

**LIONS NSR**  
**ORKESTER NORDEN REPORT 2025**

*Orkester Norden in 2024.* Summer 2024 of the Nordic Youth Program Orkester Norden was a success despite the changes in the funding system of the Nordic Council of Ministers. In the new system, the NCM funds will be granted one year in advance. The funds granted in 2024 will go to 2025. In 2024 the ON budget of 82 700 € consisted of a grant from Svenska Kulturfonden and self-financing. The ON program was carried out in cooperation with a Finnish Youth Symphony Orchestra Vivo. The ON budget enabled accepting 27 ON musicians and they had the experience to play in a big symphony orchestra together with Vivo musicians. There were ON musicians from all the Nordic Countries and musicians studying in the Nordic or Baltic countries. Eight professional Orkester Norden instrument instructors came from all the other Nordic Countries, except Iceland. The ON musicians played in Mikkeli Music Festivals. Orkester Norden and Vivo gave “Young Power” concerts in Mikkeli and Lahti. The latter was a charity concert and popular among Lions. Half of the income of the Lahti concert was donated to Mieli Association for children’s and young people’s mental health work.

*Orkester Norden in 2025.* Planning for Orkester Norden 2025 has proceeded. Nordic Council of Ministers has granted 50 000 € and the Danish Nielsen Foundation 30 000 € to Orkester Norden for summer 2025. Additional grant applications have been sent to Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Kone Foundation and Svenska Kulturfonden. Grant decisions will be made in February 2025 and final decision on the concert tour will be made after February. Current financial situation will enable two concerts in Finland. NSR does not finance Orkester Norden. Financing comes from other sources.

Application deadline for young musicians is in February and auditions will be made in March. The concert program will be played with a symphony orchestra of 64 young musicians. Due to the schedules of the Swedish conductor, the rehearsals and concerts will be in June and early July. Rehearsal period is June 26 – July 3, 2025. Opening concert in Lahti will be on July 4, and another concert in Finland on July 5, 2025.

Concert program 2025:           Nielsen: Helios Overture  
  Andrea Tarrodi: Zephyros  
  Sibelius: Symphony 7  
  Brahms: Symphony 2

*Orkester Norden in 2026.* Preparations to host Orkester Norden in Iceland in 2026 have been continued according to the NSR rotation plan with VCC Anna Fr. Blöndal and the Icelandic team. Orkester Norden is a strong institution that has an important role in Nordic services for youth. It is a youth program with a purpose and is based on the service idea of giving opportunities for all.

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