

GSTAAD MENUHIN FESTIVAL

& ACADEMY

Discovery – Exploring the Universe of Music

Discovery – Music Education by Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy

For the ninth consecutive year since 2017, DISCOVERY is embarking on a vibrant musical journey, offering a wide array of activities and concerts tailored for children, youth and people with disabilities. DISCOVERY presents an assortment of experiences, from cozy concerts for the littlest ones to engaging workshops, accompanied rehearsals and concert excursions, as well as special concerts for children and families. Participants are encouraged to be attentive listeners or dive into their own creative expressions. Additionally, they get a backstage pass to meet outstanding musicians in person. Infused with joy and excitement, DISCOVERY opens doors to the magical realm of music, providing platforms to actively participate, explore new avenues and cultivate a deeper connection to the Festival world.

Participation in activities like “Concert for the little ones”, “Behind the Curtain”, “Musical Delight” and “Play-Along Kids’ Concert” is free for children and young people. Teenagers and people with disabilities can enjoy the offerings of “Concert+” and “Inclusive Culture” for 10 Swiss Francs. Residents of the Saanenland, Obersimmental, and Pays-d’Enhaut regions also get free entry. We adapt flexibly to the composition of groups, allowing for events not only in German but also in English.

The Discovery programmes are made possible through the generous and much-appreciated support of patrons, foundations and sponsors.

Concert for the little ones (0 – 2 years)

Step into enchanting crawling jam sessions where the littlest ones, joined by their parents, are welcomed to listen and join in the fun. Crawl, marvel, laugh, and clap – it’s all part of the experience. Senses are playfully awakened with a mix of sounds and diverse materials. An extraordinary musical rendezvous for babies with the world of music and the musicians! Duration: 45 minutes.

Play-Along Kids’ Concert (3 – 6 years)

Embark on a whimsical journey as a captivating story unfolds during this chamber music ensemble performance. In a relaxed setting, children, accompanied by their parents, are encouraged to actively participate by shaping the narrative, dancing, singing, or getting up close and personal with the musicians. Duration: 60 minutes.

Behind the Curtain (7 – 12 years)

Accompanying the Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy concerts are hands-on workshops tailored to the programmes. Furthermore, children are encouraged to attend rehearsals and / or have chats with the artists. Ever wondered how much practice goes into a concert? Curious about the gestures of conducting or the magic behind trumpet sounds? Feel free to ask burning questions and dive into various hands-on experiences. Duration: 60 – 90 minutes.

Musical Delight (7 – 12 years)

In lively two-hour workshops, children are encouraged to dive into the world of music in a communal setting. Everyone has a musical side! No prior musical know-how is needed to unleash creativity. Each workshop is a mini musical adventure, promising not only loads of fun but also new experiences for all

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participants. We'll make music and dance together, craft our own tunes, invent rhythms and groove to the beats. Duration: 120 minutes.

Concert+ (12 years and up)

Guided by a music educator, teenagers come together to experience selected concerts. Before the main event, there are interactive workshops or age-appropriate concert introductions to get them ready. The journey wouldn't be complete without a peek behind the scenes and a chance for a personal meet-and-greet with the artists.

Inclusive Culture (accessible events for people with disabilities, 16 years and up)

Accompanied by a music educator, people with disabilities come together to experience chosen concerts. New this season: "Relaxed Performances" – concerts designed for everyone who enjoys a more laid-back atmosphere and accessible conditions. Inclusive music workshops are also being newly introduced.

@school (for schools and summer camps)

The "Stars in the Classroom" programme invites local schools to experience concerts together in the Gstaad Festival Tent. These concerts, featuring international orchestras and global stars, offer rich content for comprehensive classroom preparation. Additionally, efforts are made to connect the classes with artists who may visit their classrooms. Upon request, a comprehensive dossier is provided to aid in preparing classes for the concert experience. This is a customizable offering, crafted to align with the musical interests of the youth! Our "@school" events are also tailored for holiday camps and summer retreats. Workshops, rehearsals, and concert visits can be customized 'à la carte' for each group upon request.

Family Concert: "Kids on the Flow"

Led by Alex Wäber, Thäis Martinez Fraga and Norbert Schwarz, students from the Saanenland region will embark on an exciting journey into music and dance over the course of several months. The project culminates in a vibrant performance on Saanen's village square on August 16 at 4 PM. This innovative programme encourages kids and teens to express themselves through movement and dance in a way that feels authentic to them. Instead of following a set style or choreography, the group will collaboratively create their own unique expressions, inspired by the music of Béla Bartók.

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Programme changes may occur.

For additional details, please check the Festival's website (gstaadmenuhinfestival.ch › Discovery) and refer to the separately available DISCOVERY brochure.

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