

Weikersheim Music Academy
World Meeting Center of Jeunesses Musicales International

71st Jeunesses Musicales

International Chamber Music Campus

9 – 20 September 2026



TUTORS

Kuss Quartett

Heime Müller Günter Pichler

Angelika Merkle

Partners



Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD München



Wigmore Hall
International
String Quartet
Competition



Kommen. Staunen. Genießen.



Baden-Württemberg
Staatliche Schlösser
und Gärten

Make Your Ensemble's Career

Since 1956 JMD has endeavored to support and highlight the artistic achievements of young chamber music ensembles. Through its core values of quality, authenticity, and community, the chamber music campus challenges each group to realize its potential.

World class teachers guarantee a chamber music experience at the highest level. The teacher-student interaction at JMD goes far beyond that of a conventional summer course; in Weikersheim, every professor seeks to discover and mold the individual identity of each young group.

Daily lessons expand each young musician's horizons through musical reflection and exposure to different points of view. The exchange of young people from all over the world enables a personal connection through music and overcomes borders.

Ensembles can apply to **work on selected larger ensemble works** to be performed together with the professors.

A series of concerts will offer ensembles the opportunity to perform publicly.

Special Add-On: The course intends to encourage upcoming ensembles to study and perform contemporary music. Take advantage of the opportunity to get new inputs and to contribute to cultural enrichment! The course profile is further expanded by more add-on offers.

The ICMC recommends ensembles to important music festivals, and the Walbusch Award is conferred on one ensemble. Thanks to generous donations from public and private donors, all participants are **Scholars of Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland** and only contribute an accommodation fee.

The inspiring setting of the picturesque medieval town of Weikersheim with its stately Renaissance castle and scenic Baroque park animates the process of musical discovery for teachers and students alike.

Curious about this opportunity? Take a look !



Tutors



Kuss Quartett (Ensemble in Residence)

Jana Kuss – violin

Oliver Wille – violin

William Coleman – viola

Mikayel Hakhnazaryan – cello

The Kuss Quartet has been setting new standards for many years with its ambitious concept-based programming. Its mission is to offer unique experiences to traditional audiences and new listeners alike. Leader Jana Kuss and second violinist Oliver Wille have been playing side by side for over 30 years. With great curiosity, they and their long-standing colleagues, William Coleman and Mikayel Hakhnazaryan, seek confirmation of the eternal “muss es sein?” of string quartet playing. Thanks to a grant from the state of Lower Saxony and Musik 21, the quartet has been able to commission several new works in the last ten years, expanding the string quartet repertoire with compositions by Enno Poppe, Aribert Reimann, Manfred Trojahn, Bruno Mantovani, Iris ter Schiphorst, Johannes Fischer and Mark Andre. This has attracted cooperations with the Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, Paris Biennale, the Wigmore Hall in London and Tokyo’s Suntory Hall. The album, “KRISE” (Crisis) explores the subject of its title from different perspectives in both well-known quartet repertoire and specially commissioned works. Currently they are recording all Mozart string quintets. Today, the Kuss Quartet inspires the next generation in frequent master classes. William Coleman and Oliver Wille hold professorships in Salzburg and Hanover/Birmingham respectively, while Mikayel Hakhnazaryan teaches chamber music at the University of Music Karlsruhe and Jana Kuss at the Accademia Perosi in Biella (Italy).

Heime Müller (prev. Artemis Quartett – violin)

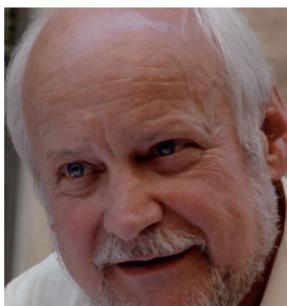


Heime Müller studied violin with Marianne Petersen, Uwe-Martin Haiberg, Ulf Hoelscher, and Nora Chastain. From 1991 until 2007 he performed as 1st or 2nd violinist of the famous Artemis Quartet around 900 concerts all around the world. Recordings of his became awarded with Deutscher Schallplatten-

preis, Diapason d'Or and Echo Klassik. Heime Müller is a renowned teacher for violin and for chamber music. He taught at the Universität der Künste Berlin and is currently Professor for violin and chamber music at the Musikhochschule Lübeck. He also teaches at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofia in Madrid and frequently gives masterclasses all over Europe.

Heime Müller is the artistic director of the Jeunesses Musicales International Chamber Music Campus in Weikersheim.

Günter Pichler (prev. Alban Berg Quartett – violin)



After studying in Vienna, Günter Pichler became concertmaster of the Wiener Symphoniker and of the Wiener Philharmoniker. He was professor at the Universities of Vienna, Cologne, and head of the chamber music department at Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia, Madrid. Many of his students made successful

careers, among them the Artemis, Casals, Leonkoro, and Belcea Quartet. Pichler founded the world famous Alban Berg Quartet and was its first violin until it disbanded in 2008 and also worked as a conductor with top orchestras worldwide.

Angelika Merkle (piano)



Angelika Merkle studied with Klaus Schilde, Leonard Hokanson, Helmut Deutsch and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. She won several first prizes in international and national competitions and is in demand as a chamber music pianist and teacher in numerous concerts and masterclasses where she passes on her

experience to the next generation (e.g. International Summer

Academy Frenswegen, Chamber Music Campus Lübeck, Villa Musica, „German Chamber Music Course for young prizewinners of Jugend musiziert“). Her recordings got highest ratings from Fanfare and Fono Forum. Angelika Merkle has been professor of piano chamber music at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts since 2003. She is also artistic director of numerous projects such as the renowned chamber music series „Festeburgkonzerte“, the International Schumann Chamber Music Prize and the music education project „COMMIT“.

Special add-on

Mirjam Budday (yoga)



Musician-specific bodywork/-awareness
The workshops focus on somatic imbalances and work with targeted exercises based on yoga.

www.music-mentaltraining.de

Simon Eberl (violin maker)



Presentation of his instruments and check-up of students' instruments.

www.geigenbau-jostes-eberl.com

Application and Admission

Application is intended for chamber music ensembles already existing and aiming for a professional career. **All invited ensembles become scholarship holders of Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland.** More information and applications online at

icmc.jmd.info



Apply before 30 April 2026

Please beware of the deadline, as the jury will make their choice shortly thereafter. Only fully completed forms will be considered. The following application material is mandatory:

- curriculum vitae of the ensemble (indicating previous competitions, prizes, major concerts, recording, etc.)
- individual CVs
- recent/new video recordings of the ensemble (YouTube link) min. 15 minutes
- **A contemporary work in your repertoire is highly appreciated.** The artistic director offers advices and suggestions (requested via chambermusic@jeunessesmusicales.de).
- Ensembles can apply to work on **selected larger ensemble works to be performed together with the professors.**

In order to **validate your application**, please transfer the **registration fee of 30 € per person** timely with your application. A jury will select the ensembles to be invited based on their artistic potential. All applicants will receive a response by about two weeks after the deadline. There will be a waiting list from which ensembles may move up. You will be requested to confirm your participation by transferring the **accommodation fee of 410 € per person** (full board). Please transfer for every ensemble member the registration fee (30 €) before 30. April and the accommodation fee (410 €) after being admitted to

Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland

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Don't forget to indicate "ICMC 2026", your ensemble's name and your personal name. The registration fee is mandatory for all applicants. Only in case of course-cancellation by JMD, previously paid participation fees will be fully refunded.

The Jeunesses Musicales International Chamber Music Campus is supported by



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Baden-Württemberg
Ministerium für Wissenschaft,
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Karl Klingler-Stiftung



The Jeunesses Musicales International Chamber Music Campus is part of the program of Jeunesses Musicales International and a project of Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland.

Jeunesses Musicales International is the world's largest network of youth and music. Founded in 1945 it reaches out to more than 50 countries all over the globe, connecting millions of young musicians. The association's mission is to endorse young people to develop through music across all boundaries. www.jmi.net

Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland is one of Germany's most renowned supporters of young musicians. A co-promotor of „Jugend musiziert“ nationwide music competitions, organiser of music courses since 1956, association of German youth orchestras, operator of Weikersheim Music Academy, since 2005 appointed World Meeting Center of Jeunesses Musicales International. www.jmd.info

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