

Press release

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"Best of" young music projects in Europe

15 finalists for the YEAH! Young EARocean Award 2013

Today, the 15 nominated finalists for the YEAH! Award 2013 will be presented at Osnabrück Town Hall. 136 projects from more than 20 European countries have been put forward for this year's competition. Under the motto "Music connects", YEAH! is on a quest to find fresh ideas for a vibrant European world of music. After the international jury has made its selection, the winners will be honoured at a festive gala on 14th September at Osnabrück Castle.

YEAH! awards accolades in two categories: **Performance** seeks exemplary stage and concert formats that use creative means to put young ears (and those that have managed to stay young) in touch with music and create new access to concert and music theatre. **Process** is concerned with possibilities for participative communication and workshops for children and young people. The focus here is on the process of encountering and creative contact with music, regardless of a presentation or performance.

YEAH! reflects the wide spectrum of music productions aimed at a young audience in Europe. "Nowadays there are suitable formats offering new forms of access to music for almost every age and target group. In comparison to the first YEAH! Award in 2011, there has been a marked rise in both the artistic standard and the innovatory power of the projects put forward," is the view of Lydia Grün, managing director of the netzwerk junge ohren.

The YEAH! Young EARocean Award is realized with the help of the Stahlwerk Georgsmarienhütte Trust. "The question of how the cultural wealth of Europe should be passed on to following generations is closely linked to the question of what sort of society we want to have in future," is how Hans-Jürgen Fip, former mayor of Osnabrück and board member, sees the reason for the trust's commitment to YEAH!.

As with the first YEAH! Awards in 2011, the city of Osnabrück gladly extends its hospitality to the award and in particular the accompanying festival. "As the City of Peace, Osnabrück stands for congress and dialogue. Music builds bridges between people, regardless of language or background. As a European idea, our city not only offers YEAH! the ideal stage, but also the necessary spiritual support," is how current mayor Karin Japs-Kiesler sees it.

YEAH! Young EARocean Award is a project of the Stiftung Stahlwerk Georgsmarienhütte and the netzwerk junge ohren.

Please observe the embargo: Thursday, 21.2.2013, 18.30

The finalists at a glance:

Category Performance

Body Rhythm Factory (Body Rhythm Factory, Copenhagen/Denmark)
Come in! (Göteborgs Symfoniker, Göteborg/Sweden)
Concerts for Babies (Musicalmente, Leiria/Portugal)
Das Kind der Seehundfrau [The Seal-Woman's Child] (makemake produktionen, Vienna/Austria)
Der magische Klang und die Schurken [The Magic Sound and the Rogues]
(Die Schurken, Bregenz/Austria)
Drumblebee (Philharmonie Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
Listen to the Silence – A journey with John Cage (Zonzo Compagnie, Antwerp/Belgium)
NEULAND – Church music in unusual places (Michaeliskloster, Hildesheim/Germany)
Relax your mind! Michael Jackson for string quartet and video vocals (Quartett PLUS 1,
Hannover/Germany)
The Little Girl Water Droplet (Miso Music, Parede/Portugal)
V-E-U-S (Societat Coral Amics de la Unió, Barcelona/Spain)

Category Process

Feel the music (Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Belgium, Italy, Berlin/Germany)
Nächste Ausfahrt: Heimat [Next Exit: Home] (Theater Freiburg, Freiburg/Germany)
Notations (Ruhr Piano Festival, Essen/Germany)
Stadtteil-Oper [Local Opera] Iolanta 2012 (Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Bremen/Germany)

Pictures and information on the nominees will be available for download from 18:30 on Thursday, 21st February 2013 at <http://netzwerkjungeohren.wordpress.com> .

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