

Rundfunkchor Berlin

PRESS RELEASE 8 July 2026

15 years of SING!: the Rundfunkchor Berlin's education programme celebrates its anniversary with a ceremonial event

On Thursday, 26 November 2026, SING! will celebrate its anniversary with a ceremonial event. Planned is a one-hour festive concert with singers from the Rundfunkchor Berlin under the direction of Gijs Leenaars, together with pupils from various SING! primary schools. The event is by invitation only. Media representatives are warmly invited to report on the occasion. Accreditation enquiries should be addressed to the press contact listed below.

Since 2011, the SING! education programme of the Rundfunkchor Berlin has been bringing communal singing sustainably to Berlin primary schools. What began 15 years ago as a pilot project with a small number of schools has grown into a key pillar of Berlin's cultural education landscape today.

About the SING! education programme

The idea for SING! goes back to Simon Halsey, honorary conductor of the Rundfunkchor Berlin, who took his inspiration from the successful British model »Sing Up«. The concept is deliberately low-threshold: singing takes place without sheet music, but with plenty of movement and a multilingual song repertoire that reflects the children's everyday lives and supports language acquisition. Regular singing is widely recognised as strengthening social skills, self-confidence and children's personal development – effects which SING!, through its firm embedding in everyday school life, actively promotes. The programme is free of charge for all participating schools and thus creates space for participation and cultural education, regardless of origin or social background. To date, 38 schools have taken part. Each school year, around 600 to 800 children sing regularly in SING! choirs. Around 70 teachers take part in weekly training sessions, learning how to use their voices effectively and how to guide children in singing.

A model with lasting impact

SING! follows a long-term approach: schools are accompanied continuously over a period of three years. In this way, school concert formats and regular singing opportunities are developed which continue beyond the duration of the project with SING!. Many teachers go on to found new school choirs independently after completing the programme.

»We currently have almost 60 children singing! For us this is a huge success and clearly the result of our collaboration with you!«, reports a teacher at the Märkische Grundschule Berlin about the newly founded school choir following the conclusion of the SING! project.

Ein Ensemble der

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Beyond the singing itself, SING! enables direct encounters between schoolchildren and the professional singers of the Rundfunkchor Berlin – through rehearsal visits and school visits by the choir's patron singers. At highlights such as the »Liederbörse«, the sing-along concert for Berlin primary schools in the main auditorium of the Berliner Philharmonie, the children also gain performance experience on a major stage.

Rundfunkchor Berlin

The jury of the Junge Ohren Prize recognised SING! with the following words: »SING! has everything that makes a successful participatory project: it is designed for the long term. It is simply extremely up-to-date, truly anchored in society – it is right at the heart of it« — Ute Legner, member of the jury for the Junge Ohren Prize for music education projects of the Netzwerk Junge Ohren, SWR, 2017.

Partners include Berlin district music schools and the Landesmusikakademie Berlin. SING! is funded through the support of the Ernsting Kunst- & Kulturstiftung, the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family, as well as the Friends and Supporters of the Rundfunkchor Berlin e. V.

Press dossier: www.rundfunkchor-berlin.de/pressedossier-15-jahre-sing

Image material available on request (for editorial use, free or charge)

Website: www.rundfunkchor-berlin.de/sing

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