



Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik

PRESS KIT

of the

48th INNSBRUCK FESTIVAL OF EARLY MUSIC 2024



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Introductory Words from the Artistic Direction

Where do we come from? Where are we going?"

"It all remains different", sings Herbert Grönemeyer, capturing the exciting moment of change, suspended between two states. The Innsbruck Festival of Early Music also remains different. Since its inception in 1976 as a counter-movement to the established classical scene, it has been a constant force for renewal in the Early Music-scene. Over the years, it has provided a stage for thousands of artists to present historically informed performances at the forefront of the time. The festival itself has continuously reimagined, evolved, and positioned itself as an event series. The undiscovered and the best artists showcasing it have become its trademarks.

Now, a new chapter unfolds for the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music: We have taken over. We, Eva-Maria Sens as Artistic Director and Ottavio Dantone as Musical Director, share a vision. The festival is a moment to return to; something missed if not experienced firsthand.

At the core of our considerations is the sound. For us, this original sound is not defined by the reconstruction of supposed authenticity through the mere use of historical instruments or the so-called performance practice, which is fundamental to us. Instead, it is defined by placing the music in aesthetics, space, and time, as well as conceptual and emotional communication.

Our programmatic focus, reflecting the historical significance of Innsbruck, extends from here to the world and back. In each edition of the festival, especially in the opera repertoire, composers and works connected to Austrian music history through their influence and origin will be featured.

Another element of our joint artistic planning is how we approach our annual thematic guidelines. We quickly agreed that for each festival summer, we want to pose a question. The answers to the question will then be found in the numerous events, like colourful glass stones that each person can assemble into their own vibrant and individual festival mosaic.

In the spirit of a moment of change and decision-making of the 2024 festival, we have asked where we actually come from and where we want and can go from here. This broad questionnaire gives rise to many other levels of questioning, like branches of a complex mobile, each connecting to our events at its ends.

Eva-Maria Sens & Ottavio Dantone



New formats and established ones in a new guise

youngbaroque

At the International Youth Baroque Orchestra Festival, young people bring Early Music to life. From July 17 to 21, specialized youth orchestras in Early Music will gather in Innsbruck to share their enthusiasm. The international youth Baroque ensembles first met in Innsbruck in 2022. Since 2024, youngbaroque is part of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music. The highlight is the closing concert at Treibhaus in Innsbruck. Admission is by voluntary donation.

Sun | 21.07., 11.00 AM

Treibhaus

(Program p. 70)

The Ambraser Schlosskonzerte (Concerts at Ambras Castle)

The four castle concerts are an integral part of the program and mark the beginning of the festival. Starting from the coming year, they will take place on two consecutive weekends at the end of July and the beginning of August, each on Friday and Saturday.

Fri | 26.07. & Sat | 27.07.

Fri | 02.08. & Sat | 03.08.

Performances start at 8.00 PM

Schloss Ambras (Ambras Castle), Spanischer Saal

(Program p. 18 - 21)

Werkstattkonzerte (Workshop Concerts)

The workshop concerts are a hybrid format that combines elements of a concert and a rehearsal. They allow experiencing the development of a concert program up close and live. **Ottavio Dantone** not only brings wonderful music to the stage but also explains the musical process, starting from the pure notes and their stage implementation.

Sat | 27.07, 11.00 AM

Tiroler Landestheater, Probebühne 2

Sun | 03.08, 10.00 AM

Haus der Musik Innsbruck, Großer Saal

(Program p. 73)

Hörgeschichten (Listening Stories)

In this format, visitors gain auditory insights away from the stage. In artist conversations, this listening lab will provide insight into the history of interpretations and also offer a space for exchange and discourse with the audience. Admission is free.

Sun | 11.08 & Sun | 18.08.,

11.00 AM

Haus der Musik Innsbruck, [K2]

(Program p. 78)



Die blaue Stunde (The Blue Hour)

The new concert series takes place at night in the pavilion of the Hofgarten Innsbruck. In the first night concert, the Italo-Irish musician **Giovanna Baviera** accompanies her singing on the viola da gamba. Last year, she was featured with Voces Suaves at the festival.

Wed | 14.08., 9.30 PM
Hofgarten Innsbruck, Pavilion
(Program p. 54)

Ottavio Plus

Here, too, the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music introduces a new concert series. On the eve of the annual Cesti final concert, Musical Director **Ottavio Dantone** invites to a concert. He will be heard as a harpsichordist, accompanied by one or more musicians invited by him. For 2024, Dantone has invited his musical companion for many years, **Alessandro Tampieri**, who is concertmaster of the Accademia Bizantina, and a soloist on the violin, viola, and viola d'amore.

Thu | 29.08., 8.00 PM
Schloss Ambras, Spanischer Saal
(Program p. 62)

The new "Orchestra in Residence": Accademia Bizantina

The Accademia Bizantina is the "Orchestra in Residence" for the next five editions of the festival. The musicians can be experienced in each opera production and in concerts. Founded in Ravenna in 1983, the ensemble epitomizes the tireless dedication to creating the distinctive sound of Baroque music like few others. They specialize in performing the musical repertoire of the 17th and 18th centuries, extending their expertise to classical music as well. In their work, they approach it initially as scholars, delving into the notes and attempting to decipher their secrets. They then breathe life into the music, making it resonate. They study scores down to the smallest detail, searching for everything that is unwritten but undoubtedly present: moods, emotions, suggestions that the composer has left in hidden traces, waiting to be revealed.

Learn more about this international top ensemble, led by Musical Director Ottavio Dantone, in the program book on pages 46 - 47.



The Operas

Experience Geminiano Giacomelli's "**Cesare in Egitto**", the Barockoper:Jung "**Arianna in Creta**" by Georg Friedrich Händel, and Christoph Graupner's "**Dido, Königin von Carthago**".

Making his opera debut as Musical Director of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music, Ottavio Dantone presents "**Cesare**" and under his leadership the Accademia Bizantina performs as the new "Orchestra in Residence". Among the soloists are Sopranos **Arianna Vendittelli** and **Emőke Baráth**, Alto **Margherita Maria Sala**, and Countertenors **Filippo Mineccia** and **Federico Fiorio**. Arianna Vendittelli, a former winner of the Cesti Competition, has been a welcome guest at the festival for years, as have Emőke Baráth and Margherita Maria Sala. All of them are common guests on the world's major music stages, including Filippo Mineccia, praised by many critics as one of the greatest specialists in the repertoire of the glorious castrato era. Also highly acclaimed is the young countertenor Federico Fiorio, known for his vocal versatility. The internationally celebrated director **Leo Muscato**, renowned for his atmospheric and colourful productions, will bring the opera about Emperor Cesare and his love for Cleopatra to the stage of the Tiroler Landestheater. The work premiered on November 24, 1735, at the Teatro San Giovanni Grisostomo in Venice and remained Giacomelli's greatest success throughout his life.

Premiere on Wed | 07.08., 7.00 PM

Fr | 09.08., 7.00 PM

Sun | 11.08., 4.00 PM

Tiroler Landestheater, Großes Haus

(Program p. 28)

The **Barockoper:Jung** is perennially popular, and in 2024, the previous year's Cesti participants will bring the opera "**Arianna**" to the stage. Conductor **Angelo Michele Errico** leads the Barockorchester:Jung, the winner of the Cesti-Competition 2023 **Mathilde Ortscheidt**, the winner of the third-place **Giacomo Nanni**, and soprano **Neima Fischer**, who won the Young Talent Award. Handel's "**Arianna in Creta**" premiered on January 21, 1734, at the King's Theatre in Haymarket. Rich ornamentation and a thoughtful change of moods characterize the composition and impressive arias wonderfully reflect the characters' personalities. The plot revolves around the mythical figure of Arianna, who is to be sacrificed to the Minotaur along with seven younglings and seven maidens. This toll is part of an ancient treaty between Athens and Crete. Athens will be freed from it only if someone succeeds in killing the beast, escaping the labyrinth unscathed and then defeating the Cretan general in battle. **Neima Fischer** takes on the role of Arianna, with countertenor **Andrea Gavagnin** as Theseus and **Giacomo Nanni** as Minos.

Premiere on Sat | 17.08.

Mon | 19.08., Tue | 20.08. & Thur | 22.08.

Performances start at 7.00 PM

Haus der Musik Innsbruck, Kammerspiele

(Program p. 32)



Later in August, the stage of the Tiroler Landestheater will host Christoph Graupner's opera "Dido". This rarity was first performed in 1707 at the Hamburg Gänsemarkt Theater. The tragic fate of the Carthaginian Queen Dido is the material of grand operas. She is powerfully desirable and beautiful and gives her heart to the Trojan hero Aeneas. However, at the urging of the gods, he travels to Italy and her life ends in despair. The highly sought-after American soprano **Robin Johannsen** takes on the leading part. She is known for the beauty of her timbre, impressive virtuosity, and profound interpretations. Tenor **Jacob Lawrence** portrays Aeneas, who won the Young Talent Award at the 2020 Cesti Competition. Alongside them, the bass-baritone **Andreas Wolf**, a former member of William Christie's Jardin des Voix, as well as tenor **Jorge Franco**, baritone **José Antonio López** and **Alicia Amo** will be on stage. Under the experienced musical direction of **Andrea Marcon**, the award-winning **La Cetra Barockorchester Basel** will accompany the vocalists. **Deda Christina Colonna**, a specialist known for her historical interpretations, will direct this tragic story.

Premiere on Sun | 25.08., 4.00 PM
Tue | 27.08., 7.00 PM
Tiroler Landestheater, Großes Haus
(Program p. 36)



The Ambraser Schlosskonzerte (Concerts at Ambras Castle)

One of the best recorder players of our time, **Stefan Temmingh**, opens the Ambraser Schlosskonzerte on Friday, July 26, 2024. Together with the **Ensemble Nuovo Aspetto**, he explores the so-called "Grounds": constantly repeated harmonic patterns. Various instruments surround them by playing different melodies. The audience can certainly look forward to boundless joy of playing.

The 2nd Ambraser Schlosskonzert on Saturday, July 27, 2024, is dedicated to love. The Innsbrucker Hofmusik, under the musical direction of **Marian Polin**, presents an evening full of secular love songs from Andrea Gabrieli's Madrigal Book, which was dedicated to Archduke Ferdinand II.

In the following week, the well-known bassist **Luigi De Donato**, together with the **Collegium 1704** under the direction of **Václav Luks**, puts the character of Polifemo in the spotlight. In this 3rd Ambraser Schlosskonzert on August 2, musical rarities surrounding the one-eyed monster Polifemo, such as excerpts from the cantata "**Il Polifemo**" by Pietro Antonio Cesti, as well as parts from Händel's famous serenata "**Acì, Galatea e Polifemo**," will be heard.

The crowning finale of the Ambraser Schlosskonzerte is in the hands of violinist **Leila Schayegh** and harpsichordist **Jörg Halubek**. Works by Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach, Johann Schobert, Luigi Boccherini, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart trace the highly exciting journey from the violin sonata to the keyboard sonata in the 18th century, where a vibrant collaboration on equal footing emerges from a permanent competition for the leading position.

Fri | 26.07. - Fri | 02.08.

Performances start at 8.00 PM

Schloss Ambras, Spanischer Saal

(Program p. 18 - 21)

The Concerts

On August 6, Musical Director **Ottavio Dantone** invites to the inaugural concert at the Haus der Musik Innsbruck. He shares the stage with his **Accademia Bizantina**, the choirs **La Stagione Armonica** and **NovoCanto**, and an exquisite ensemble of singers including **Benedetta Mazzucato**, **Sophie Rennert**, **Nicolò Balducci**, **Martin Vanberg**, and **Riccardo Novaro**. The program features the Serenata "**Il trionfo della Fama**" by the late Baroque composer Francesco Bartolomeo Conti.

The famous countertenor **Jakub Józef Orliński** performs Masters of Italian Early Baroque on August 10. Indispensable on international concert and opera stages, he, along with the renowned ensemble **Il Pomo d'Oro**, will captivate the audience in the magnificent Riesensaal of the Innsbruck Hofburg.

The exceptional french harpsichordist **Jean Rondeau** makes his first appearance at the festival on August 8. In the Spanischer Saal of Ambras castle, he presents a very special surprise concert. Also at the castle, the **Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin**, together with soprano **Silvia Frigato** and the celebrated winner of the 2023 Cesti Competition **Mathilde Ortscheidt**, imagines a possible encounter between George Frideric Handel and Jacob Greber.



Handel also plays a role in the concert "**Wondrous Machine**" with harpist **Margret Koell** and the Ensemble **Between the Strings**. His concertos meet Scottish tunes by James Oswald and a contemporary composition for historical instruments by Christof Dienz. The Welsh Triple Harp with its three rows of strings and the long-lost Lyrichord, a keyboard instrument based on sketches by Leonardo da Vinci, take the centre of the stage as wonderful "music machines."

An opportunity for exploration and enjoyment awaits at the **Open Mind Concert**. Baroque music, interpreted by Ensemble **Zefiro**, meets contemporary dance styles such as Contemporary & Jazz Fusion, Breaking, and Hip-Hop Freestyle from the **Street Motion Studio** in Innsbruck. Works by Antonio Vivaldi, Francesco Geminiani, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will be "danced".

The church concerts offer a contemplative experience. In the Jesuitenkirche the international ensemble **Los Elementos** celebrates a musical Mass with works by two of the greatest representatives of Spanish Baroque. Under the musical direction of **Alberto Miguélez Rouco** the two Spanish composers **Francisco Corselli** and **José de Nebra** can be heard in the church in the middle of Innsbruck. The **Bach Collegium Japan** with Maestro **Masaaki Suzuki**, dedicates its performance in the Stiftskirche Wilten to the great master Johann Sebastian Bach. For decades, they have been among the international leaders in Bach interpretation. Harpsichordist **Elina Albach** and her ensemble **Continuum** also delve into Bach's works. In the Christuskirche, they translate his organ works into unprecedented sound colours using both old and new instruments.

The Italian ensemble **Theatrum Instrumentorum** immerses listeners into unexplored soundscapes when presenting works from the world-famous medieval song collection "**Carmina burana**" in the Spanischer Saal of Ambras Castle. The musicians, specializing in these songs and melodies for more than 25 years, are considered absolute experts.

On the eve of the conclusion of the festival, there is one new concert format: "**Ottavio plus**". For that Musical Director **Ottavio Dantone** has chosen his longtime companion and concertmaster of the Accademia Bizantina, **Alessandro Tampieri**. There will be a virtuoso collaboration of keys and strings at Ambras Castle before young singers from around the world will set the festive final chord at the concluding concert of the 15th Cesti Competition at the Haus der Musik Innsbruck the next day.

Tue | 06.08. - Tue | 20.08.,
various days and venues
(Program p. 48 - 63)

Free Programs, Workshops & Open-Air Concerts

As every year, the Innsbruck Festival offers a diverse program with free admission. The long established lunch concerts and the popular **Concerto mobile**, as well as **Musica montana** and **Musik im Gottesdienst (music in the service)**, are integral parts of the festival program, just like in previous years. In addition, two new formats join the lineup in 2024: the **Hörgeschichten** (Listening Stories), providing insights into the interpretative history through artist conversations, and the **Werkstattkonzerte** (Workshop Concerts), a hybrid format that combines rehearsal and performance. Furthermore, during the **Schlossfest**, Ambras Castle awakens a lively past and colourful life on the Feast of the



Assumption. In **instrument-making workshops** for children, **Claudia Unterkofler** introduces the secrets of violin making, while **Benedikt Sonnleitner** offers insights into the world of trumpets. And, of course, the **Trumpet Consort Innsbruck** cannot be missed. Traditionally, musicians fill the streets of the Old Town with their festive sounds from the balcony of Innsbruck's landmark, the "Goldenes Dachl" (the Golden Roof) during "**Mit Pauken und Trompeten**".

Sun | 21.07. - Fri | 30.08.
various days and venues
(Program Book p. 70 - 79)



Numbers & Facts

56 events over 31 days at more than 15 venues

Period: July 21 to August 30, 2024

Total Events: 56

Ticketed Events: 36

Venues: 15 (+ Concerto mobile)

Three staged productions

"Cesare"

"Cesare in Egitto" (Geminiano Giacomelli)

Opera in three acts

Libretto: Carlo Goldoni & Domenico Lalli

Premiere: Venice, Teatro S. Giovanni Grisostomo, November 24, 1735

"Arianna" (Barockoper:Jung)

"Arianna in Creta" (Georg Friedrich Händel)

Opera in three acts

Libretto unknown, based on Pietro Pariati's "Arianna e Teseo" (1721)

Premiere: London, King's Theatre at Haymarket, January 26, 1734

"Dido"

"Dido, Königin von Carthago" (Christoph Graupner)

Opera in three acts

Libretto by Heinrich Hinsch

Premiere: Hamburg, Opernhaus am Gänsemarkt, 1707

Concerts & More:

Ambraser Schlosskonzerte: 4

Festival Concerts: 15

Free Events: 20

 Including Open-Air Events: 13

 Including Musikalische Andachten (Musical Devotions): 3

 Including Hörgeschichten (Listening Stories): 2

Workshops: 6

Werkstattkonzerte (Workshop Concerts): 2

"Pietro Antonio Cesti"-Singing Competition:

A new application record at the international singing competition for Baroque Opera has been recorded in 2024. There were 212 applications; this year, the Innsbruck festival welcomes participants from 45 countries to the competition.



Venues

Christuskirche

Martin-Luther-Platz

Innsbruck

Gasthaus Planötzenhof

Planötzenhofstraße 30

Innsbruck

Geigenbauwerkstatt Claudia Unterkofler

Grillparzerstraße 6A

Innsbruck

Goldenes Dachl

Herzog-Friedrich Straße 15

Innsbruck

Haus der Musik Innsbruck

→ Großer Saal

→ Kammerspiele

→ [K2]

Universitätsstraße 1

Innsbruck Hofburg Innsbruck

→ Riesensaal

Rennweg 1

Innsbruck

Hofgarten Innsbruck

→ Pavillon

Rennweg 6A

Innsbruck

Jesuitenkirche

Karl-Rahner-Platz 2

Innsbruck

Meisterwerkstatt für Blechblasinstrumente

Maximilianstraße 5

Innsbruck

Schloss Ambras Innsbruck (Ambras Castle)

→ Spanischer Saal

→ Nikolauskapelle



Schlossstraße 20
Innsbruck

Stiftskirche Stams

Stiftshof 1
Stams

Stiftskirche Wilten

Klostergasse 7
Innsbruck

Tiroler Landestheater

→ Großes Haus
→ Probebühne 2
Rennweg 2
Innsbruck

Treibhaus

Angerzellgasse 8
Innsbruck

Umbrügler Alm

Umbrückleralmweg 36
Innsbruck

Contact

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You can download press photos on the website of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music:

www.altemusik.at/presse