



Press Release

Nordischer Klang in Greifswald Publishes First Programme Highlights for its 30th Anniversary: Established and Young Artists from Northern Europe, Musical Innovations and Promising Debuts in Germany

Feb. 2021 – Nordischer Klang has been one of the highlights in Greifswald’s cultural calendar since 1991. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Germany’s largest annual multi-genre festival that centres around the music, art and literature of northern Europe. The festival’s special birthday edition will be held at various venues in Greifswald from 7 to 22 May 2021 and will observe the hygiene and self-distancing regulations. In order to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic, the programme has been spread over more days than in previous festivals and more of an emphasis has been given to open-air events. Furthermore, there are plans to supplement the programme with digital offers. ‘Our plans have been seen as an important signal,’ explains Festival Director Prof. Dr. Marko Pantermöller, ‘all of our cooperation partners want to work together with us to reinstate a joint cultural life and contribute towards the preservation of the fragile structures in the culture sector.’

Nordischer Klang is closely affiliated to the Department of Finnish and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Greifswald, which will this year celebrate 100 years of teaching Finnish in Greifswald. It is therefore particularly fitting that Finland is the patron of this year’s festival. Several musical highlights from Finland will offer a broad range of performances. With its mix of traditional accordion rhythms, folk, hip-hop and electro, the folktronica project **Suistamon Sähkö** breaks the boundaries to all genres. Due to its innovative approach, the band is seen in Finland as the future of folk music. The singer **Bubbeli** plays a mix of indie, reggae and soul with his band, **The Runeberg Orchestra**. The single ‘Mååhe’ from their debut album of the same name was named Finland Swedish song of the year in 2019. With Finnish pianist **Terhi Dostal**, an artist is returning to Greifswald, who played at Nordischer Klang in 2019 and was on the line-up for last year’s festival. The esteemed soloist and graduate of the renowned Sibelius Academy will play a programme in honour of the composer and piano virtuoso Ilmari Hannikainen. The Finnish act that will open the festival will be announced in March.

‘After last year’s festival was held online, we are making every effort this year to provide a large number of artists from last year’s programme with the opportunity to play live, here in Greifswald,’ says Artistic Director, Dr. Frithjof Strauß. ‘The festival once again provides a brilliant opportunity for delving into diverse cultural and music scenes and to enjoy the North.’

Rosa Cruz (CU/EE) kicked off last year’s digital festival, sending salsa, flamenco and bossa nova sounds into the audience’s living rooms. Hopefully, this year she and her trio will be able to bring their Cuban rhythms to the stages of the Hanseatic town. The contribution from Greifswald’s Swedish partner town Lund will be made by **Sousou & Maher Cissoko** (SN/SE), one of Sweden’s most popular world music acts. Hamar, Greifswald’s Norwegian partner town, will be represented by the folk music

singer **Camilla Granlien**, who, together with her trio, adds a jazzy touch to traditional folk songs. The young female artist **Karmen Rõivassepp** (EE/DK) is at home in the jazz scene of Aarhus in Denmark. She has already performed together with Danmarks Radio Big Band and the Aarhus Jazz Orchestra. Two exciting Germany debuts can be expected with **Mall Girl**(No) and **Lexsoul Dancemachine**: The newcomer band Mall Girl is attracting international attention with its sound of 1980s pop, noise, math rock and indie. Lexsoul Dancemachine brings together groovy street funk and sweet soul. They are considered one of the best live acts in their home country Estonia and recently were awarded the prize Band of the Year 2021 at the Estonian Music Awards.

As usual, Greifswald's cultural festival will not only provide musical acts, but also events based around art and literature. This includes making up for the exhibition **EXPEDITION nova**, which was planned for last year's festival and presents paintings, collages, objects, films and sounds from the Baltic Sea region and Europe's far north. The newly published anthology *Zeitstücke* from Greifswald's student project **Neue Nordische Novellen** will be presented at a reading. The book contains translations of short stories and poems from upcoming authors from northern and eastern Europe, including the promising Finnish author Tiina Lehtikoinen. In his reading, **Bernd Wegner** (DE) will trace Finland's development into a modern democracy. This year's festival poster, designed by the Finnish graphic design student, Taru Rantanen, was published at the end of last year, but the other 36 poster designs, which were created as part of a joint poster competition together with the Finnish Institute in Germany, are also true eyecatchers in terms of visual communication. They will be presented at the festival, as part of a **poster exhibition**.

The second half of the festival programme for the 30th Nordischer Klang will be announced in March. All of the information regarding the festival is available online at www.nordischerklang.de or as news on our social media profiles on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and our [YouTube channel](#), as well as via our [Newsletter \[de\]](#). A taster of this year's musical programme is available on the festival's own [Spotify channel](#).

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