

MERITA Platform

Where chamber Music, hERItage and TALent meet

CALL FOR APPLICATION | MERITA Platform 2023-2025

A Platform supporting the European circulation of the new generation of professional string quartets: opportunities of paid concerts and videos, development of outreach / special projects through online trainings and artistic residencies, networking with 17 international cultural institutions

BENEFITS FOR THE SELECTED STRING QUARTETS

- The opportunity to *showcase* both the quartet's profile and the outreach / special projects at international level through a dedicated platform;
- A *minimum of 3 paid opportunities* to perform the outreach / special project in Europe per participant quartet, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme and offered by the member concert societies and festivals, including travel and accommodation expenses;
- 1 "*test concert*" (first test of the outreach / special project in front of an audience) performed at the end of the artistic residency / on-site training;
- Video teaser of the outreach / special project developed by the quartet;
- Showcase of the quartet's work online, at international level, and especially with the 18 concert organizers participating in the Comitato AMUR, B & M Theocharakis Foundation, Beogradska Umetnička Nova Teritorija, Cadenza Arts Management Ltd., Kolarac - Zadužbina Ilije M. Kolarca, Lofoten Internasjonale Kammermusikfest, ProQuartet - Centre européen de musique de chambre, Qendra EVENT, and Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam;
- The possibility to be selected to perform *extra-EU concerts* taking place in the UK, in Switzerland, China and the USA;
- *Online training* in order to help them reach a broader audience and have increased business opportunities;
- Free access to the *5-day artistic residency* in an historic house located in Europe, with accommodation, meals, travels and video recording expenses covered, plus an *on-site mentoring tutor* to support the on-site training;

- Free participation in an online *training on environmental sustainability* in connection to their specific work (ISO 20121, Events Sustainability and Carbon Footprint);
- The enhancement of professional and personal international exchanges: musicians will have the possibility to *network* with other string quartets during the networking meeting in Amsterdam, with cultural professionals and music operators beyond their own networks and countries;
- The opportunities to *perform* in renowned cultural cities, concerts institutions and festivals abroad;
- The access to a European map of "*categories of professionals*" (e.g. luthiers, accountants, videomakers, recording rooms, etc.) necessary for a professional quartet, that can support the string quartets' career development through their work.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATION

Be one of the 38 string quartets of MERITA

Each selected quartet will get **free access to online training on one specific topic and to a 5-day training in presence (artistic residency)** in order to **develop an outreach / special project based on the topic.**

The outreach / special projects will be developed on the following topics (see Appendix 1 for further details):

- Music and other arts
- How to organize and perform a concert in unusual forms and spaces - breaking the spell around classical music
- Disabilities, interaction between professional musicians and fragile communities
- Beyond a concert experience – string quartets turning concert hall into (multimedia) theater
- Chamber music for young audience
- Music as Intercultural Dialogue
- Music, Space and Place

The list of topics has been developed according to the training organizations' expertise and the producing organizations' needs and desires.

Each quartet will be asked to express three topic preferences that it is interested to deepen, according to its attitudes; then each quartet will be asked to develop one topic, with a specific program and identity.

The project will then be showcased through videos and texts on the MERITA platform, and each quartet will obtain a **minimum of 3 opportunities of employment for circulating the**

project at international level. The selected quartet joins the MERITA platform activities **between March 2023 and August 2025.**

An Artistic Committee formed by Le Dimore del Quartetto (Italy), Comitato AMUR (Italy), B & M Theocharakis Foundation (Greece), Beogradska Umetnička Nova Teritorija (Belgrade Artistic New Territory - BUNT), Belgrade (Serbia), Cadenza Arts Management Ltd. (Hungary), Julian Cochran Foundation (Poland), Kolarac – Zadužbina Ilije M. Kolarca (Serbia), Lofoten Internasjonale Kammermusikkfest (Norway), ProQuartet – Centre européen de musique de chambre (France), Qendra EVENT (Albania), Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam (Netherlands), and University of Arts of Tirana (Albania) screens the applications and selects the 38 string quartets to take part in the project.

Training and capacity building activities

Once selected one specific topic, each string quartet will be asked to develop outreach / special projects to be proposed to concert societies and festivals.

The **training and capacity building** activities will be held to support the selected string quartets in developing these outreach / special projects:

- **On-line training (available between July 2023 and October 2023)** are useful online tools accessible to each selected string quartet on the MERITA digital platform. Each quartet will have to complete the training on demand, by referring to online materials that have been created by training member organizations specifically to help quartets to build up the outreach / special project.
- After finishing the on-line training, **on-line meetings** are organized between a trainer and each string quartet in order to decide how the outreach / special project will be refined during the following on-site training. Together, they will also define the on-site training structure and program.
- **On-site artistic residencies (5 days to be agreed in the period from September / October 2023 to April 2024)** are held in historic houses in Europe. The hosting houses are mostly part of the European Historic Houses network.
The artistic residency lasts 5 days: in this period, the musicians have the opportunity to refine the outreach / special project developed during the online training.
During each artistic residency, the trainer from the training member organization will be supporting on-site the musicians in the realization of the outreach / special project.
The residency ends with a *“test” concert*, a part of the training programme allowing musicians to put into practice their outreach / special projects. They therefore should not be understood as paid concerts.
Expenses for the accommodation are covered; an extra contribution to the daily allowance and travel of the quartet will be given by the training member organizations.

- Moreover, an extra online training on **ISO 20121, Events Sustainability and Carbon Footprint**, lasting 3-4 hours, is foreseen for all the selected quartets to increase their awareness on environmental sustainability in connection to their specific work.

Training and capacity building member organizations: B & M Theocharakis Foundation (Greece), experimentadesign – Associação para a Promoção do Design e Cultura de Projecto (Portugal), Julian Cochran Foundation (Poland), Kolarac – Zadužbina Ilije M. Kolarca (Serbia), ProQuartet - Centre européen de musique de chambre (France), Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam (Netherlands), University of Arts of Tirana (Albania).

Concerts production and organization

After the completion of online and on-site training, the presentations of the 38 innovative outreach / special projects developed by the string quartets are uploaded on the MERITA digital platform.

Each concert society, institution and festival member organization can choose its favorite outreach / special project proposal, and hires the string quartets for *performing at least 3 concerts* in its seasons, festivals or concert series, **between February 2024 and August 2025**.

Each string quartet will receive a cachet of €4.000 per concert, inclusive of all taxes and social costs. For each concert, an extra contribution to travel and daily allowance of the quartet will be given by the hiring member organizations.

Concert society, institution and festival member organizations: Comitato AMUR (Italy), B & M Theocharakis Foundation (Greece), Beogradska Umetnička Nova Teritorija (Serbia), Cadenza Arts Management Ltd. (Hungary), Europa Nostra (Netherlands), Kolarac – Zadužbina Ilije M. Kolarca (Serbia), Lofoten Internasjonale Kammermusikkfest (Norway), ProQuartet – Centre européen de musique de chambre (France), Qendra EVENT (Albania), Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Moreover, *4 concerts are planned in non-EU countries* (Usa, China, UK, Switzerland): the Platform members will select 4 string quartets that stood out during the project period in terms of performances, artistic vision and potential of growth.

Specifically, a score will be assigned to each string quartet, evaluating some specific aspects, such as: musical skills, empathy with the audience, interest toward the explored topics and their application, ability to develop meaningful outreach / special projects, organizational skills also in terms of environmental management.

The cachet for each of these extra-EU concerts is €4.000, inclusive of all taxes and social costs; an extra contribution to the daily allowance and travel of the quartet will be given by Le Dimore del Quartetto.

Lastly, the 38 selected string quartets will be involved in on-line networking activities through LinkedIn, to allow musicians and other target groups to meet, exchange and network with each other. String quartets will also get the opportunity to attend a **networking meeting in presence**,

organized specifically for them in Amsterdam **during the Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam in January 2024.**

All the activities will be held in English.

LOGISTIC INFORMATION

On-site training: accommodation for each string quartet will be provided within the Historic house, no accommodation expenses are required from the quartets. An extra contribution to the daily allowance and travel of the musicians will be given by the training member organizations.

Concerts: each string quartet will receive a cachet of €4.000 per concert, inclusive of all taxes and social costs. An extra contribution to the daily allowance and travel of the quartet will be given by the hiring concert societies and festivals member organizations.

ELIGIBILITY, APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROGRAMME RULES

Eligibility

- The MERITA Call for application is exclusively addressed to String Quartets whose members play permanently together.
- The Call is open to ensembles based in countries eligible for the Creative Europe programme: *Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine.*

N.B. individual musicians do not necessarily have to be of these nationalities, but they have to be permanently based in these countries.

- The string quartet undertakes to commit to the MERITA project for the entire duration of the project (3 years, until to the end of the project on August 31st, 2025).
- The average age of the quartet should be maximum 35 years old (at the time of the application).
- Participant quartets should plan to keep the same four members over years.
- Musicians of the string quartet have already demonstrated to have all the artistic and technical qualities, as well as the vision, that are necessary to develop an international career: this has been recognized by chamber music operators as well as by audiences, and can be proved through the quartet's CVs (including the concert societies for which the quartet has performed, the prizes received at national and international competitions, the educational path), audio-video recordings and letters of recommendation from senior chamber musicians.

Application process

A MERITA Q&A Zoom call for clarifying any doubts prior to the application is scheduled on Tuesday, November 15th, 11 am GMT+1 time, please find the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6399787125?pwd=TWV3SDJBVzRZb05wb1ptUFpxRXBKdz09>

Applications must be sent by email at info@meritaplatform.eu **no later than Thursday, December 15th 2022 at 11.59 pm** GMT+1 time, specifying in the **email subject** “APPLICATION FOR MERITA - NAME OF THE QUARTET”.

Applicants must submit the following materials:

1. Professional CV of the quartet, with description of studies and career, including links to website and social media (if any);
2. A brief video, in vertical format, answering these following questions (Max 2 minutes per question):
 - a. How would you define your quartet in three or four words?
 - b. Which of the above-mentioned topics are you more interested in and why? (Please choose 3 out of 7 topics and rank them in order of preferences)
 - c. Why should the MERITA Platform select you?
3. Links to performing videos (not older than two years);
4. Pictures that well represent the quartet, indicating when they have been taken
5. Identity document of each member in order to prove the dates of birth, nationalities and residential addresses;
6. Any additional attachment / information useful to evaluate the application;
7. (optional) 1 or more letters of endorsement to reinforce the quartet’s abilities and qualities, from relevant institutions, Maestros, and significant personalities in the music and cultural fields.

If you are sending large attachments, please use WeTransfer and incorporate the WeTransfer link in the application email.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be taken into consideration.

Program rules

Admission to the MERITA Platform will be decided by the Artistic Committee at its sole discretion; the results of the selection process will be communicated to all the applicants by Wednesday, February 1st, 2023. We will ask the selected quartets to confirm their participation within 7 days from the official communication of selection, so no later than Wednesday, February 8th. Please note that, once confirmed their participation, musicians cannot withdraw from the MERITA programme, unless it is for justified health reasons. In case of annulment of their commitment after having confirmed, the quartet will pay a penalty equal to € 1.200.

By submitting their applications, all the quartets’ members confirm to have carefully read this call for applications and the MERITA programme rules, and to accept all the conditions

specified therein. Once selected, all the selected quartets' members will be asked to sign a regulation form.

A MERITA Q&A Zoom call for clarifying any doubts post-selection is scheduled on Monday, February 6th, 11 am GMT+1 time, please find the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86750347755?pwd=dmE4OS96QVRHNEJ3eDBJRnRtT0Q5dz09>

For any doubts or questions, do not hesitate to contact us at info@meritaplatform.eu specifying the email subject "INQUIRIES FOR MERITA - NAME OF THE QUARTET".

OVERVIEW ON THE MERITA PROJECT

MERITA – where chamber Music, cultural hERitage and TAleNT meet is an online and offline platform aiming at **increasing the visibility and circulation of European string quartets while promoting European cultural heritage.**

MERITA develops in three areas - *training, production, research* - and it is founded upon the principles of *innovation, training and development, promotion and sustainability.*

The main goal will be achieved through 4 specific objectives:

1. To innovate the chamber music industry functioning, by matching the music institutions' requests with the quartets' attitudes, therefore creating new job opportunities for young musicians.
2. To enhance training and capacity building for young chamber music artists on how to expand, internationalize and consolidate their careers effectively.
3. To foster production and circulation of chamber music in Europe and beyond, through original outreach / special projects.
4. To promote a sustainable business model bringing together young chamber music artists, audiences and cultural heritage (European historic houses and sites), fostering best practices exchange and competitiveness for artists, audience engagement and development, environmental sustainability and awareness.

These specific objectives will be reached through the MERITA digital platform as well as through a rich panel of online and onsite activities, i.e. trainings, artistic residencies, transnational and international circulation of the young artists, studies and researches.

The project is co-financed by the European Union - European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and is represented by Le Dimore del Quartetto, based in Milan, Italy, as lead and coordinator of 16 organizations (Platform Members) from 12 European countries:

1. Comitato AMUR, Milan (Italy)
2. B & M Theocharakis Foundation, Athens (Greece)
3. Beogradska Umetnička Nova Teritorija (Belgrade Artistic New Territory - BUNT), Belgrade (Serbia)
4. Cadenza Arts Management Ltd., Budapest (Hungary)

5. EuAbout Lab ASBL – European Association for Research, Educational, Cultural and Social Innovation, Bruxelles (Belgium)
6. Europa Nostra, The Hague (Netherlands)
7. European Historic Houses, Bruxelles (Belgium)
8. experimentadesign – Associação para a Promoção do Design e Cultura de Projecto, Lisbon (Portugal)
9. Julian Cochran Foundation, Warsaw (Poland)
10. Kolarac – Zadužbina Ilije M. Kolarca, Belgrade (Serbia)
11. Lofoten Internasjonale Kammermusikkfest, Oslo (Norway)
12. ProQuartet – Centre européen de musique de chambre, Paris (France)
13. Qendra EVENT, Tirana (Albania)
14. Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam, Amsterdam (Netherlands)
15. Traces&Dreams, Stockholm (Sweden)
16. University of Arts of Tirana (Albania)

APPENDIX 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPICS

Music and other arts

The aim of the training is to learn how to combine music with other forms of art, painting, architecture, cinema, theater, poetry, and literature to innovate and address demanding audiences with a competitive edge. Music is being used to enhance very often other arts like cinema or theater or museum exhibitions, and so we should learn to use the combination the other way around. Different approaches can be used to combine music with other arts, classical and contemporary: by period relations, by thematic relations (nature, love etc.), by local relevance, by historic relevance, by totally innovative approaches.

How to organize and perform a concert in unusual forms and spaces - breaking the spell around classical music

Nowadays, recipients of culture and art require from artists more than standard forms of performing. First of all, classical music should be available not only in concert halls but in unconventional spaces. It should be promoted in unconventional ways, take various forms, and combine various arts to expand the audience open to this genre.

The training will focus on accessibility, openness and innovative approach to culture - it will help young musicians gain experience in creating new forms of expression and present it in unusual spaces.

Disabilities, interaction between professional musicians and fragile communities

One of the pillars of the training is inclusion, proving that music brings people together and creates bridges. The training goal is to develop innovative methods of outreach and communication and to attract new and diverse audiences, giving attention to people with disabilities. Throughout this training program, string quartets will cultivate the awareness of how the disabled community operates, the challenges and possibilities they encounter. String quartets will translate this new knowledge into a concert program, exploring the possibilities for disabled people to become fully active participants and have their own artistic voice.

Beyond a concert experience – string quartets turning concert hall into (multimedia) theater

The goal of the training is to give the string quartet members' tools to help them create their own program and idea of presenting the classical music repertoire in a different manner than standard (classical) music concerts. Putting the concerts in the form of a theater play, using a special scenography, lights, costumes, even a real theater direction and making the string quartet musicians the main (and only?) roles that "tell a story" can give a totally new experience for the audience. String quartets will work with theater directors, scenographers, playwrights, that will suggest possible ideas, solutions on implementing aspects of theater play into a concert performance.

Chamber music for young audience

The idea behind is to initiate as early as possible a spectator's journey that will last a lifetime. The aim of the training is to explore how a quality show for children can be developed focusing exclusively on music. In order to offer concerts adapted to the youngest, it is necessary to re-think the artistic proposals, to know the children and the mechanisms of learning, to arouse the attention and the curiosity, to support the exchange and the interactivity without giving up the musical and artistic perfection. The training will focus on children, young teenagers and families as target audiences.

Music as Intercultural Dialogue

The focus of the training is the string quartet as an ideal metaphor of democracy, intercultural dialogue and inclusion. The quartet is in fact an incredible human experiment: it is a conversation among four minds, four voices and four hearts, in which every artistic decision is the result of a long and often complicated mediation. String quartets can become original and ideal storytellers to introduce values of cultural and social European heritage and pursue the promotion of a cross-cultural dialogue, the enhancement of a shared European sentiment and the development of democratic citizenship skills. The repertoire itself reflects cultural diversity as an essential condition of human society. String quartets are the living labs for the artistic research in the music heritage, and can and must experiment enlarging their concert repertoires with music coming from countries and cultures which represents the richness of human creativity.

Music, Space and Place

The training will explore the relationship between classical music and the space where the performances happen and its relationship with the community. It will focus on the impact that space – either human or nature based – may have in classical music performances, thinking about what transforms a space into a place, integrating music, nature, territory and community engagement. The quartets will be challenged to address space and its contextual framing as a creative and communication tool; to use architecture and design to develop a new research and artistic approach in relation to unexpected locations and new audiences.

APPENDIX 2 - DESCRIPTION OF MERITA ORGANIZATIONS



Le Dimore del Quartetto is a creative cultural enterprise that, from 2015, supports international young string quartets and chamber music ensembles at the beginning of their career and enhances the European cultural heritage, in a circular economy.

With a consolidated network of houses, ensembles and partners in the fields of music and of the cultural heritage, it is specialized in planning and in the management of festivals and travel itineraries, masterclasses and training programs for musicians, educational projects for primary and secondary schools and universities, team-building activities for companies, and residencies and concerts in historic houses and other places of cultural interest.

www.ledimoredelquartetto.eu



The **Comitato AMUR** was born to bring together the most important Italian chamber music institutions into a single, operative network promoting common projects. The 18 entities from North to South have on average 100 years of history: Società Filarmonica Trento, founded in 1795, Società del Quartetto di Milano, Associazione Alessandro

Scarlatti Napoli and Fondazione Perugia Musica Classica ONLUS - organizing Sagra Musicale Umbra, one of the oldest music festivals in Italy - are just some of them. As a spread-out concert societies network, AMUR has been promoting the circulation of projects and the involvement of different actors for the economic, cultural and social enhancement of a territory. Pioneering this experience through the Festival Musica con Vista, each member will contribute to build a chamber music, European ecosystem in which the resources of every participant are mobilized in order to benefit the others through the engagement of the best emerging string ensembles.

www.comitatoamur.it



The **B & M Theocharakis Foundation** is a non-profit, public benefit foundation for the Fine Arts and Music, situated opposite the Hellenic Parliament and right in the cultural and commercial heart of Athens. The Foundation focuses on the emergence of the Modern and its continued development over the 20th and the 21st century;

it aims to promote the work of Greek artists abroad, to educate audiences, develop networks of collaboration and exchange, and help advance the role of culture in society. To achieve its goals, the Foundation organizes periodical fine art exhibitions, concerts of chamber music (mainly string quartets and piano circles), lectures, poetry events, and educational programs. Amongst its international collaborations, the Foundation lists "The Accademia della Scala di

Milano”, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Picasso Museum Muenster, the Beijing Academy of Fine Arts, the Center Georges Pompidou and other prominent cultural institutions. It has also worked with artists such as Pretty Yende, Stephen Kovacevic, to name but a few.

www.thf.gr



Beogradska Umetnička Nova Teritorija (Belgrade Artistic New Territory - BUNT) is the only independent, non-profit, initiative, established in 2014, with the aim of enhancing classical music culture, performance and education in Serbia. So far, BUNT has organized 10 festivals which encompassed more than 120 concerts with the participation of more than 1000 artists from Serbia and abroad (among app. 100 musicians from abroad were Pierre Laurent Aimard, Edin Karamazov, Quartet Molinari, Gordan Nikolic, Tamara Stefanovic); hosted dozens of expert and general debates related to classical music; published 2 books on BUNT festivals and launched 8 books related to classical music; recorded and published 4 CDs of live concerts held within BUNT festivals and additionally launched 10 other CDs; produced a number of videos and provided emerging talents with 6 master classes. BUNT is also a socially responsible initiative and believes in engaged art. Therefore, it is particularly proud of organizing a humanitarian event – opera for refugees in 2016, and for enabling children and young people suffering from autism to hold concerts, i.e. perform solo and in choir with prominent Serbian artists during each BUNT festival.

www.bunt.rs/bt/

CADENZA Cadenza Arts Management Ltd. was founded in 2011, with the purpose of managing concerts and providing management services for different artists and groups. Currently CAM represents soloists and ensembles in Hungary and abroad as well. In addition to this, the agency is the organizer of the New Millennium International Chamber Music Festival and Academy, and the artistic advisor of the Balaton Summer Music Festival. The agency’s projects with violinist Miranda Liu have been awarded by the Visegrad Fund in 2021, and by Erasmus+ in 2022.

In Merita CAM will participate in the meetings and in the management and communication of the project in Hungary. CAM will present string quartets in Hungary at 9 special concerts.

www.cadenza.hu



EuAbout Lab ASBL – European Association for Research, Educational, Cultural and Social Innovation is a non-profit association under Belgian law based in Brussels, at the center of the European Institutions, but with its roots in the heart of Italian cultural heritage.

EuAbout Lab aims to promote, support, represent the Italian cultural organizations and cultural and creative industries in the European Union. The association was born from the awareness that the Italian cultural heritage, in its uniqueness and relevance, is an “unicum”, and, at the same time, it is a pillar of European identity.

However, this relevance is still unexpressed in the context of the European Union with regards financial access, transnational and international projects, exchanges and networking. The main scope of EuAbout Lab is to be a response to this gap, becoming a concrete and real reference point for all Italian cultural and creative organizations in Europe. The staff is expert in project management, financial management, monitoring and evaluation of European cultural projects.



Europa Nostra is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. Europa Nostra maintains close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe’s endangered heritage, in particular through the 7 Most Endangered Programme. It celebrates excellence through the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Award, and contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage. We are an official partner of the New European Bauhaus initiative and act as the Regional Co-Chair of the Climate Heritage Network for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

www.europanostra.org



European Historic Houses (EHH) is a non-profit association standing for the private owners of historic buildings, their gardens and parks. EHH represents 26 national associations of privately-owned historic houses around Europe. The

association defends the preservation, conservation and transmission of private-owned heritage houses and represents 50.000 of them throughout Europe. EHH is advocating at the European level and actively participating in different cultural heritage and tourism groups. Its main objective is to act as the voice of privately-owned heritage houses towards the European institutions and provide tools for its members to network and share the best practices to develop most sustainably. Moreover, EHH focuses on valorising cultural interests and practices by engaging emerging artists and connecting them to cultural territories.

www.europeanhistorichouses.eu

(experimentadesign)

experimentadesign is a Portugal-based and internationally recognized knowledge production unit acting as an active communication platform for design, architecture and project culture. **experimentadesign**'s field of action is contemporary cultural production, practiced from an inclusive, multidisciplinary and transversal perspective. **experimentadesign**'s activity combines critical thinking, concept development and contemporary creativity, resulting in a consistent and incisive intervention in the social, cultural and economic contexts it engages. Also known for its flagship project—the EXD Biennale —**experimentadesign** has built an important network of national and international renowned creative practitioners as well as an indisputable know-how in strategic design. With a truly international scope and vision, since its inception, **experimentadesign** has worked with over 50 countries, encompassing a total of 53 projects apart from the EXD Biennale.

www.experimentadesign.pt/

JULIAN COCHRAN Foundation

The **Julian Cochran Foundation** is an NGO that has been continuously developing new audiences open to classical music since December 2017. The weekly concerts at the Hala Koszyki in Warsaw, which the foundation has held for over 5 years, break stereotypes and prove that "classics" can accompany anyone, anytime, anywhere. The foundation supports, promotes, and helps young artists, holds events for children and adults and the world's first online piano competition (created in 2014). The educational aspect is of key significance in the foundation's everyday work, activities and ideas. It is with this particular aim in mind that many projects have been developed. Each of the foundation's activities broadens the audience's knowledge of classical music.

www.juliancochranfoundation.com



The mission of the **Kolarac Endowment (Kolarac – Zadužbina Ilije M. Kolarca)** is the presenting and promotion of culture, science and art, development of additional edifying concepts, lifelong learning, and new incentives related to the culture and educational values of the institutions. The vision of the Kolarac is that, as a modern, well-equipped institution with a concert hall of relevance for the city of Belgrade and the Republic of Serbia, it gives a great contribution to promotion and development of musical art, culture and education.

The music center promotes artistic music and music culture in Belgrade for a wide audience, opening its doors to both young and older music lovers and buffs. The concert hall holds more than 250 concerts a year, a third of them organized by the Music Center. The Music center also organizes programmes for children aged between 4 and 10 within the programme How to Listen to concerts, thus cultivating an upcoming concert audience. During the season, we

organize a cycle of 40 concerts called “Kolarac's podium of chamber music - Belgrade Promenade.” (Every Sunday at 11 am) These concerts are a concert tradition of our institution and have been organized since 1934. The cycle of concerts “Greats of the music scene” and “Kolarac your world of music” organized by us Music Center is 5 concerts in a season in which we present the most important greats of the world music scene. With these cycles, we rank among the most representative concert spaces in Europe.

www.kolarac.rs



Lofoten Internasjonale Kammermusikkfest

Lofoten Internasjonale Kammermusikkfest (Lofoten International Chamber Music Festival) saw its light in 2004 as Norway's northernmost chamber music

festival. The festival has established itself as an institution in northern Norway with its annual events. With its high artistic level, the festival has also made a name for itself internationally.

With the initiators Knut Kirkesæther and Arvid Engegård at the helm, the Lofoten International Chamber Music Festival was held for the first time in 2004. In 2005, the festival was organized as a foundation with Knut Kirkesæther, Arvid Engegård and Vågan Municipality as founders. The festival is still run with Knut Kirkesæther as general manager and Arvid Engegård as artistic director. In 2019, the festival celebrated its first 15 years. Her Majesty Queen Sonja was in charge of the official opening of the anniversary. The Queen has previously visited the festival several times.

www.lofotenfestival.com/en/



Centre européen
de musique de chambre
Paris

For more than 35 years, **ProQuartet - Centre Européen de Musique de Chambre** has contributed to the development of string quartet, to the support of the chamber music community as a whole and to the expansion of its audiences. ProQuartet is a

cultural structure specialized in chamber music and particularly in the occupational integration of young artists. As an incubator, ProQuartet offers string quartet support and development opportunities.

www.proquartet.fr



Qendra “EVENT” is a non for profit organization funded in July 2016 which mission is to organize events of national, regional and international profile in favor of education, culture, sport, cultural tourism, environment protection, agro-tourism, public relation, community development and social support of the groups in needs: Organize the realization, documentation and promotion in digital formats through the use of the information and communication

technologies of the audio-visual productions in favor of education, culture, sport, cultural tourism, environment protection, agro-tourism, public relation, community development and

social support of the groups in needs: Offer the service of technical assistance, consultancy and professional expertise for the public institutions in central or local level and for their agencies.

www.facebook.com/qendra.event

Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam

Stichting Strijkkwartet Biënnale Amsterdam (String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam, SQBA) was launched in January 2018 as the world's biggest string quartet festival. Every two years SQBA brings together string quartets, composers and artists from around the globe. Their rich and diverse backgrounds help mould this dynamic

and innovative festival consisting of eight days in the Muziekgebouw, packed with over sixty concerts, talks, masterclasses and a lively fringe programme featuring 30 string quartets, soloists, composers and speakers.

Through the centuries stunningly beautiful music has been written for string quartet; no other musical genre can boast such an extensive and solid repertoire. SQBA aims to showcase the string quartet as a contemporary and relevant art form; to create opportunities for cutting edge encounters in a vibrant festival atmosphere.

www.sqba.nl

TRACES® DREAMS

Traces&Dreams AB is a Swedish company specializing in narration, storytelling, content, and visual communication and distribution. Stories are how we have always learned, forged an

identity, made sense of the world, and understood our place within it. Traces&Dreams was born in 2015 with the aim of using the power of storytelling to bring cultural, scientific, and humanistic knowledge out of the closed spaces of academia and to educate and empower people and communities in order to foster a more equal and sustainable future.

www.tracesdreams.com



The **University of Arts of Tirana** is a Public Higher Education Institution with an artistic, academic and scientific profile. Its mission is to offer high professional education and creative activities in the field of arts and culture; to progressively enhance the level of high specialists of arts and culture with professional and scientific expertise; to facilitate the realization of research

and scientific studies focusing processes of the development and progress of arts and culture. The University of Arts of Tirana is considered as one of cultural and creative sectors' whose activities are based on cultural values and/or artistic expressions; its activities include the development, the creation, the production, the dissemination and the preservation of goods and services which embody cultural, artistic or other creative expressions, as well as related functions such as education. Apart from the teaching process, the live artistic performances, art exhibitions and career development are concentrated in the UART premises, welcoming

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and involving students in musical productions, in theater and choreography performances, visual arts exhibitions and film screenings every semester.

www.uart.edu.al