozart Week Festival, where he will again be joined by mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená and by clarinetist Daniel Ottensamer, the latter performing Mozart's famous Clarinet Concerto in A major K622. Mozart completed this piece in October 1791. Last year's audience was delighted by their appearance with the Vienna Philharmonic. Also in 2026 Ádám Fischer and Igor Levit will be reappearing with the orchestra.

The roster of orchestras and ensembles appearing at the 2026 Mozart Week Festival is everything one could wish for. The opening concert features the Danish Chamber Orchestra under Ádám Fischer and one of the most exciting singers of our day, the Canadian mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo. The Salzburg Camerata will be appearing twice, each time with a distinguished line-up of soloists: the legendary pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard and two magicians of the plucked string repertory, the harpist Xavier de Maistre and the mandolin player Avi Avital. A historically informed performance of the very highest standards can be guaranteed from Jordi Savall, one of the elder statesmen of the early music movement, who is appearing with his ensemble Le Concert des Nations. Equal excellence may be expected from Christina Pluhar and her ensemble L'Arpeggiata. Their performance of Mozart's Requiem includes among its team of soloists the charismatic French countertenor Philippe Jaroussky. Renaud Capuçon is appearing with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe in an all-Mozart programme. The French violinist was born on the same day as Mozart and will be celebrating his fiftieth birthday at the 2026 Mozart Week Festival. Meanwhile the Cappella Andrea Barca will be visiting Salzburg as part of its farewell tour. This ensemble was formed by Sir András Schiff in 1999 on the occasion of a complete performance of Mozart's keyboard concertos at the Mozart Week Festival and has been closely associated with the Festival for twenty-seven years. In 2019 the orchestra was awarded the Mozarteum Foundation's Gold Mozart Medal. At their final concert at the 2026 Mozart Week Festival their programme will include Mozart's monumental Overture to *Don Giovanni* and Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony. The final concert of the 2026 Mozart Week Festival will be given by the Havana Lyceum Orchestra and one of the most versatile violinists of our day, Daniel Hope. This concert will also include the world premiere of a new cantata by the young Salzburg composer Karim Zech, a work commissioned by the International Mozarteum Foundation to mark the 270th anniversary of Mozart's birth.

The refined sounds of chamber music

In the field of chamber music we may expect a number of brilliant artists and outstanding line-ups. The Propter Homines organ in the Great Hall at the Mozarteum will be heard twice during the 2026 Mozart Week Festival. One of the world's leading organists, Iveta Apkalna will be performing a well-balanced programme of works by Mozart, Bach, Pärt and Vasks on this king of instruments, while Hannfried



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Lucke, too, will be paying homage to Mozart on the occasion of the 270th anniversary of the composer's birth with a programme of carefully chosen works. The popular format of *Letters and Music* will be offering an amusing survey of Mozart's last year, with Stefan Wilkening, for many years a welcome visitor to the stage of the Mozart Week Festival, reading from letters and documents, accompanied by a soprano soloist, a bassoon and Mozart's own fortepiano. In 2026 this format will also be presented for the first time in English. Mozart and modernism will meet at Salzburg's DomQuartier, where there will be another world premiere of a new work by Karim Zech, who will be the soloist in his own piece. He will be accompanied by members of the Orquesta Iberacademy of Medellín. This Colombian ensemble has been appearing at the Mozart Week Festival since 2020. Also in the Knights Hall at the DomQuartier, the PRISMA Ensemble will be performing *Mysteria*, a musical journey that explores mankind's state of mind through the medium of works by Mozart, Purcell, Ravel and Biber. The Salzburg-based, internationally acclaimed Hagen Quartet has been appearing at the Mozart Week Festival for forty years but will be bidding farewell to the stage in 2026. For their final appearance at the Mozart Week Festival, the four members of the Quartet have elected to perform a special Mozart programme that reflects the Festival's motto. They will be playing the three "Prussian" String Quartets that were all published in 1791. A nice touch is that the second and third of these works were on the Hagen Quartet's programme at its first Mozart Week Festival recital in 1986. The flautist Emmanuel Pahud will be appearing with his regular pianist Éric Le Sage. He, too, was born on the same day as Mozart and will be marking his fifty-sixth birthday with a Mozart programme spiced with Romances by Robert and Clara Schumann. The Amadis Trio is following in the footsteps of Voltaire's *Candide* with works by Mozart, Liszt and Mendelssohn. The Czech horn player Radek Baborák is returning to the Mozart Week Festival with his ensemble, which will be joined on this occasion by a number of guests to perform Mozart's Horn Concerto K412 and works by a number of Bohemian composers. A further exploration of Mozart's universe will be undertaken by Kit Armstrong in the company of his regular chamber music partners and three additional young ensembles.

Mozart: lux aeterna – Trazom

Trazom is the title of a series of events at the Mozart Week Festival that celebrate Mozart as man and artist through an appealing crossover programme combining words, music and examples of performance art. The word is Mozart's own name spelt backwards and is used here as a way of capturing his fascinating and enigmatic personality in all its manifold facets using the stylistic resources of our own day. *The Magic Flute – Your Adventure* is one such event. The BachWerkVokal Ensemble of Salzburg under the direction of Gordon Safari invites the whole family to join them in an interactive concert experience. The Constanze Quartet is continuing to develop its successful programme first seen at the 2024 Mozart Week Festival. In *Dissonances* music, theatre and the art of sound all merge together to create a thrilling instance of performance art that explores the lives of Wolfgang Amadé and Constanze Mozart. This show is suitable for young and old alike. At the Café Classic members of the Orquesta Iberacademy of Medellín likewise invite you to an imaginary encounter with Mozart and his wife. Our *Mozart Quiz* is a real pub quiz, when panellists will be asked tricky questions about Mozart and related matters. With *Amadé in Black & White* the Mozart Cinema is screening true rarities from the world of the early cinema: films by the pioneering cinematographer Lotte Reiniger show touching examples of silhouette animation accompanied by Mozart's immortal music. There will also be an opportunity to see the earliest film ever made about the composer, *La Mort de Mozart*. The streets of Salzburg will again come alive with Festival-related events. Members of the Orquesta Iberacademy of Medellín will tour the city in one of Salzburg's electric buses, performing an exciting mixture of classical and Latin American music. These tours will be given in association with Transport for Salzburg and Fräulein Flora, the city's recently founded online magazine.



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Young music lovers and young fans of Mozart are cordially invited to a special concert in the Great Hall of the Mozarteum, where the Young Mozart Orchestra and the Mozart Children's Orchestra will have their big moment at the Mozart Week Festival, appearing as part of a programme titled *Lichtspiele* with the Salzburg Orchestral Academy under Teresa Riveiro Böhm.

As always, Mozart's birthday on 27 January will be marked by the Festival's intendant in person with a serenade on the Universitätsplatz that has now become a much-loved tradition, when Rolando Villazón & Friends will celebrate the 270th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadé's birth.

The Mozart Week Festival's programme in 2026 will be completed by *Wolfsbarsch Amadé Mozart*, a culinary experience in the Stiegl-Keller with musical accompaniment provided by members of the Orquesta Iberacademy of Medellín. There will also be interviews with artists and at the Mozart Sound and Film Collection there will be selected recordings of live concerts, documentary films and full-length feature films. Guided tours of the Autograph Vault at the Mozarteum Foundation will allow visitors to see priceless letters and holograph scores to which the general public is not normally granted access.

Special Exhibition during the Mozart Week Festival

The World of *The Magic Flute*: Mozart's Masterpiece for the Whole of Humankind

16 January to 7 April 2026 in the Mozart Residence at 8 Makartplatz

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Information about the Mozart Week Festival

Venues

Mozarteum Foundation, Great Hall: 28 Schwarzstrasse
Mozarteum Foundation, Viennese Hall: 26 Schwarzstrasse
Mozarteum Foundation, Villa Vicina: 30 Schwarzstrasse
The Mozart Residence, Tanzmeistersaal, Mozart Audio-Visual Collection, Café Classic: 8 Makartplatz
Großes Festspielhaus, Haus für Mozart: 1 Hofstallgasse
Salzburg Marionette Theatre: 24 Schwarzstrasse
OVAL – Die Bühne im EUROPARK: 1 Europastrasse
DomQuartier Salzburg, Rittersaal at the Residenz: 1a Domplatz
Mozartkino: 33 Kaigasse
Stiegl-Keller: 10 Festungsgasse
Universitätsplatz

For further information, please visit: www.mozartweek.at

Information about tickets: Tickets may be reserved with immediate effect and can be bought in the usual way from 1 July 2025.

For concertgoers under thirty who are currently in further education, individual tickets are available at € 20. For all other young concertgoers under the age of thirty, tickets are available at 50% off the marked price. These offers apply only to selected events and may depend on availability.

Box Office of the International Mozarteum Foundation:

2 Theatergasse, A-5020 Salzburg
email: tickets@mozarteum.at
Telephone: +43 662 87 31 54
Online: www.mozarteum.at

International Mozarteum Foundation

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart (b Salzburg, 27 January 1756; d Vienna, 5 December 1791) has been fascinating people all over the world for more than 250 years, a fascination due not only to his works but also to his personality. The International Mozarteum Foundation is the world's leading institution for preserving and disseminating this priceless cultural legacy and seeks to increase our understanding of Mozart's multifaceted personality by giving people of every generation access to his music, his life and his person, access available in both analogue and digital formats. The Mozarteum Foundation of Salzburg was established in 1880 by a group of local townspeople but its roots can be traced back to the Cathedral Music Association and Mozarteum that had been set up in 1841. It is now a non-profit-making organization with initiatives in the areas of concerts, museum curatorship and research and seeks to forge links between tradition and contemporary culture with the aim of opening up new perspectives and providing new ideas about the ways in which we engage with the composer.

Concerts

Since 1956 the Mozarteum Foundation has organized the annual Mozart Week Festival around the date of Mozart's birth, 27 January. It is now the world's most important festival devoted exclusively to Mozart. The most celebrated Mozartians – singers, instrumentalists, orchestras and ensembles – come to Salzburg each year for the first festival of the year. Since 2019 it has been run by Rolando Villazón, who since 2021 has also been responsible for the overall artistic direction of the Mozarteum Foundation, in addition to organizing the Mozarteum's concert season featuring some of the leading artists from the classical music scene as well as established stars of the younger generation.

For more information, please visit [Concerts](#)

Museums

Salzburg's two Mozart Museums – Mozart's Birthplace and Mozart Residence – draw hundreds of thousands of visitors to Salzburg every year. With its striking yellow façade, the famous house in which the composer was born in the Getreidegasse is more than just an internationally well-known memorial to the greatest musical genius of all time. It is also an innovative museum that allows visitors to see unique originals in a contemporary form. The Mozarts' apartment covered 130 square metres (1,400 square feet) and was located on the third floor of the building, where it formed the nucleus of the museum that was founded by the International Mozarteum Foundation in 1880. This museum now fills the entire building. Visitors can gain a glimpse of what is internationally the most significant collection of original artefacts that once belonged to the family and of the instruments once owned by Mozart himself. As such, these objects invite visitors to discover Mozart's universe for themselves. The Mozart Residence on the Makartplatz houses special exhibitions focusing on members of Mozart's family and sheds light on the composer's output from a number of different angles. The world-famous wooden hut where Mozart is said to have completed *The Magic Flute* can be seen in the inner courtyard.

For more information, please visit [Mozart Museums](#)

Research

The Research Department unites tradition and the future and sees itself as the beating heart of Mozart studies, promoting the latest Mozart scholarship and continuing the Mozarteum's work by adding to its various collections. It was Mozart's widow, Constanze, and the couple's two sons who left the Society the bulk of the memorabilia associated with Mozart himself. As a result the Mozarteum Foundation now owns the world's largest collection of original letters, portraits and instruments that once belonged to the Mozart family. The Bibliotheca Mozartiana is the most comprehensive Mozart library in the world. The Digital Mozart Edition makes Mozart's works available to everyone with access to the internet. This edition features digital formats of works of music, while the Research Department is also engaged in editing letters, documents and librettos, additionally providing further information on Mozart's works and on their sources as well as their transmission and their reception. KV online: Mozart's famous catalogue of his works, the Köchel-Verzeichnis, has also been available in a digital format since 2024. With its 50,000 audio titles and 5,000 video productions, the Mozart Audio-Visual Collection is the biggest specialized archive on Mozart in the world.

For more information, please visit [Research](#)