Rundfunkchor Berlin

PRESS RELEASE 26 October 2026

Upcoming choir conductors join the Rundfunkchor Berlin

Four Forum Dirigieren scholars work with Gijs Leenaars and the ensemble from 27 to 30 October

From 27 to 30 October 2026, the Rundfunkchor Berlin welcomes four scholars from the Forum Dirigieren, a support programme run by the German Music Council, for a conducting course with Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Gijs Leenaars. Working on music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Caroline Shaw, Jake Runestad, Maria Herz and Jonathan Dove, the emerging choral conductors will have the opportunity to put their skills into practice and develop them further with a professional choir.

Participants

Inga Diestel – freelance conductor
Benedikt Kantert – Artistic Director, TU Dresden University Choirs
Natali Kazlauskaite – student, University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
Clément Michelot – choral director at the Telemann Conservatoire and the Children's Choir of Theater Magdeburg

Journalists are welcome to attend the closed rehearsals by prior arrangement:

Tuesday 27 October 2026
10am–2pm

Wednesday 28 October 2026
10am–2pm

Thursday 29 October 2026
10am–2pm

Friday 30 October 2026
11am–1pm
2–4pm Open rehearsal for invited guests

Photographs from the rehearsal on 27 October 2026 can be provided by arrangement. Photographer: Peter Adamik.

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About Forum Dirigieren

The Forum Dirigieren is the German Music Council's nationwide support program for young conductors. It promotes young talent in the fields of orchestral conducting and choral conducting and stands for the artistic encounter of the young generation of conductors with nationally and internationally renowned personalities. The scholarship holders of the Forum Dirigieren are accompanied over several years on their way into professional life. During conducting masterclasses, the scholarship holders are given the opportunity to rehearse and conduct concerts with professional orchestras and choirs under the guidance of renowned mentors. Through the placement of assistantships, concerts and engagements, the young conductors are positioned in the theater and orchestra scene. The Forum Dirigieren also organizes the German Conducting Award in Cologne and the German Choral Conducting Award (Deutscher Chordirigentenpreis) in Berlin.

Supporting young talent at the Rundfunkchor Berlin

The Rundfunkchor Berlin combines its artistic work with a wide-ranging commitment to nurturing the next generation of professional musicians. Its International Masterclass in Choral Conducting is designed for young conductors, while the Schola and Academy programmes give vocal students and young singers practical experience of working in a professional choir.

The career of Nico Köhs illustrates how the opportunities offered by the Rundfunkchor Berlin and the Forum Dirigieren complement one another. Now Assistant to the Chief Conductor, Köhs took part in the Rundfunkchor Berlin's International Masterclass in Choral Conducting with Simon Halsey in 2023. Since April 2024, he has also held a scholarship under Forum Dirigieren's concert support scheme.

Venue

Haus des Rundfunks
Helmut-Koch-Saal
Masurenallee 8–14
12043 Berlin

Programme

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
Mass in C minor, K. 427 (excerpts)
for soloists and mixed choir (with orchestra)

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Caroline Shaw (*1982)
»And the Swallow«
for eight-part choir a cappella

Jake Runestad (*1986)
»Alleluia«
for mixed choir a cappella

Maria Herz (1878–1950)
»Chorfantasie«, movements 1, 3, 5 and 7
for solo soprano and mixed choir (with orchestra)

Jonathan Dove (*1959)
»The Passing of the Year«
for double choir and piano

Press contact, Rundfunkchor Berlin
Johannes Hartmann • Press and Media Relations
Rundfunkchor Berlin, Charlottenstraße 56, 10117 Berlin
E-Mail: presse@rundfunkchor-berlin.de
Tel: +49 030 20 29 87 - 562
https://www.rundfunkchor-berlin.de/en/