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EUYO announces a new home in Austria

The EUYO has today announced that it is moving its administrative home to Grafenegg, Lower Austria, and Vienna, from the beginning of 2023.

The move is the culminating development of a 13-year relationship with Grafenegg, during which the Orchestra has become a resident orchestra, and partner of Campus Grafenegg. In turn, Grafenegg has become the Orchestra's principal venue partner and summer home. Building on these already strong ties, the EUYO and Grafenegg, with support from Lower Austria and the Federal Republic, will now develop their relationship further in a new *Music Hub Austria* project as well as through the relocation of the Orchestra's administrative base.

Music Hub Austria develops the work the EUYO has already begun with the Lower Austria Music Schools in a series of joint projects, a shared online learning programme and "side by side" opportunities which will see the EUYO's talented young players from all 27 EU member states working directly alongside musicians from Lower Austria's enviable young musicians' programme. It is planned to develop this work throughout Austria in the coming years with new Austrian partners, providing a model for how young people from different cultures working together at a high level of excellence can be the key to a peaceful and successful future in Europe.

The move allows the Orchestra to continue its current work in Grafenegg, not only rehearsing and performing, but also acting as a joint laboratory for the development of new ways of performing, and reaching new audiences, with the musical and administrative functions of the organisation now united in one place for a substantial portion of the year.

The move builds upon the Orchestra's 5 years in Ferrara, Italy, a crucial period for the organisation as it transitioned away from its long-term UK base. The EUYO will maintain its highly valuable creative links in Italy, including its annual residency at the Bolzano Festival Bozen, which remains a key part of the Orchestra's summer schedule, as well as its position as ensemble in residence at the Stauffer Academy in Cremona and partnership with the Italian national broadcaster Rai.

Commenting upon the move, EUYO Co-Chairs Martijn Sanders and Ewa Bogusz-Moore said: "*We are delighted to be moving to Austria and strengthening our ties with one of the most important and interesting festivals in Europe, a festival that is renowned not only for artistic excellence, but also a sense of entrepreneurship and creative imagination. As well as our partners in Austria, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Italy who has helped our development in recent years, particularly Minister Dario Franceschini, who has given us unwavering support, and our friends in Ferrara, at Bolzano Festival Bozen, Rai, and the Stauffer Academy in Cremona*".

EUYO Secretary General Marshall Marcus commented on the new relationships announced today: *“Thanks to the support of Grafenegg, Lower Austria and the Federal Republic of Austria, the new relationships announced today will drive the next phase of the Orchestra’s development, continuing the vision of the Orchestra’s founders, but also enabling it to continue adding innovation to tradition, creating an inspiring programme for 21st century Europe that responds to changes in our society, and continuing our 45-year role as EU Cultural Ambassadors. I am sure that Music Hub Austria will be a great success in Austria, and provide a model for Europe and beyond”*.

Martin Eichtinger of the Provincial Council for International Relations of Lower Austria, stressed the symbolic importance of the EUYO decision to move to Austria: *“We are bringing a piece of history to Lower Austria: the EUYO has British roots, the founders Joy and Lionel Bryer and founding music director Claudio Abbado put the visionary idea of a youth orchestra into practice in 1976 and founded this institution, which is so important for the whole of Europe. Today, the EUYO is still a landmark of the European idea and, at the same time, a unique cultural project, and will become the first EU institution based in Austria”*.

Grafenegg Managing Director Philipp Stein underlined the creative opportunities the relocation will enable: *“This new chapter in the shared history of EUYO and Grafenegg opens new possibilities for fruitful exchange and collective growth - both musical and personal. With their energy, curiosity, and eagerness to experiment, the young musicians of the EUYO are the ideal ambassadors for positive European integration; for listening, engaging, and cooperation, qualities that will carry Europe into the future. In this spirit, I wish the EUYO every success with their relocation and look forward to seeing them again soon in Grafenegg!”*



ENDS

European Union Youth Orchestra

Founded by the unanimous vote of the European Parliament in 1976, the European Union Youth Orchestra is one of the world's pre-eminent symphony orchestras and a Cultural Ambassador for the European Union.

A rigorous annual audition process selects the most talented musicians aged 16-26 in all the 27 EU Member States from thousands of applicants. The selected members then rehearse with great mentors and perform in major tours and musical projects that help train them at the highest level of excellence for the concert platform and also with the broad range of skills now relevant for engaging with diverse 21st century audiences.

A truly global brand, the EUYO has performed in most of the world's major concert halls and festivals, appearing in hundreds of venues across five continents. Recent awards include the Golden Prague International Television Festival Award for best televised concert of 2022, European Cultural Brand of the Year 2020, the European Orchestra Award TAURUS and an Abu Dhabi Culture Summit Cultural Diplomat of the Year Award.

During 2022 the Orchestra launched its first online learning programme EUYO Frontrunners, and Cafe Bauhaus, an innovative, environmentally friendly chamber music series. Projects included residencies in Austria, Italy and Finland, a Peace in Europe Project, and performances in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands and Poland.

The EUYO is resident Orchestra at its summer home and principal venue partner Grafenegg in Lower Austria, and partner of Campus Grafenegg, and is also Ensemble in Residence at the Stauffer Academy in Cremona, Italy. Supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission and by the 27 Member States of the European Union, the Orchestra's home has been in Italy between 2018 and 2022 thanks to support from the Italian Ministry of Culture, Ferrara Musica and the Italian broadcaster Rai.

The EUYO's Honorary President is Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, and its Honorary Patrons include Ursula von der Leyen, President of the EU Commission, Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and the Heads of State and Government, the ministers of foreign affairs and culture of the EU Member States.

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Honorary President Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament | **Co-Founders** Lionel & Joy Bryer
Founding Music Director Claudio Abbado | **Chief Conductor** Vasily Petrenko | **Conductor Laureate** Bernard Haitink
Co-Chair Ewa Bogusz-Moore | **Co-Chair** Martijn Sanders | **Advisory Council Chair** Sir Ian Stoutzker | **Secretary General** Marshall Marcus

Head of Honorary Patrons Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission | Charles Michel President of the European Council
Honorary Patrons Josep Borrell Fontelles High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission
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