

BALTHASAR NOVA

Balthasar NOVA is a visionary European academy programme of the Balthasar Neumann Family, supporting outstanding young musicians on their path toward a successful and self-determined career as freelancers in the international music scene. The programme not only offers comprehensive, practice-oriented training with a focus on historically informed performance practice but also fosters a critical awareness of social responsibility and our shared cultural heritage. With its holistic approach, the project radiates international significance.

Through a multi-stage selection process, 25 participants from over 20 European countries are chosen for each of the two 18-month editions of Balthasar NOVA. The programme offers a wide range of project weeks, each exploring a specific musical era and its repertoire. It also includes numerous social and artistic activities that promote music outreach as well as the development of alternative concert formats and programmes. A broad curriculum complements these elements, deepening not only musical and technical expertise but also cultural and historical understanding. A rich mentoring system supports participants in their individual artistic and personal growth. Within a tutoring programme, the young musicians receive intensive guidance from internationally renowned soloists. As an orchestra, they perform under conductors such as Thomas Hengelbrock, Pablo Gonzalez, and Lionel Sow, and curate their own salons with artists including, among others, Julian Prégardien. Balthasar NOVA can be experienced on stage at the Herbstfestspiele in Baden-Baden, the Händel Festival in Halle, the Bologna Festival, the “Mes de Europa” in Havana, as well as at the Bergson Kunstkraftwerk in Munich and the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona.

Balthasar NOVA offers participants – especially those at the end of their studies or shortly after graduation – the flexibility to realize their own projects, pursue further academic education, or network with other ensembles. In this way, the programme builds an essential bridge between academic training and artistic as well as economic independence. Through its broad-based education and network of young musicians from across Europe, the programme makes a vital contribution to the sustainability of the music sector. With Balthasar NOVA, Balthasar Neumann Choir and Orchestra carry European values, cultural exchange, cross-border solidarity, and peace vibrantly into the future.