

## YEAH! Names Six Music Productions "European Pioneers" Successful Conclusion of the YEAH! Festival 2013

The YEAH! Festival in Osnabrück was rounded off on Saturday evening with a festive gala for the presentation of the Young EARopean Award. Six productions from the countries Luxemburg, Belgium, Portugal, Germany and Sweden were awarded the *European Prize for Innovative Music Projects*. On the stage in Osnabrück Castle, they were presented the prize money totalling € 40,000 and YEAH! trophies specially created by the Osnabrück artist Volker-Johannes Trieb.

Four productions received awards in the category of "Performance" this year. The percussive stage show **Drumblebee** by Quatuor Beat and the Luxemburg Philharmonic in cooperation with the Cologne Philharmonic, the Lucerne Festival and the Grazer Spielstätten convinced the jury with their outstanding artistic quality. The project **Come in!** by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra was awarded the prize for the best concept. Come in! invites children to engage in a musical encounter with the artists in trailers in front of the concert hall prior to the concert experience. The YEAH! Award for the most innovative project went to **Concerts for Babies** by Musicalmente from Portugal. **Listen to the Silence – A journey with John Cage** by the Belgian Zonzo Compagnie won the YEAH! Award for the best creative process. In the category "Process" two nominated productions won a prize: the project **Notations** of the Ruhr Piano Festival, in which people of different age groups came to terms compositionally with Pierre Boulez's work "Notations" and **Feel the Music** by the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, a musical experience project for deaf and hearing-impaired children.

Lydia Grün and the Osnabrück pupil Dara-Lisa Szielinski together hosted the atmospheric gala. The young co-moderator had been selected at the YEAH! casting from four finalist candidates during the previous week. The renowned **Fauré Quartett** were not only the artistic patrons of the award, but also performed selections from Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" at the awards ceremony. The Lower Saxon Cultural Minister **Dr. Gabriele Heinen-Kljajic**, Osnabrück's Mayor **Birgit Strangmann**, the managing director of the Association of German Orchestras **Gerald Mertens** and the director of the NDR Orchestras **Rolf Beck** presented the awards.

All participants can look back on a successful festival. Encounters through music, extending beyond national boundaries, ran like a thread through the festival, once more confirming the idea of the Young EARopean Award. "During the past days, Osnabrück became a centre of understanding between peoples and was able to bring together the creative energy of all of Europe with the YEAH! Festival," said Hans-Jürgen Fip, member of the Stiftung Stahlwerk Georgsmarienhütte (Georgsmarienhütte Steelworks Foundation) and former Lord Mayor of the City of Osnabrück. All 15 nominated projects had travelled to Osnabrück to the YEAH! Festival, and several presented themselves during the week with their productions at various locations in the City of Peace. There was much enthusiasm amongst pupils and the Osnabrück public; the Festival also established itself as a lively platform for exchange between specialists in the European educational scene.

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YEAH! is a project of the Stiftung Stahlwerk  
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