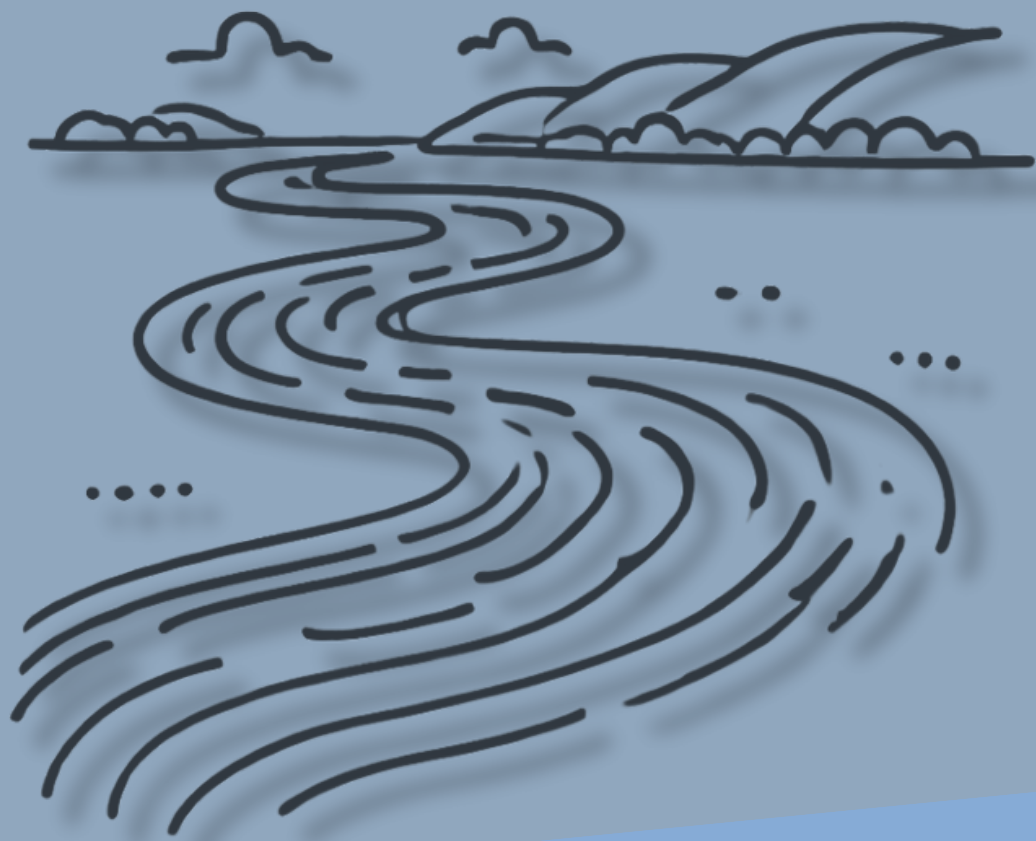


Rhine River Music Festival



July 7-16, 2025

Peter Cornelius Conservatory

Mainz, Germany

This electronic packet is frequently being updated. Please check the website to download the most recently updated packet.

Last updated: December 8, 2024

www.ammonperry pianist.com/rhinerivermusicfestival

the festival

Join us along the Rhine River in the picturesque city of Mainz, Germany, for an unforgettable 10-day musical experience! Study with an international and award-winning faculty, collaborate with exceptional musicians, and perform solo and in chamber ensembles in historical concert venues. Immerse yourself in a rich musical environment that will inspire and elevate your artistry, while creating lifelong memories and friendships. We eagerly await the opportunity to welcome you to this beautiful corner of the world.

- Burghard Tölke & Ammon Perry Bratt, directors



Mainz & the Rhine River

Instruments: Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello

Recommended age: 15 - 25

the location

Mainz, Germany, is a historic and culturally rich city situated on the scenic banks of the Rhine River. Known for its charming blend of medieval architecture, vibrant arts scene, and warm hospitality, Mainz is the perfect backdrop for musical inspiration. The city boasts stunning landmarks such as its iconic red sandstone cathedral, quaint old town squares, and picturesque half-timbered houses. As the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press, Mainz holds a timeless dedication to art, culture, and innovation. Whether strolling through its bustling markets or exploring its riverside promenades, visitors will find a city brimming with history, creativity, and beauty—a truly inspiring setting for a transformative musical experience.



Mainz Old Town



Peter Cornelius Conservatory (PCK)



Aerial view of Mainz

Our festival home, **Peter Cornelius Conservatory (PCK)** in Mainz, is a prestigious music institution with a rich history of fostering artistic excellence. Located in the heart of Mainz, the conservatory offers a charming blend of historic architecture and modern facilities, providing an inspiring environment for musical study and performance. Its state-of-the-art practice rooms, recital hall, and elegant performance spaces are perfect for solo and chamber music concerts. With its deep commitment to nurturing talent, the conservatory serves as an ideal setting for musicians to hone their craft and experience the joy of making music in a truly inspiring atmosphere.

the program

Participants will prepare multiple solo and chamber works, working closely with fellow musicians, including international students and local conservatory residents. Each student will receive at least four private lessons and four chamber/ensemble music coachings from our faculty, fostering both individual artistry and ensemble skills.

Daily seminars led by distinguished international faculty will explore topics such as advanced performance techniques, audition preparation, and how to integrate music into future careers and personal aspirations. Every student will also have the opportunity to perform in a master class.



Evenings will come alive with captivating concerts by both students and faculty, providing ample performance opportunities and fostering a dynamic exchange of musical ideas. Concerts will take place in the PCK auditorium, but we will also bring our music to the surrounding community with traveling performances in Mainz and nearby Frankfurt. The highlight of the festival will be our final day—a journey to Beethoven's birthplace in Bonn, where we will immerse ourselves in its rich history and culture, culminating in a memorable closing concert at the iconic Beethoven-Haus!

the schedule



Frankfurt



Beethoven Monument in Bonn

Festival Schedule Overview

Subject to change

July 7, 2025 - Monday

Official Festival Start

11 AM-1 PM - Welcome and Orientation

1 PM - Break

2-5 PM - Solo Practice & Chamber Rehearsals

5 PM - Break

6 PM - Opening Recital featuring Faculty & Students

July 8 - Tuesday

Standard Work & Concert Day:

9 AM - Solo Practice

10 AM - Seminar (masterclasses, lectures, workshops)

11 AM - Practice, Chamber Rehearsals, and Private Lessons

12 PM - Break

1-4 PM - Practice, Chamber Rehearsals, and Lessons

4 PM - Seminar

5 PM - Break

6 PM - Evening Recital

July 9 - Wednesday

Standard Work & Concert Day

July 10 - Thursday

Personal Day in Mainz

Enjoy a day of personal practice at PCK and explore the cultural gems of Mainz. Groups will be organized to visit historical sites and landmarks.

6 PM - Traveling concert at a special venue in Mainz

July 11 - Friday

Standard Work & Concert Day

10 AM - Seminar will be the *Concerto Competition*

July 12 - Saturday

Standard Work & Concert Day

July 13 - Sunday

Cultural Day in Frankfurt

Take a day to explore Frankfurt's cultural and historic highlights. Groups will visit iconic sites and museums.

6 PM - Traveling concert in a notable Frankfurt venue

July 14 - Monday

Standard Work & Concert Day

July 15 - Tuesday

Standard Work & Concert Day

July 16 - Wednesday

Cultural Day in Bonn

A day dedicated to exploring Bonn, concluding with a Final Concert at the historic Beethoven-Haus, featuring ensemble performances to celebrate the festival's conclusion.

We recommend arriving in Mainz by Sunday, July 6, to acclimate to the time zone, settle into your accommodations, and take some time to relax and explore the beautiful surroundings before the festival officially begins. You may depart on Thursday, July 17, or you may choose to take time to stay in Germany and explore more of the wonderful cultural and scenic sites throughout the country.

the faculty

Our faculty features distinguished musicians from the United States, Europe, and Asia. Each bring a wealth of experience and world-class expertise. They are not only celebrated performers but also highly regarded for their exceptional teaching, making them uniquely qualified to inspire and guide our participants. *Click on their names or photos for their individual websites.*

Burghard Tölke, violin & viola; Festival Co-director

Burghard Tölke, a violinist, violist, and conductor from Hanover, began his musical journey at age 8. He studied in Weimar, Detmold, New York, and Vienna, earning two master's degrees. Influential mentors included Norbert Brainin of the Amadeus Quartet, Thomas Christian, and Florian Zwiauer. Tölke won first prizes in competitions like "Jugend Musiziert" and "Gradus ad Parnassum" and studied with renowned figures such as Zakhar Bron and Isaac Stern. A sought-after guest concertmaster and soloist, he directed the Staatsbad Philharmonie Kissingen. Since January 2022, he has been a professor at the Peter Cornelius Conservatory in Mainz.



Ammon Perry Bratt, piano; Festival Co-director

Ammon Perry Bratt has performed at Carnegie Hall many other prestigious venues throughout the world. He has won prizes in competitions such as the International PianoTeams Competition and the Jacobs School of Music Concerto Competition. Ammon earned his Bachelor's from the University of Michigan and his Master's from Indiana University, studying with renowned pianists David Glen Hatch, Arthur Greene, and André Watts. A Nationally Certified Teacher, he has taught at festivals in France and Austria. Currently, he serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Central Florida, an organist at Community Presbyterian Church in Celebration, Florida, and has a thriving private studio in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. David Glen Hatch, piano; Piano Division Chair

Dr. David Glen Hatch is an internationally acclaimed pianist and master teacher, and has performed as a soloist and guest artist with symphony orchestras on six continents. He has graced prestigious venues, from Carnegie Hall to the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn. With multiple Grammy nominations, including for his recordings with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Hatch's discography spans over 30 CDs on labels like Sony/BMG. A sought-after clinician, he has presented masterclasses worldwide, including at the World Piano Conference and Shanghai Conservatory. His students have won competitions and studied at top music schools such as Juilliard and Manhattan School of Music. Dr. Hatch resides in Orem, Utah.



Dr. Sun-A Park, piano & chamber music

Dr. Sun-A Park, a Korean-American pianist, won First Prize at the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition and the Olga & Serge Koussevitzky Awards, along with prizes at the Sendai and Busoni International Competitions. She has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as the Yale Philharmonia, Sendai Symphony, and Houston Symphony. Dr. Park earned her DMA from the Peabody Institute, and holds degrees from Yale University, The Juilliard School, and Hannover Musikhochschule. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Central Florida.

the faculty

Yvonne Lau, piano and chamber music

Yvonne, a Sydney native, began playing piano at age three and has won numerous competitions, performing at venues like the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Olympic Games, and Carnegie Hall. She earned her Associate and Licentiate of Music, Australia, and Licentiate of Trinity College, London, by age 15, before completing a Master's degree at the Eastman School of Music under Barry Snyder. Yvonne teaches in New York City, with positions at Third Street Music School since 2011, Kaufman Music Center's Special Music School, and as a substitute teacher at the Juilliard School and accompanist at the Manhattan School of Music.



Dr. Brian Bak, violin, viola & cello

Dr. Brian Bak, a Korean-American violinist, enjoys a dynamic career as a performer and educator. He earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at The Juilliard School, an Artist Diploma from Yale University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Stony Brook University. Bak has appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Tampa Bay Symphony and Stony Brook Symphony. An avid chamber musician, he has collaborated with the Emerson String Quartet and performed at festivals worldwide. A dedicated teacher, his students have won top prizes and gained admission to prestigious programs. Bak plays a 2015 Samuel Zygmuntowicz violin.

More Coming Soon!

the tuition

Our tuition package is thoughtfully crafted to deliver the highest quality music education at an exceptional value. Unlike many festivals that offer a limited number of lessons and interactions with peers and faculty, our program ensures daily, immersive experiences filled with diverse learning opportunities and collaborative music-making – all included in a comprehensive package.



Tuition: \$1190 (USD)

The tuition package includes:

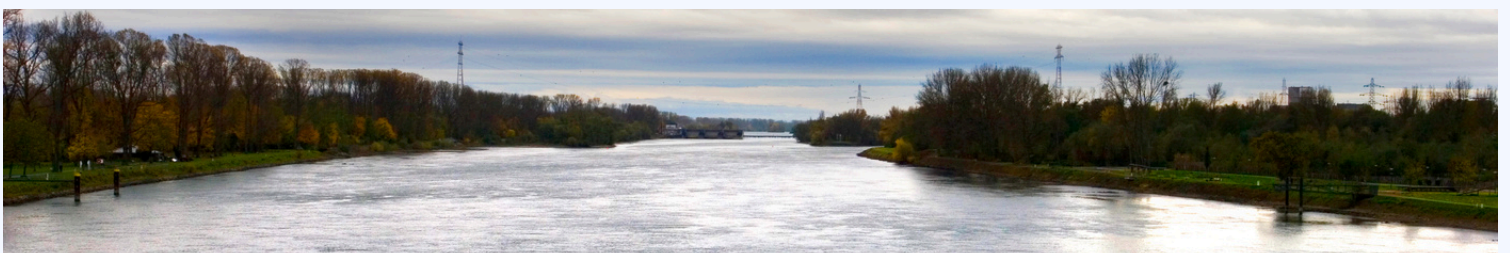
- Full participation in all 10 days of the festival
- Minimum of 4 private lessons with a variety of distinguished teachers
- Minimum of 4 chamber/ensemble music coaching sessions with faculty
- Performance opportunities in master class settings
- 10 seminar sessions with faculty and guest artists
- Multiple performance opportunities, including at PCK, a traveling concert in Mainz or Frankfurt, and a performance at Beethoven-Haus in Bonn
- Access to practice rooms from 8 AM to 8 PM
- Group tour of Beethoven-Haus in Bonn

Due Date:

To secure your spot in the festival, a non-refundable deposit of \$200 is required by March 1, 2025. The remaining balance is due by May 1, 2025. Please note that a late fee of \$10 per week will apply to any payments received after this deadline. Payment instructions will be on the application form and will also be emailed to you.

Scholarships:

Students aged 18 and older are eligible to apply for work-based scholarships, which provide partial tuition discounts. These recipients will support the festival by taking on various responsibilities, including supervising younger participants, recording concerts, producing social and print media, and assisting with other festival operations as needed.



The Rhine River

the lodging & dining

To provide participants with greater flexibility and to keep tuition costs low, attendees are responsible for arranging their own lodging and meals. We are most fortunate to have numerous budget-friendly hotels and dining options within a short walking distance of PCK. We're happy to offer recommendations and assist in connecting you with other participants for shared accommodations to help reduce expenses. Students under 18 will need to be assigned to a group with an adult supervisor (a teacher or counselor) in the same hotel.

For lodging, plan to budget between \$30-\$90 per day, depending on your room preferences and whether you wish to share with a roommate. For meals, anticipate at least \$30 per day if dining out. You can also save by shopping at local supermarkets and preparing your own packed meals. Regardless of your choices, you're sure to enjoy the delightful local cuisine!

Younger students will be escorted by supervisors whenever leaving the conservatory. Older students are encouraged to travel in groups.

Recommended Lodging:

IntercityHotel Mainz - [Website](#)

Located directly across from PCK, this hotel offers reasonable rates and a prime location for the festival.

me and all hotel mainz - [Website](#)

Also located directly across from PCK, this hotel costs more, but comes with a pool and a more modern design if you're wanting slightly more luxury.

Holiday Inn - the niu, Mood Mainz - [Website](#)

About a 15-minute walk from PCK, this hotel often offers great values.

Rhein-Main-Jugendherberge Mainz - [Website](#)

This youth hostel boasts very cheap prices, though it will be about a 20 minute bus ride (or 50 minute walk) to the conservatory. But if you're okay with that, this location has a scenic view of the Rhine River.

These are just a few of the dozens of nearby options. Hotels offer deals all the time, so check back frequently.



Dining:

Within a 5-10 minute walk of the conservatory, you'll find a wide range of dining options. Whether you're craving traditional German cuisine, quick bites like McDonald's, or diverse Asian flavors and fine dining, there's something to suit every taste – even for the pickiest eaters. Additionally, we'll guide students to nearby supermarkets where they can purchase groceries to prepare their own meals if they prefer.

the concerto competition

One of the festival's standout events will be the Rhine River Concerto Competition, held on July 11. Students are invited to participate by selecting a movement from the repertoire lists provided below.

For the competition, piano accompanists will perform the orchestral reductions. Participants will also receive professional feedback from a distinguished panel of judges.

The winners will have the honor of performing their concertos with a small ensemble.

Concerto Competition entry fee: \$50 (USD)

Accompanist fee: \$50 (unless providing your own accompanist). Includes one rehearsal.



Repertoire Choices

You may choose one movement from any concerto by Vivaldi, Telemann, Bach (J.S. and his sons), Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, or Mendelssohn. Other 17th, 18th, and early 19th century composers' concerti may be eligible as well, but must be approved by the directors.



the details

Application

To be admitted into the festival, students need to submit a performance video of at least three minutes, a paragraph explaining why they want to attend the festival, a short biography, and a repertoire list of music they have learned in the last two or more years. The application will be live starting in early January.



Theodor Heus Bridge in Mainz



Mainz Cathedral

Travel

Attendees are advised to fly into Frankfurt Airport (FRA), which offers convenient access to Mainz. From the airport, it's a quick and easy 30-minute train ride to Mainz, followed by a brief three-minute walk to the conservatory. For a smooth journey, we highly recommend traveling as part of a group with fellow students, parents, or your teacher. Additionally, festival administration will be present at the airport to assist you with the transfer to Mainz. To ensure you fully enjoy the festival experience, please plan to arrive by July 6 and schedule your departure from Germany for no earlier than July 17.

Music

Students should prepare:

- 2-4 solo works (string players will be paired with student or staff pianists for accompaniment)
- 2-4 chamber or ensemble pieces, such as string quartets, string/piano duos, piano/string trios, and piano duos/quartets (these assignments will be finalized with input from your teacher once we receive your deposit)
- One concerto movement, if planning to participate in the concerto competition

Music should be prepared before the start of the festival.

the details

Instruments

Pianists:

Almost every room in PCK has a piano, so you will have dozens of instruments to choose from during your practice time. Additionally, the concert hall has two beautiful concert grands, including a Steinway Model D, for your performances.

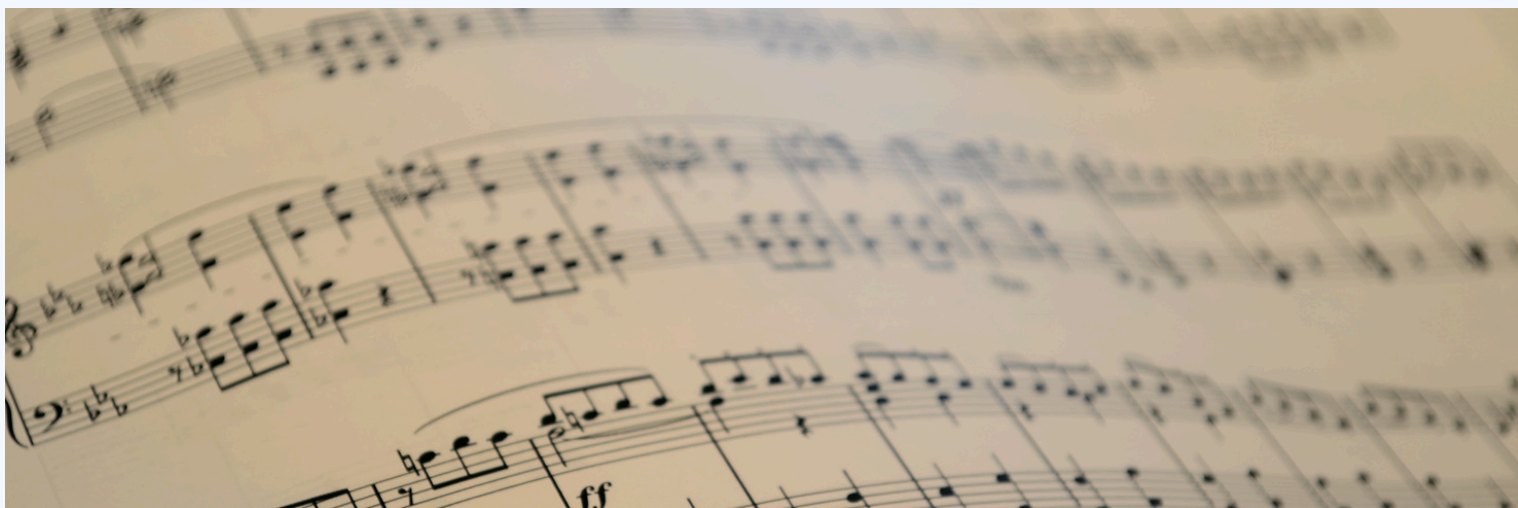
Strings:

You are of course welcome to bring your own instrument. We are also working with local instrument shops to provide inexpensive rental options should you decide to leave your instrument at home.



Parent Participation

We warmly welcome parents to join their students for part or all of the festival, should they wish. During the times that students will be in practice sessions and classes, we encourage parents to explore and enjoy other activities. However, they are more than welcome to join us for meals, participate in scheduled excursions, and, of course, attend the evening performances.



the sites

While attending the festival, students will find themselves immersed in a region rich with cultural, historical, and scenic treasures. **Mainz** is a city steeped in history dating back to Roman times. Students can explore the majestic Mainz Cathedral, a towering structure with over a thousand years of history, blending Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque architectural styles. A visit to the Gutenberg Museum is a must for those interested in the history of printing, where students can see original prints from the 15th century and learn about Johannes Gutenberg. Strolling through the charming Old Town (Altstadt) with its half-timbered houses, cobblestone streets, and cozy cafés, students can soak in the atmosphere of a quintessential German city.



Gutenberg Museum in Mainz

Just a short journey away, **Frankfurt** offers a dynamic mix of modernity and tradition. Known as the financial hub of Germany, it also has a rich cultural scene. Students can visit the Städel Museum, home to a vast collection of European art from the Middle Ages to the present, or the Goethe House, where Germany's most famous writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, was born. The Römerberg Square in Frankfurt's Old Town is another highlight, where students can marvel at the historic town hall and reconstructed medieval buildings. For those interested in panoramic views, a trip up to the Main Tower's observation deck provides a breathtaking skyline view of the city, the Main River, and beyond.



Frankfurt Opera House



Old Market Square in Frankfurt

the sites

To the north, **Bonn**—the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven—offers music lovers a special connection to the great composer’s life and works. The Beethoven House Museum is a must-see, featuring original manuscripts, instruments, and artifacts from Beethoven’s life. In addition, students can explore Bonn’s Museum Mile, which includes several notable museums such as the Kunstmuseum Bonn and the Haus der Geschichte, a museum dedicated to post-World War II German history. For a more relaxing experience, a walk along the Rhine promenade in Bonn offers picturesque views of the river, historic architecture, and beautiful green spaces.

For nature lovers, the scenic **Upper Middle Rhine Valley**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is just a short train ride from Mainz. This stretch of the Rhine River is famous for its vineyard-covered hills, medieval castles, and quaint villages. Students can take a river cruise to experience the legendary Lorelei rock, which inspired countless poems and songs. Hiking enthusiasts can explore the numerous trails in the Rheinsteig area, which offer stunning views of the river and surrounding countryside. Whether exploring the vibrant cities or the idyllic countryside, the region surrounding Mainz, Frankfurt, and Bonn is brimming with opportunities for students to experience the rich history, culture, and natural beauty of Germany.

If you are able, we highly encourage you to take time after the festival concludes to visit more of the amazing sites throughout Germany!



Bonn and the Rhine River



Upper Middle Rhine Valley

