

Orkester Norden Report 8.1.2024

Orkester Norden

Orkester Norden in 2024. Plans for Orkester Norden summer 2024 have been made. Application process has been opened for young musicians in December. Rehearsal period is organized in 26.7.-6.8.2024 in Lahti. Concert program is

Carl Nielsen: Helios Overture

Andrea Tarrodi: Zephyros

Jean Sibelius Symphony nro. 7

Johannes Brahms Symphony nro. 2

Conductor in 2024 is famous Swedish conductor Johannes Gustavsson. Professional instrument instructors from previous years will continue.

Future of Orkester Norden. Future of Orkester Norden looks bright. Managing Director of Symphony Iceland Lára Sóley Jóhannsdóttir is very excited and eager to prepare and organize two years of Orkester Norden hosting in Iceland in 2026-2027. The status of Orkester Norden looks fine in the new funding system of the Nordic Council of Ministers. In addition, Danish association, Föreningen Orkester Norden is willing to support the hosts in the future in marketing, networking and in directing hosts to additional funding opportunities.

Hosting Orkester Norden. In the host countries, Orkester Norden hosting can be organized in a way that best fits in the cultural, political, financial and service environment of the host country. In Denmark, Orkester Norden was hosted by the Danish association Föreningen Orkester Norden (FON) and organized by Musikkens Hus in Aalborg. In Finland Orkester Norden is hosted by the Finnish Lions Association and organized by the cultural sector of the City of Lahti. It looks like, in Iceland Orkester Norden will be hosted and organized by Symphony Iceland with partners from Reykjavik.

The importance of Orkester Norden Youth Program. Orkester Norden is an important Youth Program in the Nordic Region. As a Youth Program it is more important than e.g. Lions Youth Exchange because nowadays young people have many other possibilities to travel and see foreign cultures. On the other hand, there is no other youth orchestra in the Nordic region on the level of Orkester Norden. It has an important role between national orchestras for younger students and big European Youth Orchestras. As an example, incoming Host Committee Chairperson in Iceland, Lára has also as a young musician played in Orkester Norden. It has been an important step in her career and now she serves as managing director for Symphony Iceland.

Nordic Governments have seen the importance and value of Orkester Norden as a Youth Program. With the government funds, Nordic Council of Ministers have granted basic funding for Orkester Norden for decades. And the future of this support looks good as the Nordic Council of Ministers has formulated the criteria of cultural funds in a way that fits very well in Orkester Norden's goals and operating principles. As a Youth Program it is much more

appreciated than Lions Youth Exchange. Nordic Council of Ministers has never granted Government funds for Lions Youth Exchange but for Orkester Norden it has granted millions of euros. This is an excellent example of beneficial partnerships that are effective and create value for the society.

Service aspect of Orkester Norden. In addition, Orkester Norden has a unique service aspect since, due to the Government funds from the Nordic Council of Ministers, it is free of charge for all young musicians. In youth orchestras young musicians normally have to pay fees in order to take part. But all who meet the artistic requirements can play in Orkester Norden regardless of their own or their parents' financial status.

Pride of NSR. NSR can be proud of this excellent Youth Program that is respected by international Lion leaders of LCI, cultural life and musicians in Europe, and appreciated and supported by Nordic Governments. The level of Lions involvement can vary depending on the Host Country. In some countries, Lions may not be involved in practical hosting activities. We have almost 38 000 Lions in the Nordic Countries. Regardless of Orkester Norden hosting arrangements, it is an achievable goal also in the future from 2026 onwards to find one Lion from the Nordic Countries, who can during his/her term keep Nordic Lions informed on this excellent Youth Program in a way that keeps us proud, strong and united.

Tapani Rahko
PID, Orkester Norden NSR Coordinator