

Special Prize “Music and Space”

General Conditions

For both performers and audiences, the concert venue plays a pivotal role in the concert experience. The size, layout, stage position, acoustics - all are factors that can impact both presentation and receptivity. Consequently, consideration of these location-dependent variables is an integral aspect in the preparation of any performance and can lead to adjustments in, for example, the positioning and size of the ensemble, the selection of literature, and even in choice of articulation or tempo. Thus the space becomes integral to both programming and instrumentation.

The competition category "Music and Space" focuses on this aspect and evaluates the spatial conception for a specific concert venue. Criteria are, on one hand, how the space is used for the concert program and, on the other, how the program is designed and presented to suit that space in order to create a unique concert experience.

In designing the concept, it may help to answer the following questions:

- What do I need to do to acoustically carry out the concert program?
- How can I use the space to enhance the concert experience?
- How can I create a unique concert experience for the audience by redefining the concert venue?

The design of the space must take the following into consideration:

- It must be possible to set up and subsequently take down any room furnishings on the day of the concert.
- Any technical equipment (such as for lighting, darkening, amplification, projections, etc.) cannot be provided by the concert venue and must be requested from the Festival and, if necessary, brought in yourself.

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About the venue:

St. Markus church in Scheden

Johann Joachim Quantz was born in Scheden on January 20, 1697. There is a permanent Quantz exhibition in the church.

<https://kulturimkreis.info/dransfeld-samtgemeinde/st-markus-kirche/>

- The interior of the church is constructed out of wood and stone.
- The windows provide the church with a bright and friendly atmosphere.
- There is an organ loft and a playable organ built in 1821.
- There is a loge to the left above the altar (access via stairs in the chancel), from where music can be played.
- It is not possible to play from the loge to the right of the altar.
- The lectern can be moved.
- Music may be played from the pulpit.
- Beamer and screen (under the left loge) are available and can be used.
- There is a sound system (music can be played with prior notice).
- The mixing console is a fixed installation.
- The church has two entrances (one main entrance and one entrance behind the altar).
- Music stands are available.

Additional photos available here:

<https://www.haendel-festspiele.de/de/projekte/ghc/bilder-st-markus-kirche/>

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