



14. Juli 2024

World Youth Music Festival Zurich 2024

**Young people from all over the world experience an unforgettable festival**

**Around 3,000 young people from 11 different countries were in Zurich over the weekend of 11 - 14 July to take part in the World Youth Music Festival. The championship titles were awarded at the closing ceremony in the packed Münsterhof. The supporting programme attracted a large audience. A special highlight was the opening ceremony with around 5,000 people and a brilliant show in the Hallenstadion.**

The start on Thursday evening 11 July with the gala concert in the Chipperfieldbau of the Kunsthhaus was a complete success. The Ryukoku University Symphonic Band from Japan and Dai Kimoto and his Swing Kids got the festival off to a brilliant start in the packed festival hall. Formations from Japan, Thailand, Bulgaria, China, El Salvador and many more took part in the festival. Clubs from Switzerland were also well represented.

The first competitions were held on Friday 12 July 2024 in Concert Hall 3 of the Zurich University of the Arts in the Toni Areal and in the Chipperfield Building of the Kunsthhaus. In total, there were competitions in 10 different categories and performance levels from Friday to Sunday. The international jury was impressed by the diverse and high-quality presentations. It was pleasing to see the great interest shown by the public in all the presentations.

A total of around 5,000 people gathered in the packed Hallenstadion on Friday evening, 12 July, for the spectacular opening ceremony. The procession of all participating formations into the Hallenstadion provided goosebumps. The SWISS Band, under the direction of bandleader Matt Stämpfli, organised the evening together with singer Jesse Ritch and trumpet virtuoso Thomas Gansch, among others. The dance network "roundabout" and "boyzaround" brought together 100 young dancers. The audience was also enthralled by the shows of the explosive show drum group Drumpact, BML Talents and showband.CH. The young roller skaters from the Precision Team Phoenix from Estonia impressed with their fast-paced and precise choreography. A festival band was also formed especially for the opening ceremony, featuring around 200 young musicians from Switzerland, Bulgaria and El Salvador. Jonas Zellweger and Rubina Meixger provided the friendly moderation. The opportunity to follow the show via the live stream was very popular.

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Another highlight was the parade through the Bahnhofstrasse on Saturday morning. This was opened at 10.15am by the St. Gallen equestrian music band. More than 20 orchestras and groups put a smile on the faces of the audience, who had gathered in large numbers at the side of the street. The orchestra Mjölby Ungdomsmu-sikkar from Sweden, for example, impressed with its 80 members, the "Boinas Verdes Marchig Band" from El Salvador thrilled the audience with their joy of playing and rousing sounds and the Marching Stars Marching Band from Bulgaria caught the eye with their special uniforms.

The Tonhalle was filled to capacity for the gala concert on Saturday evening 13 July 2024 with the Swiss Army Symphony Wind Orchestra. The hall was filled with many young people as the impressive orchestra, conducted by Gaudens Bieri, performed brass music of a very high standard.

The World Youth Music Festival Zurich offers participants aged between 8 and 25 the opportunity to make friends with young people from all over the world. The "Youth Music Party" is organised especially for this purpose. In the Hallenstadion, the young people were among themselves and brought the hall to the boil to the sounds of Dabu Fanstastic and Dodo together with Jugendmusik Glattal.

The festival ended with the closing ceremony and prize-giving on the Münsterhof. There was great excitement on the square when it was announced who had taken home the championship title in each category.

Erich Zumstein, president of the organising committee looked back with satisfaction to a successful festival weekend. "All the competitions and events were well attended beyond expectations. We were very pleased that we were able to offer young people from different countries an unforgettable weekend with this festival and hope that their enthusiasm for brass music was strengthened thanks to this event."

#### **Detailed information & images**

[www.wjmf.ch](http://www.wjmf.ch)

#### **World Youth Music Festival**

The World Youth Music Festival Zurich (WJMF) was founded on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Jugendmusik Zürich 11 and has since developed into an international festival for amateur musicians between the ages of 9 and 25. Since 1985, between 2,600 and 4,500 young people from all over the world have travelled to Zurich for each festival to meet like-minded people from other associations from all over the world, to make music with them and to compete with them in various categories. Over the past 33 years, a total of 250 orchestras from around 50 countries have come together for a fascinating musical competition. The last WJMF took place in 2017. Unfortunately, the planned 2021 edition had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

The festival is organised by a volunteer organising committee, which is staffed by competent experts in the respective fields and supported by many helpers. The Chairman of the Organising Committee is Erich Zumstein, Director of the Zurich Conservatory Music School.

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