

Internship at the Gstaad Festival Orchestra (Conducting Academy / GFO concerts 2026)

The Conducting Academy is the lynchpin of the Menuhin Festival Academy and offers rising conductors an opportunity of working with a professional orchestra - the Gstaad Festival Orchestra (GFO) which is made up of musicians from Switzerland's leading orchestras. Some of the best students from international high schools are selected every year to play with the GFO as interns.

Besides giving several concerts in the scope of the Conducting Academy, the GFO represents the Menuhin Festival Gstaad with concerts in Gstaad and on tour – this year in Baden-Baden.

Jaap van Zweden, the Dutch conductor and Music Director of the Seoul Philharmonic will be leading the Gstaad Festival Orchestra in summer 2026 after already having held the reins of the Conducting Academy in 2017, 2018 and 2021 -2025. As an international player, he has been active on three continents over the past ten years. Marco Armiliato, one of today's leading opera conductors and a frequent guest at major houses such as the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera and La Scala, will also join the Gstaad Festival Orchestra this year.

Alongside major symphonic works such as Mozart's symphony no. 40. and Beethovens symphony no. 5, there is also opera repertoire such as the concert version of Puccini's opera "La Bohème". The programme also includes solo works such as Elgar's Violin concerto op. 61 and Haydn's Cello concerto no. 1.

In addition, the interns receive individual lessons from their section leader and during the internship an audition training will be organised.

Dates of all projects: 3 August – 23 August 2026
22 August – 23 August 2026 (tour to Baden-Baden)
Closing date for applications: 15 February 2026

Projects in detail:

Menuhin Conducting Academy - PART I/Gstaad Festival Orchestra

Dates: 3 August – 8 August 2026

Professor: Jaap van Zweden

Concerts

- 6 August, 17h30, Gstaad Conducting Academy Concert I, Gstaad Festival Tent
- 8 August, 19h30, Gstaad Festival Orchestra with Jaap van Zweden, Bomsori Kim & Jing Zhao, Gstaad Festival Tent

Repertoire

- W. A. Mozart: Symphony no.40, KV550, G minor
 - J. Haydn: Cello concerto no.1, Hob. VIIb:1
 - W. A. Mozart: Violin concerto no.5, KV219
- Further works will follow

Menuhin Conducting Academy - PART II/Gstaad Festival Orchestra

Dates: 10 August – 15 August 2026

Professors: Jaap van Zweden & Johannes Schlaefli

Principal conductor: Jaap van Zweden

Concerts

- 13 August, 17h30, Gstaad Conducting Academy Concert II, Gstaad Festival Tent
- 15 August, 19h30, Gstaad Festival Orchestra with Jaap van Zweden, Daniel Hope, Gstaad Festival Tent

Repertoire

- L. v. Beethoven: Symphony no.5, op.67
- E. Elgar: Violin concerto op.61
- Further works will follow

Gstaad Festival Orchestra - «Norma» in Gstaad/Baden-Baden

Dates: 18 August – 21 August 2026 Gstaad

22 August – 23 August 2026 Baden-Baden

Conductor: Marco Armiliato

Cast: Benjamin Bernheim, Tenor (Rodolfo)	Biagio Pizzuti, Bariton (Schaunard)
Carolina López Moreno, Sopran (Mimi)	Gianluca Buratto, Bass (Colline)
Lodovico Filippo Ravizza, Bariton (Marcello)	Sandra Hamaoui, Sopran (Musetta)

Concerts

- 21 August, 19h30 Gstaad Festival Tent
- 23 August, 17h00 Festspielhaus Baden-Baden

Repertoire

- G. Puccini: Opera «La Bohème »

Application:

The application must be done on: [Menuhin Festival Gstaad • muvac.com](https://menuhinfestivalgstaad.com/muvac)

Applicants can be recommended by the principals of the GFO or by professors, conductors, etc.

The application will be open until 15 February 2026.

Documents to be submitted (for details, please refer to the information published online)

- Application via muvac
- Photo of the applicant
- Hand signed recommendation letter
- Representative audition video recording. Special audition requirements for each instrument are published on the [GFO homepage](https://menuhinfestivalgstaad.com/gfo) and on [muvac](https://menuhinfestivalgstaad.com/muvac).

Profile/Selection process:

Profile

- The interns have to be students or have recently completed their studies
- The interns may not be older than thirty years on 1st of August 2026

Selection process

A jury, consisting of the Principal Conductor, the management of the festival and the principals of each section will decide upon the participation of the interns (people and number of interns).

The participation of the interns in the GFO concerts and in the tour can be determined separately.

In principle, applicants should be available for all dates. For most instrument groups, however, participation on a project-by-project basis is also possible after prior consultation (usually several projects are connected). Accepted applicants will be informed in good time about the projects in which they will participate.

Conditions for interns:

Conducting Academy (incl. the concerts in Gstaad on 6/8/13/15/21 August)

Total CHF 130.-/working day, splitted in: CHF 65.- brutto/working day + CHF 65.- per diem/working day.

Accommodation (double or single occupation) in Gstaad provided.

All reimbursements (incl. the per diems) will be done after the whole project is over by bank transfer.

No per diems on off days and travel days.

Travel within Switzerland will be reimbursed up to the amount of SBB 1/2-Tax rate. Further travel expenses for travelling in Europe may be reimbursed after prior consent of the festival. While all applications are welcome, for reasons of sustainability, preference is given to applications from Switzerland and neighbouring countries. For this reason, overseas flights can only be supported on a pro rata basis and after consideration of reasonableness and expediency.

GFO on tour

CHF 80.-/rehearsal; CHF 145.-/concert, CHF 65.- per diem/working day. Travel and hotel on tour are provided (single room incl. breakfast). Further travel expenses will be reimbursed with the prior consent of the festival.

Special features:

- Free entrance to the concerts of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad (depending on availability, with prior reservation).
- Free tickets for final concerts of the Conducting Academy and for GFO concerts (on availability).
- The interns receive a certificate of participation on request.
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AGB's

Conditions «Application GFO internship»

1. Application terms

Applications will be processed and forwarded to the jury only if the submitted documents are complete and correct. All application documents are to be submitted in electronic form.

2. Various

Menuhin Festival Gstaad holds any and all rights in photos and video clips shot during the GFO events.

Any decisions will be publicly announced in the middle of March 2026 at the earliest.

The jury's decision is final; decisions will not be communicated in writing.

Participants are responsible for obtaining visas and paying visa costs.

Participants must take care for their own insurances and provide their own instruments.

Closing date for applications: 15.02.2026

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