

International Recorder Days Berlin Vol. 1

Meet the Recorder Team of the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin)

12.-13. September 2026, Kammermusiksaal Friedenau, Berlin

Concept

The Recorder Days Berlin bring together artistic excellence, openness, and the joy of making music together. Hosted by the newly formed recorder team of the Berlin University of the Arts, these two intensive days of exchange and collaboration offer participants the opportunity to experience the department's artistic vision firsthand. Under the motto "Introducing the Recorder Team of the UdK Berlin," Susanna Borsch and Felix Gutschli present their approach to recorder playing, spanning historical performance practice and contemporary music.

Conceived as a meeting point for study orientation, artistic exploration, and community building, the event welcomes recorder players from Berlin and beyond at different stages of their musical journey: prospective Bachelor's and Master's students, advanced young players, teachers, dedicated amateurs, and professional recorder players.

The focus throughout is on active participation and shared music-making. Participants will gain insight into teaching philosophies, rehearsal processes, and artistic perspectives through a varied program of open lessons, ensemble coaching, and keynote talks with discussion sessions. The first day concludes with a concert featuring Susanna Borsch and Felix Gutschli.

Registration

Registration is possible via email until 1 August 2026. Applicants are asked to specify whether they wish to participate as active or passive participants. Those applying for active participation are requested to submit a CV and links to recordings, and are required to indicate the piece they would like to work on during the lesson sessions.

Depending on the number of applications and the submitted repertoire, the team reserves the right to assign participants to individual or ensemble sessions. Participants will be informed about their placement no later than three weeks before the course.

The participation fee is €20 / reduced €10. Members of the European Recorder Players Society may participate free of charge (annual membership fee: €20 / reduced €10). Membership can be arranged together with the registration for the Recorder Days Berlin.

Venue

The venue is the Kammermusiksaal Friedenau in Berlin. Its atmosphere provides ideal conditions for individual and ensemble teaching, lectures, and concerts.

Friedenauer Kammermusiksaal
Isoldestraße 9
12159 Berlin

The team

Starting in the winter semester 2026/27, Susanna Borsch and Felix Gutschli will jointly lead the recorder class at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK).

“Teaching on an equal footing is especially important to us – a kind of teaching that responds sensitively to each student’s needs, fosters a focused and trusting working environment, and at the same time encourages efficient, well-structured learning processes. Our goal is to support students on their path to becoming independent, creative, reflective, curious, and artistically distinctive musicians. We aim to offer a rich, varied program that goes far beyond the weekly private lesson – with regular performance evenings, workshops on changing themes, engagement with current research by other recorder players, and ‘open’ classes that invite listening, exchange, and discussion.”

Susanna Borsch was born in Hamburg and studied recorder with Walter van Hauwe at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where she completed both her teaching and soloist diplomas. Her close collaborations with composers in developing new solo and ensemble repertoire have since led to several CD recordings and numerous concert appearances across Europe, the United States, and Australia.



As a recorder virtuoso, she moves confidently between contemporary music and early music traditions. With her various ensembles, she performs a wide-ranging repertoire: Renaissance polyphony with Mezzaluna; contemporary music in mixed instrumentation with ELECTRA; popular dance music and songs from around 1550–1750 in the duo Dapper’s Delight; ensemble repertoire for recorder quartet with Brisk (2015–2023); and, since 2020, highly diverse projects—from children’s concerts to music theatre—together with Flautando Köln.



Felix Gutschi is one of Austria's most versatile musicians in the field of early and contemporary music. As a recorder player, music theorist, educator, and creator of artistic concepts and productions, he is known for his technical precision, musical expressiveness, inquisitive spirit, teaching talent, and artistic vision.

He received his recorder training with Dorothee Oberlinger, Tiago Simas Freire, Walter van Hauwe, Pierre Hamon, Antonio Politano, Andrea Guttmann, and Matthijs Lunenburg in Salzburg, Lyon, and Brescia. He is also pursuing a Master's degree in Music Theory at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg under Christian Ofenbauer, focusing on new music. Gutschi founded the ensemble Chez Fría, known for fusing various musical styles and performing at notable European festivals. He also founded Ensemble Astrum, which develops

historically informed yet progressive concert formats through creative arrangements and concepts. As a soloist, he has performed with the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra and appeared at venues such as the Vienna Konzerthaus and the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music. He has also played with orchestras including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Chamber Orchestra, La Divina Armonia, and the Jeune Orchestre Baroque Européen. Gutschi has won several national and international competition prizes.

Institute for Artistic Training in Early Music at the UdK:

At the Institute for Artistic Training in Early Music at the Berlin University of the Arts, students study early music on historical instruments in an environment shaped by a long tradition and a strong commitment to artistic openness.

Across the various instrumental departments—including recorder, harpsichord, historical string and wind instruments, and voice—around 50 students develop a profound understanding of historical performance practice, repertoire, and playing techniques ranging from the Renaissance to the 18th century.

In addition to weekly principal study lessons, the institute offers a wide-ranging programme of complementary courses: lectures and seminars in musicology, basso continuo practice, ornamentation, baroque dance, vocal training, and projects involving contemporary music performed on historical instruments. Workshops with international guests, concerts by the UdK's Ensemble Baroque, diverse chamber music opportunities, competitions, and collaborations with festivals and museums all contribute to a highly practice-oriented and dynamic path towards a professional career in early music.

The institute also offers collaborative projects in which students develop their own artistic concepts, engaging with contemporary recorder music, improvisation, collaboration with composition students, as well as light and stage design, and interdisciplinary artistic dialogue. At master's level, recorder students may additionally specialise in contemporary music within their principal study, allowing them to develop a profile as both interpretatively and conceptually versatile musicians.

European Recorder Players Society

The ERPS is a Europe-wide network for all those who want to promote the recorder scene. The aim is to promote professional exchange and to bring together recorder players from different fields and playing levels. The International Recorder Biennale is an exciting forum for professional players, recorder enthusiasts and music lovers from all over Europe. The main services of the non-profit association are the website with the presentation of concerts, announcements, a regular association newsletter and free participation in the recorder biennials and competitions organised by the ERPS. Our social media channels also offer a platform for exchange and promote dialogue, especially among the younger generation.

Questions and registrations are welcome by email at:

susanna.borsch@gmail.com and/or felixgutschi@gmx.at

Institute for Artistic Training in Early Music at the UdK Berlin:

UdK Berlin – Institute for Early Music:

<https://www.udk-berlin.de/universitaet/fakultaet-musik/institute/institut-fuer-kuenstlerische-ausbildungalte-musik/aktuelles/>