

## **STEGREIF - THE IMPROVISING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA // PROJECTS SEASON 2025-26**

STEGREIF - The Improvising Symphony Orchestra is an international group of 30 young, versatile musicians of various musical origins. What makes the ensemble unique is the way they create new paths for both, themselves and the audience, to approach classical music. Expanded by folklore, jazz, klezmer, blues and rock, STEGREIF creates innovative, musically and visually powerful reinterpretations of well-known repertoire. STEGREIF explores new worlds of sound and is constantly trying to bend the boundaries between musical genres.

The ensemble always performs without sheet music, without a conductor and without chairs. The resulting freedom creates space for improvisation and movement. The concert hall, the auditorium, the ranks, everything becomes a stage, giving the audience a unique concert experience.

New production autumn 2025 and upon request

### **#EXPLORE\_VALSE**

**artistic director: Juri de Marco, Lorenz Blaumer**

Whirl, mass, intoxication, pleasure, lockstep - waltz. Johann Strauss stands like no other for the Viennese waltz - and the image of society that goes with it: an intoxicating whirling and spinning in step with a refined society from which it is almost impossible to get out. Maurice Ravel shared this perception of the waltz when he composed his choreographic poem "La valse" in 1928 as a tribute to Johann Strauss: "I thought of this work as a kind of apotheosis of the Viennese waltz, into which the idea of a fantastic whirl from which no one can escape was mixed in my mind.

With recompositions of waltzes by Johann Strauss (including from "Die Fledermaus" and "Künstlerleben") and Maurice Ravel's "La valse"

**cast: 30 instrumentalists**  
**duration: 75 min**

New production spring 2026 and upon request

### **#BE:ONE**

A DANCE-THEATRICAL LISTENING EXPERIENCE BASED ON WORKS BY DEBUSSY, RAVEL AND CONTEMPORARIES

**artistic director: Juri de Marco, Lorenz Blaumer // choreography, scenography: Juan Kruz Dias de Garaio Esanola**

To mark the ensemble's 10th anniversary in 2025, the project #be:one will focus on "unity in diversity" and add a new parameter: the collaboration with dancers on stage. For the first time, Stegreif will recompose works of ballet music, i.e. expand them with cross-genre arrangements and improvisations. In cooperation with the dancer and choreographer Juan Kruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola, one of the most prominent artists for choreographic work with musicians, a new production will be developed that merges music and dance, musicians and dancers into a single entity and blurs the boundaries between concert and performance.

**cast: 26 instrumentalists**  
**duration: 75 min**

Availability upon request

### **#FREESOLO**

Redefinition of the solo concerto - based on works by Bach, Mozart, Dvorak and Bartok  
**artistic direction: Juri de Marco and Lorenz Blaumer // composer in residence: Noam Sivan**

How can leadership be lived today - musically as well as socially, in order to find a good balance between pretending and listening in the tension between autocracy and democracy? To explore this question, the orchestra refers to an entire genre - the solo concerto - and develops a contemporary, collaborative form. Concerto comes from the Latin word "concertare," which means competition. At the same time interaction is always essential for an orchestral work. Therefore, this genre can be used to demonstrate the relationship between competition and collaboration, between person-centered and communal structures. The program #Freesolo tells in four movements the evolution of social and political structures.

**cast: 26 instrumentalists**  
**duration: 70 min**

Availability upon request

### **#FREEBRAHMS**

A RECOMPOSITION OF JOHANNES BRAHMS 3RD SYMPHONY

**artistic director: Juri de Marco // recomposition: Alistair Duncan // arrangement: Wolf Kerschek // musical director: Sebastian Caspar // direction & choreography: Ela Baumann und Viola Schmitzer**

The starting point for the recomposition of Brahms' 3rd Symphony is one's own voice - metaphorically and literally, because #freebrahms begins and ends with singing. In four 15-minute movements, with sounds ranging from rock and Balkan music, meditative pads and ballads to salsa rhythms, the symphony is unleashed with the addition of electric guitar, drum set and saxophone.

**cast: 26 instrumentalists**  
**duration: 75 min**

Availability upon request

### **##FREEMAHLER - WHAT EARTH TELLS US**

1 EARTH - 11 MUSICIANS - 111 MELODIES

**artistic director: Lorenz Blaumer // recomposition: Franziska Aller, Claas Krause, Evelyn Saylor, Malte Schiller,**

In the course of music history many composers have dedicated attention to the relationship between human and nature. One of them was Gustav Mahler, whose deeply romantic view on nature as a place of beauty, peace and shelter in the face of the Fin-de-siècle's eventful period is echoed in his symphonies. In this programme, Mahler's view is musically reflected by our time and the reality of an environment existentially endangered by human exploitation and climate change. The recomposition combines melodies from Mahler's symphonies nos. 1 and 3 and the Song of the Earth under the aspect of coexistence but also of invasion and destruction.

**cast: 11 instrumentalists**  
**duration: 15-60 min**

Availability upon request

### **#EXPLORE\_HÄNDEL**

A JAZZ-BAROQUE-FUSION BASED ON G. F. HÄNDEL'S WORKS

**artistic director: Lorenz Blaumer // recomposition, arrangement & musical direction: Alistair Duncan**

#EXPLORE\_HÄNDEL combines Improvisation elements from jazz and baroque to provide a modern, musical view of Händel's works - from the traditional Concerto Grosso in G minor (Op. 6 No. 6, HWV 324: III), to the famous Rinaldo aria Lascia ch'io pianga (HWV 7), to Händel's oratorio Israel in Egypt (HWV 54). Under the musical direction of Alistair Duncan, a concert program consisting of recompositions of well-known arias from Händel's opus for 11 instrumentalists with different approaches to baroque music and the art of improvisation will be created.

**cast: 11 instrumentalists  
duration: 70 min**

Availability upon request

### **#IMPROPHONIE**

A SYMPHONY OF THE MOMENT

**artistic director: Juri de Marco, Lorenz Blaumer // recomposition, musical director: Lea Hladka // direction & choreography: Anja Kreher**

How can music be created in the moment and in contact with the audience? Where do improvisation and composition meet? Can even an entire symphony be improvised?

Groove - movement - eye contact. The aim of #improphonie is to capture the magic of collective, free improvisation in its spontaneity and to give it a space as an independent work. The individual strengths of the musicians become the driving energy and communication.

Like a classical symphony, #improphonie consists of 4 movements in which different musical elements are introduced and worked on. The first three movements deal with the aspects of melody, harmony and rhythm. These are examined from different angles, collectively and individually by the orchestra. While the first movement plays with the contrast between individual melody voices and full orchestral sound, the second movement focuses on melody and solo as well as harmony and sound surface. In the third movement, the orchestra comes together through rhythms, energy and movement. The concluding fourth movement does not follow a fixed form, so that it can be completely reshaped at the concert. Unlike in a classical symphony, there are no pauses between the movements, but sung choruses that atmospherically shape the transitions.

**cast: 15 - 24 instrumentalists  
duration: 70 min**

### **contact**

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