

FRIENDS OF GLOBAL ARTS UNITED

NEWSLETTER
Fall 2025

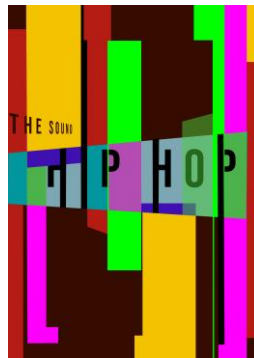


June 29 – July 13, 2026

Over the past few years, Sofia has become the leading location in the world for the performance of new orchestral and chamber music, rising careers in conducting, and a keystone event in the careers of many emerging and established virtuosic performers. It has seen more than 100 world premieres, 20 new concerti performed, 50 new conductors presented and countless new artists sharing their talents with the world.

Recently the festival has gone through a number of new and innovative developments which include a new title, The Sofia Art and Music Festival. This coming season will see a new dimension added to the festival's events. Internationally recognized artist and designer, Li Zhang, will present her work at the festival in a solo exhibition. Li Zhang is Professor and former chair of the Department of Art and Design at Purdue University

Li Zhang



"The Sound of Hip-hop"

Li Zhang has had an international career as an artist, designer, and scholar. She is Professor and former Chair of the Department of Art and Design at Purdue University. Her posters and design works have been featured in over 300 exhibitions across more than 40 countries. Her works are housed in permanent collections at major institutions, including the Library of Congress, the Zürich Museum of Design, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the Ogaki Poster Museum, and the Lahti Poster Museum. She is distinguished as a *Graphis Design Master* which further underscores her international reputation as an artist of the highest rank. We are honored to feature a selection of her works as part of Sofia Art and Music Festival visual art program, offering our composers, conductors, musicians, and audiences an inspiring dialogue to share with each other. Bulgaria Hall provides an exceptional exhibition environment—historic, centrally located, and visited daily throughout the festival by artists from around the world.



The **Vienna Contemporary Composers Festival** (VCCF) is designed for composers looking to refine their craft, receive professional performances of their works, and immerse themselves in the rich musical culture of Vienna, Austria. Each selected composer will have their new work performed during the festival. Participants will also benefit from private composition lessons with Viennese and international composers, as well as lectures and masterclasses on contemporary music and advanced theory.

Notable guest faculty members have included prominent composers such as **Anthony R. Green**, **Alexandra Karastoyanova-Hermentin**, **Oliver Weber**, **Eva Reiter**, **Reiko Fütting**, **Reinhard Fuchs**, **Clemens Gadenstätter**, and other distinguished visiting artists.



VIENNA CONTEMPORARY COMPOSERS FESTIVAL

July 3 -16, 2026



VENETO ART AND MUSIC SUMMIT

June 19 - 29, 2026

The **Veneto Art and Music Summit** (VAMS) is a premier event offering composers, conductors, and performers a unique opportunity to study, collaborate, and showcase their artistry in one of Italy's most culturally vibrant regions. Set amid the historic charm and natural beauty of Veneto, VAMS brings together musicians from around the world to pursue artistic excellence while immersing themselves in Italy's rich cultural heritage. Participants explore iconic sites such as Asolo, Possagno—home to the Antonio Canova Museum—Verona, the romantic city of Romeo and Juliet, and of course, Venice. These inspiring locations provide the perfect setting for creative growth and cultural discovery.

In *Brasília*, under the batons of Maestri Claudio Cohen and Tyler Austin, participants of the **Brasília Orchestral Summit** will have their music premiered in concert by the Brazilian National Symphony, Brazil's capital orchestra. One of the great orchestras in the world.



BRASÍLIA ORCHESTRAL SUMMIT

July 25 - August 1

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Friend of Sofia 2026

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<https://www.globalartsunited.com/fgau>

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Administrative Leadership

Diogo Carvalho, Artistic Director
Svetlin Hristov, Assistant Director, SAMF
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Tyler Austin, Director of Conducting Program
Evan Harger, Coordinator of Conducting Program
Harry Bulow, President, Friends of Global Arts United