

Heidi Purga
Minister of Culture of the Republic of Estonia
Suur-Karja Street 23
15076 Tallinn,
Estonia

Grafenegg, 23 March 2025

Dear Minister Purga,

With the physical copy of this letter, it is my pleasure to send you the 2024 Yearbook of the European Union Youth Orchestra; an online version is also available, at <https://bit.ly/euyo-2024-yearbook>. I do hope you will enjoy this retrospective of a very busy and fruitful year past.

We are Europe's most vibrant musical family, inspiring current and future generations to achieve peace and understanding through music. We continually strive to create maximum opportunity for young musicians and value for audiences and communities throughout Europe, at regional, national, and international level. Our work is made possible through the commitment and support from all 27 EU Member States, and I would like to thank you and the Ministry of Culture for your indispensable contribution.

2025 Activities

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you about our activities in 2025. I will need to be selective in order that this letter not take up too much of your valuable time. I will do my best therefore to synthesise some key, if non-exhaustive, activities in 2025.

Between April 1-10 we will embark on our Spring Tour of Poland, as part of the cultural programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Entitled *Inspiring the Future*, it is a major collaborative project with Poland's best youth music ensembles to celebrate young creative talent in Poland and throughout Europe. Directly after we return from Poland, five EUYO alumni will travel to Bolzano to work with local music school pupils as part of the launch of *Music Hub Italy*; a model-sharing programme piloted and led by our extensive *Music Hub Austria* activities, planned from our home in Grafenegg.

We are usually busy on Europe Day, but May 2025 perhaps sets an EUYO record in that we will be performing simultaneously at three major events. We are greatly honoured to be participating in *Remembering for the Future* in Sankt Pölten; other EUYO musicians will be in Moldova on the invitation of the EU Delegation and the Romanian Cultural Institute, and at Expo 2025 Osaka appearing at the EU, Austrian, Polish, and Italian Pavilions.



Honorary President Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament | Co-Founders Lionel & Joy Bryer
Founding Music Director Claudio Abbado | Music Director Iván Fischer | Conductor Laureate Bernard Haitink
Chair Ewa Bogusz-Moore | Advisory Council Founding Chair Sir Ian Stoutzker CBE | Executive & Artistic Director Marshall Marcus

Head of Honorary Patrons Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Postal address: Grafenegg 10, 3485 Grafenegg, Austria - info@euyo.eu

European Union Youth Orchestra Association (seat)
Grafenegg 10, 3485 Grafenegg, Austria
ZVR-Zahl: 1112083318

European Union Youth Orchestra Foundation (Italy)
Comune di Bolzano – Ufficio Cultura, Vicolo Gumer 7, 39100 Bolzano
Foundation Reg. 1560724

In June, we continue our work as cultural ambassadors for the European Union at Europa-Forum Wachau. Meanwhile, EUYO alumni will be teaching in Malaysia and Mexico as part of our work diffusing European excellence in classical music ex-EU.

Our Summer Tour 2025, the biggest project of our season, sees us enjoy a full three-week residency in our home at Grafenegg, Austria. The exceptional facilities of Grafenegg's outstanding cultural campus enable us to hold a wealth of rehearsals, chamber music coaching, *MusicLabs* widening the upskilling opportunities we offer, a community day in Vienna celebrating Schönberg and Berio in partnership with the Arnold Schönberg Center, our popular side-by-side project with the Lower Austrian Music Schools Management, a renewed sponsorship collaboration with Thomastik-Infeld for our string players, formal portraiture for every Orchestra member kindly offered by Viennese photographer Sebastian Herndlhofer, and more. Following our tour launch concert on 2 August at Grafenegg's *Sommerklänge*, we will be on the road visiting Berlin, Bolzano, returning to the Grafenegg Festival, and concluding with a mini-residency in collaboration with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, including strong emphasis on community work.

Autumn 2025 includes participation in *Suoni delle Dolomiti*, a music festival in the unusual and spectacular setting of the Dolomite mountains; a return to the European Cultural Heritage Summit, Brussels; our live auditions in all 27 EU Member States; our annual online Model Sharing Symposium, and the continuation of our *Frontrunners* online learning and our *Café Bauhaus* creative entrepreneurship projects.

Where the Road Leads - The Impact of Your Support

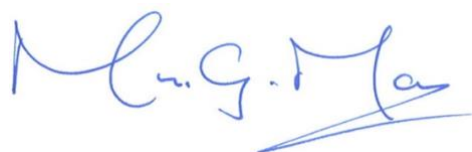
Music is about music, and more. It is a road, a guide, and companion. Throughout 2024, your generosity has enabled our mission to empower Europe's most talented young musicians, individually and together. EUYO musicians are the best of the best; only 3% of applicants win a place.

No concert last year was complete without a standing ovation, the audience transported by the skill, commitment, intensity, and beauty of what they heard. The press reported that "there's really only one acceptable opinion to be held about the European Union Youth Orchestra; namely, that they're brilliant" (ArtsDesk), and described us as "a magnificent ensemble that is worth every effort and every penny" (Klassik Begeistert); "convincing artistically, and also on a human level" (Luzerner Zeitung), "bringing the audience viscerally to its feet" (ConcertoNet), and "astonishing...with nothing to fear from the most renowned international ensembles" (Giornale della Musica). In every performance, the message is clear: we stand for the cooperation, creativity, diversity, and achievement that define enlightened Europeans.

We would be enormously grateful for the maintenance of your annual grant, at least at the same level as last year at €6.500,00. The annual grant supports the travel, accommodation, subsistence, teaching, performance, education, and online expenses of your country's young musicians in the EUYO, including alumni. The transfer of your grant by 1 May 2025 would contribute invaluable to touring costs, which we often need to settle in advance of the performances.

Once again, on behalf of the Orchestra, our thanks to you for your invaluable support.

With kind regards and best wishes,



Marshall Marcus
Executive & Artistic Director