

The programme of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music 2025

«Who pulls the strings?» – the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music 2025 asks the question of fate and self-determination. At the heart of the programme from 25 July to 31 August are two operatic rediscoveries, «Ifigenia in Aulide» by Antonio Caldara and «Ifigenia in Tauride» by Tommaso Traetta, which are both prequel and sequel to each other. As usual, the cast of Barockoper:Jung, Antonio Vivaldi's «Il Giustino», is largely made up of participants from last year's Cesti competition. In addition to the operas and the Ambrascher Schlosskonzerte, the programme includes other exceptional concerts that reflect the diversity of early music. Renowned artists such as Andreas Scholl, Giovanni Antonini and Christina Pluhar are featured on the programme, as well as Le Concert de la Loge and other celebrated musicians. Numerous free events will complement the concerts in various venues throughout the Alpine city. Ottavio Dantone as musical director and the Accademia Bizantina as orchestra in residence are back for a second time, while Eva-Maria Sens as artistic director is in charge of the entire programme. Tickets go on sale on 13 December 2024.

«We look forward to exploring the many facets of the question of who pulls the strings with our artists and guests from around the world. We want our programme to inspire people to think about destiny and freedom, power and art as a reflection of it. The Innsbruck Festival Summer 2025 will once again be a place for extraordinary musical experiences,» say **Artistic Director Eva-Maria Sens** and **Music Director Ottavio Dantone**.

«With their international appeal, the Festival of Early Music provides important impetus for musical life in Tyrol and is one of the highlights of the cultural summer. Top-class opera productions and concerts, numerous events open to the public free of charge as well as initiatives to promote young musical talent make for a coherent overall programme that makes the diversity of early music accessible to the public in many different ways,» emphasises **Landeshauptmann Anton Mattle**.

«No other musical event emphasises Innsbruck's historical significance and tradition as a 'city of music' as much as the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music. In 2025, we can once again expect a programme that is as varied as it is inspiring, thanks to the artistic directors of the Innsbruck Festival, who not only hold the strings securely in their hands, but also know how to play with them with virtuosity,» says Vizebürgermeister Georg Willi, looking forward to the coming season.

The two opera productions tell the story of the mythological figure Iphigenia, daughter of Agamemnon and Clitennestra. Both works are part of Austrian musical history, which Ottavio Dantone has focussed on since taking over as Musical Director: Antonio Caldara's «Ifigenia in Aulide» was premiered in Vienna in 1718, where Tommaso Traetta brought his «Ifigenia in Tauride» to the stage a few decades later. In the first staged production of Caldara's «Ifigenia» in over 300 years, the Spanish company PerPoc, directed by Anna Fernández, will delight with puppetry in a baroque stage aesthetic. Ottavio Dantone and the Accademia Bizantina will provide the musical direction. Carlo Vistoli (Achille) makes his Festival debut; Marie Lys plays the title role. Former Cesti participants Laurence Kilsby (Ulisse), Filippo Mineccia (Teucro), Neima Fischer (Elisena) and Giacomo Nanni (Arcade) complement the cast alongside Shakéd Bar (Clitennestra) and



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Martin Vanberg (Agamemnon). The premiere will take place at the Tiroler Landestheater on 8 August at 7 pm.

Tommaso Traetta's «Ifigenia in Tauride» continues the story on 27 August. Since its premiere in Vienna in 1768, the work has enjoyed great popularity in the late 18th century. Under the musical direction of Christophe Rousset and his ensemble Les Talens Lyriques, Rocío Pérez takes on the role of Ifigenia, Owen Willetts can be seen as Oreste and Alasdair Kent as Toante. Karolina Bengtsson (Dori) and Suzanne Jerosme (Pilade) complete the cast. The production is in the hands of the renowned German director Nicola Raab.

From 17 August 2025, last year's Cesti participants will bring Antonio Vivaldi's opera «Il Giustino» to the stage. The singers will perform the drama per musica in a production by Claudia Isabel Martin under the musical direction of Stefano Demicheli. The Cesti winner Maximiliano Danta and second-placed Jiayu Jin will be making their debuts as part of the Barockoper:Jung programme.

The concerts in turn represent the entire spectrum of early music, as well as the vibrancy of today's scene: Stars such as Ottavio Dantone, Giovanni Antonini, Andreas Scholl and Christina Pluhar as well as ensembles such as Le Concert de la Loge, Ensemble Exploration, Vox Luminis and Les Épopées shine alongside numerous others. The programme is complemented by a large number of up-and-coming young artists who will bring Innsbruck to life at various venues. In 2025, the Innsbruck Festival will once again be a place where renowned masters and young talents inspire each other and create a unique experience. The grand finale of the Innsbruck Festival and this shared vision is traditionally the finale of the 16th Cesti Competition on 31 August.

Since its foundation in 1976, the Innsbruck Festival has been the starting point for numerous artists' careers and one of the most important addresses in the field of early music worldwide. In 2023, Eva-Maria Sens took over as Artistic Director together with Ottavio Dantone, who served as Music Director for five years. During this time, his Accademia Bizantina, one of the world's most renowned orchestras for historical performance practice, will accompany the festival as Orchestra in Residence. In 2026, the Innsbruck Festival will celebrate its 50th anniversary. An anniversary that underlines its pioneering role in the field of historically informed performance practice.

[More information about the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music](#)

[Information about the Accademia Bizantina](#)

