

Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra

The Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra is comprised of the world's finest young musicians under the age of 27, hand-picked through a rigorous auditioning process. While in residence at the Festival, which takes place at the Salzau Castle 100 kilometers north of Hamburg in one of the most beautiful European countryside, the young musicians are given an extraordinary opportunity to grow together as an orchestra as well as to form a social community. They work with experienced teachers from the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, and the NDR Symphony Orchestra, collaborate with famous conductors, study and perform the greatest orchestral and chamber music, and attend lectures and seminars. Mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and awareness of the universality of music and life beyond it - these values lie at the heart of the Orchestral Academy. Its first-ever tour in the United States and Canada under Maestro Eschenbach, featuring inimitable Lang Lang as the soloist, is a unique opportunity for North American audiences to embark on a real musical adventure.

Maestro Eschenbach has been Principal Conductor of the SHMF International Orchestral Academy since 2004. His long-standing artistic and personal friendship with Lang Lang has led to numerous memorable performances, most recently with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in November 2008, and a critically acclaimed recording of Beethoven Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 4 with Orchestre de Paris in 2007.