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Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society
SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY
Artistic and creative portfolio

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Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society

The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society (EASCHS) is a non-profit cultural organisation founded in 1992 to promote the musical heritage of Arnold Schönberg and his pupils, as well as innovative traditions of musical modernism. Bringing together composers, performers, music researchers and educators, the Society integrates artistic practice, theoretical research and music education. Through festivals, artistic residencies, research initiatives and international collaborations, it supports experimentation, professional knowledge exchange and the development of contemporary musical culture in Estonia.

Its major activities include:

- **Pärnu Contemporary Music Days (since 1988)** – a contemporary music festival combining concerts, symposia, workshops and interdisciplinary artistic projects.
- **Publishing, Music Research and Documentation (since 1990)** – musicological research, publishing and documentation, originating in the *Scripta Musicalia* editorial initiative established by future Society members before its formal foundation.
- **SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY (since 2007)** – an artistic residency initiative that began by supporting Society members and Estonian music professionals and subsequently developed into an international programme for composers, performers, researchers and interdisciplinary artists.
- **Contemporary Music Terminology Commission NOKK (since 2009)** – research, systematisation and publication of Estonian-language contemporary music terminology.
- **Experimental Musical Instruments Project (since 2010)** – integration of instrument construction, composition and interdisciplinary creative education.
- **Benin Traditional Music Project (since 2017)** – international artistic collaboration and research into the rhythmic systems of West African traditional music.
- **Music Composition Education Project (since 2018)** – development of digital educational resources and integration of composition into general music education.
- **Microtonal Music Project (since 2021)** – research into alternative tuning systems, particularly 22 equal divisions of the octave, and their applications in composition and performance.

Mission and Organisation Profile

The Society was founded in August 1992 by eleven young musicians seeking to broaden the artistic and intellectual horizons of Estonian musical life. Its establishment reflected a response to the relatively conservative and uniform musical environment of the late 1980s, when opportunities to study and apply innovative compositional ideas were limited within established educational and concert practices.

Arnold Schönberg, as a central figure of twentieth-century musical modernism, became the Society's principal artistic and intellectual inspiration. While initially focused on introducing the ideas and musical heritage of Schönberg and his pupils to Estonia, the Society gradually expanded its activities to encompass experimental composition, contemporary performance practices, interdisciplinary artistic research, music education and international collaboration.

A defining principle of the Society is the understanding that artistic creation, theoretical inquiry and education are interconnected activities. This approach continues to guide its projects and provides the conceptual foundation for SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY.

Areas of Activity

A fundamental principle underlying the Society's activities is the understanding of contemporary music not merely as a repertoire, but as a field of artistic research, musical exploration and the development of new creative practices**.** The Society's activities can be divided into six interconnected areas. These areas form an integrated framework in which artistic practice, education and research complement and reinforce one another.

1. Contemporary Music Composition and Performance

Exploring new compositional methods, musical systems and performance practices, and presenting them through concerts, festivals and workshops.

2. Innovation in Music Education

Developing the teaching of musical composition in general education and music schools, including the creation of digital educational resources.

3. Experimental and Interdisciplinary Arts

Promoting multimedia art, new technologies, experimental musical instruments and collaboration across artistic disciplines.

4. Research into Musical Systems

Investigating microtonality, alternative tuning systems, rhythmic structures and non-European musical traditions, and exploring their applications in contemporary composition and performance.

5. Development of Contemporary Music Terminology and Knowledge

Systematising musical concepts, developing Estonian-language specialist terminology and making research results publicly accessible.

6. International Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

Facilitating joint artistic and research activities involving composers, performers, researchers, educators and other creative professionals from different countries.

Major Projects and Initiatives

Pärnu Contemporary Music Days (since 1988)

Pärnu Contemporary Music Days (PNP) represent the historical starting point of the Society's activities and one of its principal platforms for artistic experimentation. The festival was established in January 1988, four years before the Society was formally founded. Its initiators were musicians seeking opportunities to study and perform music that was largely absent from the curricula and discussions of music education institutions at the time. Between 1988 and 1994, and again in 1998, the festival focused

primarily on individual twentieth-century composers, whose works were performed in concerts and examined during symposia. Over time, the festival's scope expanded to include compositional techniques, interdisciplinary art, music technology, experimental instruments and alternative musical systems. For example, the 2008 festival explored analytical methods in modernist music and relationships between music, theatre and visual arts, combining symposia, concerts, workshops, exhibitions and performances. The festival's long-standing activity is documented in an extensive archive of programmes dating from 1988.

Website: LINK

Publishing, Music Research and Documentation (since 1990)

The Society's activities extend beyond organising concerts and workshops to encompass musicological research, publishing and the documentation of musical modernism and contemporary music. These activities originated in 1990 with the establishment of *Scripta Musicalia*, a musicological editorial initiative launched by future members of the Society before its formal foundation in 1992. Subsequent work has included cooperation with the Estonian cultural magazine *Teater. Muusika. Kino* (Theatre. Music. Cinema), the publication of musicological materials and contributions to the development of collections dedicated to musical modernism in Estonia's major music libraries. The Society also maintains a cooperation agreement with the National Library of Estonia concerning the preservation of its collection.

Website: LINK

Contemporary Music Terminology Commission NOKK (since 2009)

The Society's Contemporary Music Terminology Commission, known as NOKK, was established in 2009 to research, organise and make Estonian-language contemporary music terminology publicly accessible. Its activities include collecting, systematising and defining musical concepts, developing and standardising Estonian terminology, and publishing the results. Among other platforms, the Commission's work is made available through Wikipedia. This long-term initiative supports contemporary music research, education and artistic practice by developing the conceptual and linguistic tools required to discuss new musical phenomena.

Website: LINK

Experimental Musical Instruments Project (since 2010)

In collaboration with the Estonian Academy of Arts, the Society has developed a project in which participants without formal musical training construct experimental musical instruments and compose music using their own creations. The project combines instrument building, sonic experimentation and composition education. Its distinctive approach is to treat musical composition not merely as the use of existing instruments and established musical systems, but also as the invention of new sound sources and performance techniques.

Website: LINK

Benin Traditional Music Project (since 2017)

The project aims to investigate the rhythmic structures of traditional music from Benin and the wider West African region and introduce them to Estonian and international music communities. Its central research subject is polypulsating modal rhythms, which differ from the metric structures commonly

encountered in Western musical traditions. The project has involved the Beninese composer Steve Abeni, who has led artistic residencies, lectures, workshops, music transcription activities and practical ensemble work. Programmes in 2022 and 2023 included extended artistic residencies and collaboration with musicians from Estonia and Finland. The project demonstrates the Society's interest in comparative research into musical cultures and its ability to combine international knowledge exchange with practical musical creativity.

Website: LINK

Music Composition Education Project (since 2018)

In cooperation with Tallinn University, the Society has developed an approach in which musical composition is considered an integral part of general music education rather than an activity reserved for specialised professional training. The project has resulted in digital composition teaching materials for upper secondary school students, published through Wikibooks and the Estonian digital educational resource platform E-koolikott. The longer-term objective is to develop educational materials for basic schools and children's music schools. The project's underlying principle is that composition is a form of creative thinking that can be cultivated among learners with different levels of musical experience.

Website: LINK

Microtonal Music Project (since 2021)

The Microtonal Music Project is one of the Society's most clearly defined areas of artistic research. Initiated during Pärnu Contemporary Music Days between 2021 and 2023, the project aims to coordinate the composition, performance and research of microtonal music in Estonia through international collaboration. Particular attention has been devoted to the system of 22 equal divisions of the octave (22-EDO). The project combines theoretical research, practical composition exercises, the creation of new works and the development of specialised performance skills. An important outcome is CODEX PÆRNVENSIS, a collection of materials from the international study group *Gradus ad Parnassum*, published in a revised and expanded second edition in 2025. The collection was compiled by Hans-Gunter Lock, with contributions from Juhani Nuorvala, Sebastian Dumitrescu and Jacob Barton.

Website: LINK

Cooperation Network and Organisational Capacity

The Society maintains a network of partners through which artistic practice, research, education and technological development can be combined. Its established cooperation relationships and potential areas of collaboration include:

Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre

Musicology, evaluation of composition teaching methods and development of contemporary music terminology.

Website: LINK

Tallinn University – Baltic Film, Media and Arts School

Artistic and interdisciplinary research, including the exploration of relationships between music, media and technology.

Website: LINK

Estonian Academy of Arts

Experimental musical instrument development, audiovisual technologies and interdisciplinary artistic practices.

Website: LINK

Pärnu Opera

Organisation of concerts, festivals, workshops and performance projects, using established platforms such as Pärnu Contemporary Music Days, the MUSICA SACRA concert series and the Summer Aria Festival. These partnerships provide a framework for international artistic cooperation and enable the Society to connect creative activities with research, education and public cultural events.

Website: LINK

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY is an international artistic residency programme initiated by the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society, building on its long-standing experience of international artistic exchange and its commitment to artistic experimentation, research and collaboration. Primarily intended for composers, performers and music researchers, the programme also welcomes practitioners from other artistic disciplines whose work connects music with other media. Its principal objective is to facilitate the exchange of professional knowledge and experience in contemporary music, particularly forms of expertise best transmitted through direct interaction between artists.

The programme offers a flexible environment adapted to the individual objectives of participating residents, supporting independent creative work, artistic research, collaboration with Estonian artists, workshops and, where appropriate, public performances. Through these activities, SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY fosters international professional relationships and contributes to the development of new artistic methods and practices.

Artistic and conceptual foundations:

Artistic experimentation as a method of knowledge creation. The Society's projects aim not only to present new artistic works, but also to investigate the musical systems, compositional methods, performance practices and interdisciplinary approaches underlying them. Artistic experimentation is understood as a means of generating knowledge, questioning established conventions and expanding the possibilities of musical and artistic expression.

International collaboration as a means of exchanging expertise. The Microtonal Music Project, the Benin Traditional Music Project and previous artistic residencies illustrate how specialised knowledge and experience brought by international artists can be explored, adapted and further developed through collaboration with Estonian musicians. Such direct artistic interaction enables the exchange of expertise that may be difficult to transmit through conventional educational or written resources alone, while encouraging the development of new artistic methods and lasting professional relationships.

Integration of artistic practice, research and education. The Society's festivals, workshops, educational initiatives and terminology development activities create an environment in which new ideas can be investigated through artistic practice, developed through research and creative experimentation, and shared through education and public cultural activities. Together, these principles form the artistic and conceptual foundation of SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY, informing its approach to international collaboration, artistic autonomy and the development of individual residency projects.

Residency Framework and Principles

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY operates within a flexible framework that combines artistic autonomy, international collaboration and project-specific organisational arrangements. The programme distinguishes between two forms of artistic residency and three practical residency types, allowing each project to be adapted to its artistic objectives, participants and resource requirements. The following sections outline the principles governing artistic collaboration, resident selection, participation, evaluation and documentation of residency activities and outcomes.

Artistic Autonomy and Residency Forms

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY accommodates two principal forms of artistic residency, reflecting different approaches to artistic collaboration, institutional involvement and the evaluation of outcomes. These forms concern the Society's role in the artistic process and are independent of the practical residency types described in the following section.

1. Independent Artistic and Research Residencies

Independent Artistic and Research Residencies provide artists and researchers with time, space and suitable working conditions to pursue their own creative or intellectual interests.

Residents retain full artistic autonomy and responsibility for defining their objectives, choosing their working methods and determining the development of their work. The Society provides organisational assistance, access to professional networks and, where appropriate, opportunities for artistic dialogue, professional consultation and advisory mentoring. Such support does not involve institutional artistic supervision, restrict the resident's artistic autonomy or entail formal evaluation of the artistic quality of the outcomes.

These residencies do not require the production of a completed artwork, public performance or other predetermined artistic result. Their value may lie in experimentation, research, professional reflection and the development of new artistic ideas.

2. Curated Collaborative Residencies

Curated Collaborative Residencies are developed around specific artistic or research objectives agreed upon by the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society and participating residents.

The Society takes an active role in defining the project's objectives, developing its artistic framework and coordinating collaboration between residents, Society members and other participating professionals. These residencies may focus on the creation of new musical compositions, the development of performances or interdisciplinary productions, or the investigation of particular artistic and musicological questions.

The Society participates in evaluating the outcomes in relation to the objectives established for each project. Evaluation may include artistic discussions, critical reflection, analysis of creative processes, assessment of completed works or performances, and consideration of the knowledge and professional experience gained through collaboration.

Common Principles

Both residency forms are based on respect for artistic independence, international professional exchange and the integration of artistic practice, research and education.

The objectives, responsibilities, expected activities and practical arrangements of each residency are agreed upon individually, taking into account the resident's artistic interests, the nature of the proposed project and the resources available.

In both residency forms, the Society may document the activities undertaken and the experience gained. Such documentation is distinguished from the artistic evaluation of outcomes. In Independent Artistic and Research Residencies, the documentation of artistic or research results is limited to materials that residents agree to share, without imposing requirements for completed works or formal artistic assessment.

Residency Types

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY offers three types of residency projects, designated as "Writer", "Performer" and "Producer", according to the nature of the proposed activities, technical requirements, number of participants and organisational needs. These types describe the practical scale, resources and organisational arrangements of individual projects. They are independent of the distinction between Curated Collaborative Residencies and Independent Artistic and Research Residencies, which concerns the degree of artistic collaboration and institutional involvement in the artistic process. Each of the three types may be organised as either a curated or an independent residency. The "Writer" type generally requires the least organisational and technical support and is therefore particularly suitable for independent creative or research work. However, curated projects may also be organised within this type.

The Schönberg Society's existing residency room at the Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House is available free of charge for projects of all three residency types, subject to availability and prior agreement. The room is maintained by the Society under an annual rental agreement, with the associated costs covered from the Society's other activities and resources rather than charged to individual residency projects. This arrangement represents the Society's own contribution to the residency programme. Any additional accommodation, working facilities, technical equipment or professional services are arranged and financed separately according to the needs and budget of each project.

"Writer"

The "Writer" residency type is intended for individual artists and researchers whose projects can be carried out primarily through independent creative or intellectual work, without requiring specialised technical equipment or extensive practical assistance.

Residents may use the Schönberg Society's residency room at the Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House as a quiet environment for composition, writing, research and other desk-based activities.

Formal artistic mentoring is not normally provided within the "Writer" residency type, although it may be arranged for curated projects where appropriate. Residents may also interact with Estonian musicians and other creative professionals, and the Society can facilitate relevant professional contacts and informal artistic exchange.

"Performer"

The "Performer" residency type is intended for individual artists whose projects require specialised technical equipment, professional assistance or working facilities beyond those normally available for independent desk-based activities.

Such projects may involve rehearsals, recordings, experimentation with performance techniques, artistic research, or the development and preparation of new works. Public performances or artistic presentations may form part of the residency but are not required.

Residents may use the Schönberg Society's residency room, while the Society assists in arranging the technical resources, professional support and suitable working facilities required for the project. Artistic mentoring and collaboration with local professionals may be arranged according to the project's objectives and needs, whether the residency is curated or independent.

Where mentoring or professional consultation is provided within an Independent Artistic and Research Residency, it serves an advisory function and does not limit the resident's artistic autonomy or transfer responsibility for artistic decisions to the Society or the mentor.

The availability and costs of specialised equipment, technical assistance, mentoring and working or performance facilities are determined individually during project preparation.

"Producer"

The "Producer" residency type is intended for more complex artistic or interdisciplinary projects involving several artists or other creative professionals and requiring more extensive technical resources, working facilities or organisational assistance. Such projects may involve collaborative artistic research, rehearsals, recordings, the development of interdisciplinary works, or other activities requiring coordinated participation by multiple professionals. Public performances or presentations may be included but are not required.

In addition to the Schönberg Society's existing residency room, a second room may be rented from the Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House for an additional fee. As the additional room can accommodate up to two people, the two rooms together can accommodate up to three residents, subject to availability and prior agreement. For larger projects, additional accommodation, working spaces and technical facilities may be arranged through other local providers, depending on availability and the project's budget.

Artistic mentoring, professional collaboration, technical support and other organisational arrangements are determined according to the project's objectives, scale and specific requirements, whether the residency is curated or independent.

Resident Selection and Participation

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY follows a flexible, project-based approach to the selection of participating artists and researchers. Residents may be invited directly by the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society, selected through cooperation with partner organisations, or, where appropriate, recruited through open calls for specific residency projects.

The selection process takes into account the applicant's artistic or research interests, professional experience, the relevance of the proposed activities to the Society's fields of expertise, and the opportunities for meaningful artistic collaboration and professional exchange.

For Curated Collaborative Residencies, particular attention is given to the compatibility of the resident's artistic interests and expertise with the objectives of the proposed collaborative project. Residents may be selected on the basis of their specialised knowledge, creative approach or potential contribution to joint artistic or research activities.

For Independent Artistic and Research Residencies, the principal considerations are the artistic or intellectual relevance of the proposed work, the suitability of the available working environment and the

Society's capacity to provide appropriate practical and professional support. The selection of residents does not imply institutional control over their independent creative work.

The selection procedure and criteria are adapted to the nature of each residency and communicated to prospective participants. Decisions are made by the Society in consultation with relevant artistic collaborators or partner organisations where appropriate, taking into account available resources and the feasibility of the proposed activities.

The Society seeks to facilitate international artistic exchange across geographical and cultural boundaries, including opportunities for artists who face financial or practical barriers to international mobility.

Residency Documentation

The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society considers the documentation of residency activities an important part of its long-term artistic, research and organisational work. Documentation helps preserve the experience gained through international collaboration, supports institutional continuity and makes the development of artistic projects accessible for future reference.

The extent and form of documentation are adapted to the objectives and nature of each residency. As a general principle, the Society aims to maintain a concise record of each residency, including its artistic or research objectives, duration, participating artists and partner organisations, principal activities, relevant outcomes and possible opportunities for further collaboration.

For Curated Collaborative Residencies, documentation may include descriptions of the creative process, newly developed compositions or performances, research findings, concert programmes, photographs, audio and video recordings, and reflections on the achievement of the project's agreed objectives. Where appropriate, the Society also documents its evaluation of the artistic or research outcomes.

For Independent Artistic and Research Residencies, documentation focuses primarily on the residency's implementation, the working conditions provided, the activities undertaken and any experiences or results that residents choose to share. The Society does not formally evaluate the artistic quality of independently developed works or require residents to produce completed artistic outputs solely for documentation purposes.

Where appropriate, residents may contribute a brief reflection on their experience, including the development of their artistic ideas, professional contacts established and potential directions for future work. Such reflections are intended to support mutual learning rather than impose external artistic assessment.

Documentation materials are collected and retained with due regard for copyright, intellectual property rights, privacy and the permissions of participating artists. Public dissemination of recordings, photographs, artistic works or research materials is subject to the necessary agreements.

By documenting both tangible artistic outcomes and less immediately visible forms of professional and intellectual development, SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY seeks to preserve the value of international artistic exchange and support the continuity of future artistic and research collaborations.

Website: LINK

Facilities and Accommodation

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY provides a flexible framework for arranging accommodation, working and performance spaces, technical resources and professional support according to the needs of each residency project. Drawing on the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society's established cooperation network in Pärnu and Tallinn, facilities and services are selected individually, subject to availability, prior agreement and the project's budget.

Location and Artistic Environment

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY is based in Pärnu, Estonia, a coastal city with an established cultural environment and an active contemporary music community. The residency is organised by the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society in cooperation with local and international artists, cultural organisations and creative centres. Depending on the artistic objectives of each resident, activities may include independent creative work, composition, artistic research, rehearsals, workshops, seminars, concerts and interdisciplinary performances. The residency programme is flexible and individually adapted to the artistic needs of participating residents.

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY operates through a network of cultural institutions, artistic organisations and independent creative spaces rather than being based in a single dedicated residency facility. This flexible model allows the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society to adapt the working environment to the specific artistic objectives, practical requirements and scale of each residency project. Through its established partnerships, the Society can arrange access to a variety of working and performance venues, including studios, rehearsal rooms, concert halls, educational facilities and interdisciplinary creative spaces.

Rather than maintaining a fixed set of facilities regardless of their use, the Society selects and rents additional spaces according to the actual needs of each project. This approach enables efficient use of resources while ensuring that residents have access to appropriate working conditions, technical facilities and opportunities for artistic collaboration. The choice of venues depends on the nature of the planned activities, the number of participants, technical requirements and the desired forms of interaction with local artists and audiences.

The following venues form part of the Society's established network of cooperation or represent potential facilities for SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY activities. Their use is arranged individually, subject to availability and agreement with the respective partners.

For each residency project, the Society identifies the working spaces, accommodation and technical facilities required in consultation with the participating residents and relevant partners. Specific arrangements are confirmed with the respective venue operators and accommodation providers during project preparation, taking into account the residency dates, number of participants, artistic and technical

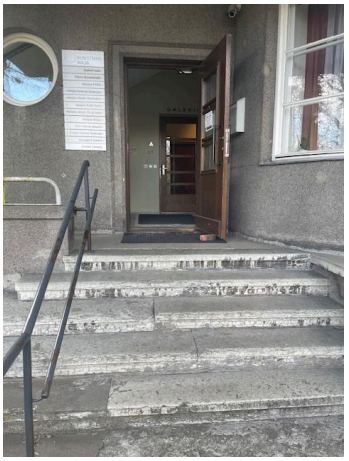
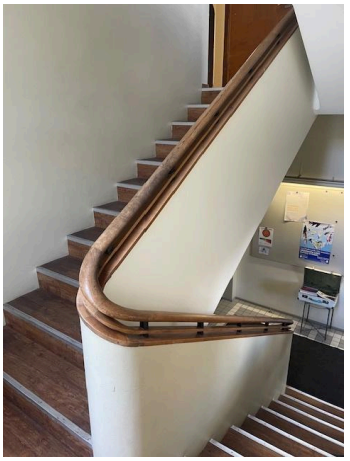
requirements, accessibility needs and available budget. Where facilities have not yet been reserved at the application stage, the Society distinguishes planned arrangements from confirmed bookings and finalises the necessary agreements before the residency begins. If a preferred facility is unavailable, suitable alternatives are sought within the Society's cooperation network or through additional local providers.

Website: LINK

Residency Facilities

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY can make use of several residency facilities in Pärnu and Pärnu County that combine accommodation with spaces for artistic work, research and collaborative activities. These facilities offer different working environments, ranging from an urban artistic community to rural and interdisciplinary creative settings. The choice of venue depends on the nature, scale and technical requirements of each project, as well as seasonal conditions, availability and agreed organisational arrangements.

Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House

The Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House provides opportunities for contact with local artists and participation in Pärnu's wider creative community. The Society can also arrange additional working and accommodation facilities at the Artists' House, subject to availability and the requirements of individual projects.

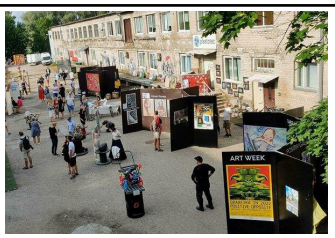
Website: LINK

MASSIA – International Artists' Residency and Interdisciplinary Creative Centre

Located in the former school building in Massiaru village (52 kilometres from Pärnu), Häädemeeste Parish, Pärnu County, MASSIA is an international, self-organised residency centre for artists, researchers and practitioners from different disciplines. Situated in a rural environment surrounded by forests and wetlands, approximately 12 kilometres from the Baltic Sea, MASSIA provides an alternative setting for artistic research, experimentation, creative collaboration and interdisciplinary exchange. The centre offers residential accommodation and shared working facilities, including studios, spaces for group activities, a large hall suitable for performances and workshops, communal facilities and basic audiovisual equipment. The availability of specific spaces and technical resources is subject to prior agreement. MASSIA operates according to principles of self-organisation, collective responsibility and artistic autonomy. Residents actively participate in maintaining the shared environment and organising their own activities. The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society has previously used MASSIA for artistic activities, including the *Rhythms of Benin* workshop in June 2018, led by Steve Abeni and Andrus Kallastu. Within SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY, MASSIA offers a potential venue for intensive creative workshops, experimental music projects, interdisciplinary research and collaborative artistic activities requiring a residential working environment outside the city.

Website: LINK

LOOVLINNAK. Pärnu Creative City Residency



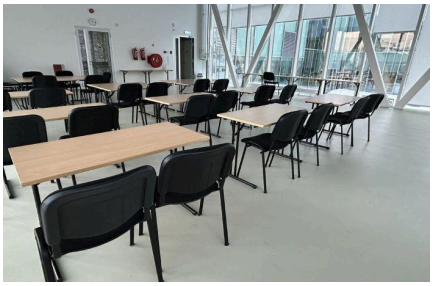
LOOVLINNAK is an interdisciplinary creative environment in Pärnu, offering facilities for artistic work, experimental performances, workshops and collaborative projects. Accommodation for visiting artists may also be arranged, subject to availability. As the premises are heated exclusively by air-source heat pumps, residency activities are primarily suited to the warmer months, depending on weather conditions and indoor temperatures.

Website: LINK

Working and Performance Venues

Through its established cooperation network, SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY can arrange access to working and performance venues in Pärnu and Tallinn for rehearsals, concerts, workshops, seminars, artistic research and collaborative activities. These venues complement the programme's residential facilities by providing professional, educational and cultural environments for artistic activities without offering accommodation. The use of each venue is coordinated with the relevant institution, taking into account the artistic, practical and technical requirements of the project, and is subject to availability and prior agreement.

Pärnu Central Library



Pärnu Central Library is an established venue for cultural and educational activities in the city. The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society has organised symposia, workshops and concerts at the library, bringing together composers, performers, researchers and audiences. Within SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY, the library offers a suitable environment for artistic discussions, lectures, workshops and chamber music performances, supporting the exchange of ideas between visiting artists and the local cultural community.

Website: LINK

Pärnu St Elizabeth's Church

Pärnu St Elizabeth's Church is an active Lutheran church and an important venue for concerts, rehearsals and public presentations, particularly contemporary chamber music, organ music, vocal music, electroacoustic music and experimental performance projects. The church houses two pipe organs and an Estonia concert grand piano, providing opportunities for a wide range of musical activities, including solo performances, chamber music and interdisciplinary projects.The church is regularly used for the MUSICA SACRA concert series and other artistic activities organised in cooperation with Pärnu Opera. It has also hosted performances of numerous electroacoustic works, demonstrating the church's role as a setting for the development and presentation of innovative contemporary music. The use of the church for residency activities is arranged in consultation with the congregation, taking into account its regular religious services and other congregational activities.

Website: LINK

Pärnu Vanalinna Basic School (Pärnu Vanalinna Põhikool)

Located in the historic centre of Pärnu, Pärnu Vanalinna Basic School offers a suitable setting for educational and artistic activities within the SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY programme. Subject to prior agreement, the school's hall can accommodate composition workshops, lectures, seminars, collaborative creative sessions and artistic presentations. The school is particularly well suited to projects integrating artistic experimentation with music education and bringing together young participants, teachers and professional artists. Its central location, within walking distance of other cultural institutions, makes it a valuable addition to the residency's network of working and performance venues in Pärnu.

Website: LINK

Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music, Tallinn

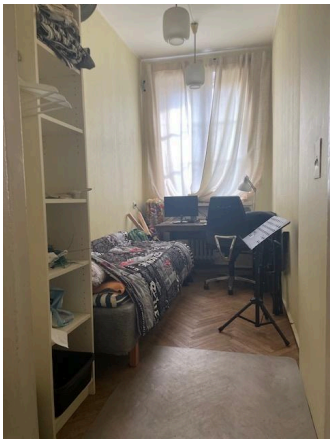
Established in 2021 and located at Pühavaimu 9 in Tallinn's historic centre, the Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music (ECCM) brings together leading Estonian contemporary music organisations, including the Estonian Composers' Union, Estonian Electronic Music Society, Ensemble U:, Tallinn New Music Ensemble (TUMA), YXUS Ensemble, Improtest and the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society. ECCM provides professional rehearsal and performance facilities and supports contemporary and experimental music through concerts, workshops, artistic research, educational activities and international collaboration. The Centre is also a partner of the Tallinn UNESCO City of Music programme. As an ECCM member organisation, the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society regularly presents concerts within its Schönberg Concert Series at the Centre. Within SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY, ECCM offers opportunities for rehearsals, concerts, workshops, artistic presentations and professional networking. The use of its facilities is subject to availability and prior agreement.

Website: LINK

Accommodation

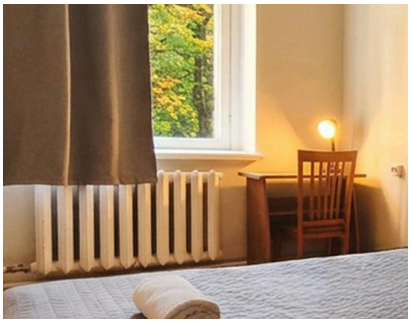
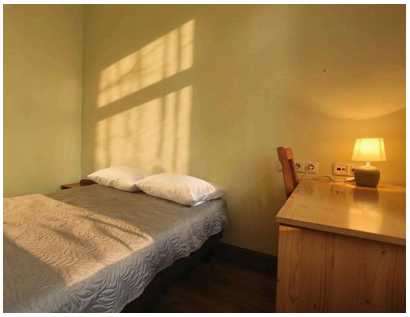
Accommodation arrangements are adapted to the duration of each residency, the number of participants and the nature of the planned artistic activities. Particular attention is given to safety, privacy, accessibility and suitable conditions for rest and independent work. Depending on the needs of each project, residents may be accommodated in the Schönberg Society's existing residency room at the Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House, in additional rooms available at the Artists' House, or through other accommodation providers in Pärnu. For projects involving several participants or requiring separate living and working facilities, suitable arrangements are made according to individual needs, availability and the project's budget. All accommodation arrangements are agreed upon in advance with the participating residents and relevant providers.

Schönberg Society room in the Pärnu Artists' House



The Society maintains a small residency room at the Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House, located at Nikolai 27 in central Pärnu. The room is equipped with basic furniture, including a bed, desk and chair, and is suitable primarily for individual accommodation, composition, research and other activities requiring a quiet working environment. The room is available free of charge for projects of all three residency types, subject to availability and prior agreement. Its rental costs are covered by the Society under an annual agreement and are not charged to individual residency projects. This arrangement does not automatically include travel, daily living expenses, additional accommodation or other project-specific services. The Artists' House also has a second dedicated residency room, which can be rented separately for an additional fee. This provides greater flexibility in accommodating visiting artists and arranging suitable living and working conditions for residency projects involving multiple participants.

Lõuna hostel

A possible accommodation provider is Lõuna Hostel, associated with Pärnu St Elizabeth's congregation. The final arrangements will be confirmed according to availability and the needs of the participating residents.

Website: LINK

Victoria Hotel

Located in the historic centre of Pärnu, Victoria Hotel offers a comfortable hotel accommodation option in a slightly higher price category than the budget accommodation typically used for longer artistic residencies. The hotel is particularly suitable for visiting lecturers, researchers, guest artists and international participants attending shorter events, such as the symposia, seminars and concerts organised within Pärnu Contemporary Music Days (PNP). Its central location provides convenient access to Pärnu's principal cultural venues, including Pärnu City Gallery, the Artists' House and St Elizabeth's Church, allowing guests to participate in artistic and academic activities without extensive local transportation. Within the Society's flexible accommodation network, Victoria Hotel serves as an option for guests

requiring the comfort and services of a traditional hotel during short visits. Its use is arranged according to the duration of the event, participants' needs, room availability and the project budget.

Café Grand, located at Victoria Hotel, hosts a weekly informal music-making club on Wednesdays. Visiting musicians staying in Pärnu are welcome to participate, providing opportunities to meet local musicians, play music together and engage in spontaneous artistic exchange. This regular gathering adds a valuable social and artistic dimension to the hotel's role within the SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY network, encouraging informal connections between visiting artists and the local music community beyond scheduled residency activities.

Website: LINK

Professional and Technical Support

The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society provides artistic, technical and organisational support tailored to the objectives, professional backgrounds and creative requirements of each residency project. Drawing upon its established network of composers, performers, music researchers, sound artists, technical specialists and other creative professionals, the Society facilitates artistic collaboration, professional exchange and access to specialised expertise.

Artistic Mentoring and Professional Collaboration

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY distinguishes between artistic mentoring, professional collaboration and independent creative work according to the nature and objectives of each residency.

Artistic mentoring is primarily provided within Curated Collaborative Residencies and may be arranged for any of the three residency types, depending on the artistic objectives and agreed needs of the project. The Society identifies an appropriate mentor or professional advisor according to the resident's artistic or research interests, professional background and planned activities. The mentor's role, availability and forms of interaction are agreed upon individually during project preparation.

Mentoring may include individual consultations, joint artistic research, discussions of compositional methods and performance practices, methodological guidance, critical reflection on work in progress, and practical assistance in developing new artistic ideas. In Curated Collaborative Residencies, mentors may also participate directly in artistic development, collaborative creative processes and reflection on the achievement of jointly agreed objectives.

Independent Artistic and Research Residencies are primarily intended for self-directed creative or intellectual work and do not normally include formal artistic mentoring, regardless of the residency type. Where professional consultation or advisory mentoring is arranged, it serves a non-directive function and does not involve institutional artistic supervision or evaluation. Residents retain full responsibility for defining their artistic objectives, choosing their working methods and developing their work independently.

The absence of formal mentoring does not imply professional or social isolation. Residents in both residency forms may interact with Estonian musicians, composers, performers, researchers and other creative professionals. Where appropriate, the Society facilitates introductions, professional contacts and opportunities for informal artistic dialogue according to residents' interests and the availability of local

collaborators. Such interaction does not constitute formal mentoring or institutional evaluation of independently developed artistic work.

Depending on the nature and objectives of the residency, the Society also assists with organising rehearsals, workshops, artistic meetings, collaborative creative sessions, concerts, seminars and public presentations. These activities may involve professional musicians, ensembles, researchers, educators and interdisciplinary artists from the Society's wider cooperation network. Where appropriate, residents are connected with local cultural institutions and educational organisations, enabling their work to contribute to broader professional and community engagement.

Technical Facilities and Equipment

The Society's network of local partners and technical service providers enables it to arrange specialised equipment and facilities according to the requirements of individual projects.

In Pärnu, professional multichannel audio equipment can be rented locally for the creation, spatialisation and presentation of immersive and ambisonic sound environments. Smaller-scale lighting and video equipment is also available for hire, supporting experimental performances, multimedia installations, audiovisual productions and interdisciplinary artistic activities.

Additional technical resources, including microphones, audio interfaces, mixing consoles, loudspeakers, projection equipment and suitable rehearsal or performance spaces, can be arranged as required, subject to local availability and the project's budget.

Technical requirements are identified in advance in consultation with participating residents and, where necessary, relevant technical specialists. The Society coordinates arrangements with venue operators, equipment providers and technical personnel, taking into account equipment compatibility, safe operation, availability and financial resources. The scope of technical assistance and the respective responsibilities of the participating parties are agreed upon during project preparation.

Rather than maintaining an extensive inventory of permanently owned equipment or a fixed set of specialised facilities, the Society follows a flexible, project-based approach. Technical resources and additional working spaces are selected and rented according to actual artistic needs, enabling residents to work with appropriate professional equipment while supporting the efficient and environmentally responsible use of financial and material resources.

Through this combination of artistic mentoring, professional networking, organisational assistance and adaptable technical infrastructure, SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY provides an environment in which international artists and researchers can pursue independent creative work, engage in meaningful collaboration with Estonian colleagues, experiment with new artistic methods and, where appropriate, share the results of their activities with professional communities and wider audiences.

Organisational Assistance

The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society coordinates the artistic, organisational and practical aspects of SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY in close cooperation with participating artists, researchers and partner organisations. The Society assists residents in planning their activities, establishing professional contacts, arranging suitable working and accommodation facilities, accessing technical resources, and organising rehearsals, workshops, concerts and other public presentations where relevant.

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY does not charge participation fees. Each residency is organised as an individual artistic or research project with a budget adapted to its objectives, duration, planned activities

and practical requirements. Financial arrangements are determined according to the nature of the residency, the resources available to the Society and participating partners, and the conditions of any external funding.

Under the Society's general operating model, financial costs and organisational responsibilities are shared between the Society, participating residents and, where applicable, collaborating institutions. The Society coordinates the hosting and implementation of each residency in Pärnu. Depending on the agreed project budget and available funding, the Society may cover costs related to accommodation, working and rehearsal spaces, technical support, locally rented equipment, and the production and organisation of concerts, workshops and other public activities.

Depending on the project's financial arrangements, residents may contribute to their own international and domestic travel expenses, daily living costs or production costs arising from their individual artistic requirements. However, such contributions are not a general condition of participation and are determined individually for each residency.

For residencies supported by external funding programmes, including Culture Moves Europe, financial arrangements follow the specific eligibility rules, funding provisions and contractual obligations of the respective programme. Grants, allowances and other forms of financial support are allocated and administered in accordance with these requirements, avoiding double funding of the same costs.

The precise distribution of costs and responsibilities is agreed upon individually, taking into account the project's artistic or research objectives, overall budget, available funding and the contributions of participating partners. This flexible approach enables the Society to adapt its organisational and financial commitments to the specific needs of each residency while maintaining transparency and financial accountability.

Particular attention is given to artists and researchers who face significant financial, geographical or other practical barriers to international artistic mobility. In previous projects involving artists from developing countries, the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society has assumed full financial and organisational responsibility for the residency, including international travel, accommodation, production and local arrangements. Such support reflects the Society's commitment to facilitating intercultural exchange and providing opportunities for artistic participation that might otherwise be restricted by economic circumstances.

By combining a participation-fee-free model, flexible project financing, compliance with external funding requirements and targeted support for artists facing barriers to international mobility, SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY seeks to provide an accessible and financially sustainable framework for independent artistic work, collaborative creation, research, professional exchange and long-term international cooperation.

Rights and Responsibilities

SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY is based on mutual respect, artistic independence, transparent cooperation and clearly defined responsibilities between the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society and participating residents.

The specific conditions of each residency are agreed upon individually, taking into account its artistic objectives, duration, available resources, financial arrangements and the nature of the planned activities. These arrangements are documented in a written residency agreement or other appropriate written confirmation, specifying the respective responsibilities and commitments of the Society and the participating residents.

Artistic Independence and Working Conditions

Residents retain their artistic and intellectual independence throughout the residency. In Curated Collaborative Residencies, artistic objectives, collaborative activities and expected outcomes are agreed upon with the Society and participating professionals. In Independent Artistic and Research Residencies, residents determine their own creative objectives, working methods and artistic outcomes.

The Society undertakes to provide or arrange the working conditions, accommodation, professional contacts and practical support agreed upon for each residency, subject to the available resources and project budget.

Residents are expected to respect the agreed working arrangements, the facilities and equipment made available to them, and the rights and working conditions of other participants and partner organisations.

Intellectual Property and Artistic Documentation

Copyright and other intellectual property rights in works created during the residency remain with their respective authors and rights holders, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Where artistic works are developed collaboratively, questions of authorship, ownership, performance rights and the use of resulting materials are addressed through separate agreements where necessary.

The Society may document residency activities through photographs, audio or video recordings, written reports and other materials. The publication or further use of protected artistic works and identifiable personal material is subject to applicable rights and the necessary permissions.

Public Presentations and Professional Exchange

Public concerts, performances, workshops, seminars, exhibitions or other presentations may form part of a residency where they correspond to the agreed artistic objectives.

Such activities are not a general requirement for all residents. In particular, Independent Artistic and Research Residencies may focus entirely on individual creative work, experimentation or research without a predetermined public outcome.

Financial and Organisational Responsibilities

The allocation of financial costs and organisational responsibilities is agreed upon individually for each residency, in accordance with the Society's participation-fee-free and project-based operating model.

Both the Society and participating residents are expected to fulfil their agreed commitments, communicate relevant changes in a timely manner and cooperate in resolving practical or organisational difficulties.

Through these principles, SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY seeks to provide a professional and supportive working environment that combines clear organisational arrangements with respect for artistic freedom and individual creative development.

Past Residencies

The following examples illustrate the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society's experience in organising artistic residencies and international creative collaborations since 2007. These activities have contributed to the development of the current SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY framework, including its residency forms and practical types. Earlier projects are presented in their original contexts and are not necessarily classified retrospectively according to the programme's present structure.

Society Members and Estonian Musical Colleagues

Since 2007

The Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society's own residency room at the Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House has been available to the Society's members and fellow musicians from Estonia for various artistic projects taking place in Pärnu. The room has provided accommodation and a working environment for composers, performers and other music professionals participating in concerts, festivals, workshops, rehearsals and collaborative creative activities.

Steve Abeni (Benin)

2018, 2022 and 2023

Rhythms of Benin

The residencies of Beninese composer Steve Abeni formed part of the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society's long-term project dedicated to the study, documentation and artistic exploration of traditional Beninese music. The central focus was the distinctive rhythmic organisation of West African music, particularly modal rhythmic structures and polypulsation. Unlike conventional Western metric systems, these musical practices involve the combination of rhythmic modes derived from fundamental duration units, creating complex and flexible rhythmic textures closely connected to dance and bodily movement.

The three residencies demonstrate the Society's ability to sustain international artistic collaboration over several years and develop it from introductory workshops into an extended programme of artistic research, education, ensemble practice and public cultural exchange. They also illustrate the Society's approach to artistic residencies as opportunities for reciprocal learning, connecting non-European musical knowledge with contemporary composition, music research and experimental performance practices in Estonia.

2018 – Introduction to Beninese Rhythmic Practices

The first residency included the *Rhythms of Benin Workshop*, held from 8 to 10 June 2018 at MASSIA, an international artists' residency centre in Estonia. Led by Steve Abeni and Estonian composer Andrus Kallastu, the workshop introduced participants to Beninese rhythmic principles through direct musical practice and intercultural exchange. The activities were documented in video recordings, establishing a foundation for subsequent research and collaboration.

Website: LINK

2022 – Extended Research, Education and International Collaboration

The second residency took place from 20 August to 30 October 2022, involving activities in Estonia and Finland. Its programme combined artistic research, analysis of existing recordings, transcription of traditional Beninese music into Western notation, composition, lectures, workshops, rehearsals and public performances. A two-day workshop at Pärnu Central Library on 2–3 September brought together theoretical presentations and practical music-making. The symposium included contributions by Andrus Kallastu on the research project, Hans-Gunter Lock on transcription methods, and Steve Abeni on traditional Beninese instruments, rhythms and musical philosophy. The workshop concluded with a public concert. The Finnish programme included collaboration with musicians and educational institutions, particularly the Sibelius Academy and Juvenalia Music Institute. Workshops introduced Beninese musical practices to professional musicians, children and participants from different community backgrounds. Further activities in Estonia included a seminar at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, workshops at Pärnu Music School, and collaborative performances with percussion and dance groups. The residency concluded with public concerts and participatory musical events, including a gathering at Kabli Community House involving Steve Abeni, Estonian percussion ensembles, a Latvian drumming ensemble and workshop participants.

Website: LINK

2023 – Continued Artistic Research and Ensemble Development

The third residency took place from 30 July to 15 October 2023 and further developed the artistic and educational activities established during previous visits. Its programme included composition, lectures on African music history, transcription, practical workshops and collaboration with Estonian and Finnish musicians. A ten-day workshop in Pärnu, held from 1 to 10 August as part of the RAAMID 4 programme, provided an opportunity to study Beninese modal rhythms through theoretical discussion and practical ensemble work. The residency also included participation in the interdisciplinary *Seaside Salon* performance event in Pärnu on 26 August, collaboration with Finnish musicians in Helsinki, and a series of traditional Beninese music ensemble workshops in Pärnu during September and October. Additional public activities included a presentation at the Estonian Academy of Arts and a cultural salon event entitled *Pärnu – Grand-Popo*.

Website: LINK

Heliä Mailiis Viirakivi (Finland)

1 August – 30 September 2024

Experimental Vocal Music and Alternative Performance Practices

Finnish composer and performer Heliä Mailiis Viirakivi's two-month residency focused on the investigation and practical application of alternative notation, aural interpretation and experimental performance practices in contemporary music. The project combined independent artistic research, composition, interdisciplinary collaboration, workshops and public performances. Particular attention was given to vocal music, electroacoustic composition, real-time composition and the relationship between performers and unconventional musical materials. The residency was structured around periods of independent research and two intensive periods of artistic activity in Pärnu.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Artistic Research

During the first intensive period, from 1 to 11 August, Viirakivi participated in the RAAMID 5 programme and the interdisciplinary musical composition workshop COMP 2024. The activities brought together composers, singers, instrumentalists, dancers, electronic musicians and performance artists to explore collective composition, improvisation and alternative approaches to musical interpretation. Viirakivi participated in an interdisciplinary performance at Pärnu Creative City on 8 August, bringing together acoustic instruments, live electronics, voice, movement, poetry and experimental sound practices. She also took part in a philosophy of fine arts seminar on intersubjectivity at Pärnu City Gallery's Artists' House on 9 August. The COMP 2024 workshop culminated in a concert at Pärnu St Elizabeth's Church on 10 August, featuring compositions and collective artistic works developed through the workshop process.

New Compositions and Concert Performances

The second intensive period, from 16 to 29 September, focused on rehearsals, artistic collaboration and concert performances. Two concerts entitled *Creative Residents* were presented on 21 September at Pärnu St Elizabeth's Church and on 22 September at the Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music in Tallinn. The performers included Heliä Mailiis Viirakivi (voice, flute and electronics), Kai Kallastu (soprano), Leonora Palu (flute), Andrus Kallastu (piano) and Gon Muruaga (guitar and electronics). The programmes combined works by Anthony Braxton, Kaija Saariaho and contemporary composers associated with the residency, including new compositions by Viirakivi. Among her new works were *Melody of April* (2024), for voice, two flutes and piano, and *Kai koitti valon sävel* (2024), for two sopranos, bass flute and fixed media. The residency documentation records four concerts, an interdisciplinary performance, a workshop and a seminar, together with five world premieres of new compositions.

Research and Artistic Outcomes

Alongside public performances, the project involved research into alternative notation and interpretation methods, exploration of experimental vocal techniques, and collaboration with artists working across different disciplines. The residency created opportunities to test new musical ideas in rehearsal and performance, exchange specialist knowledge with Estonian artists, and present the results to audiences in Pärnu and Tallinn. The project demonstrates the Society's capacity to support complex interdisciplinary artistic processes, facilitate the creation and premiere of new works, and integrate individual artistic research into existing festivals, workshops and concert programmes.

Website: LINK

Yellow Wasabi (China/France)

3–12 April 2025

Traditional Instruments, Live Electronics and New Media Art

The residency of Chinese-born, France-based experimental musician and interdisciplinary artist Yellow Wasabi explored the transformation of traditional musical instruments through contemporary technology, improvisation and interactive media. Yellow Wasabi's artistic practice combines the Chinese guzheng (a traditional plucked zither) with live electronics, Max/MSP programming, motion sensors, biometric technologies and artificial intelligence. Her work draws upon her academic background in ecology and

neuroscience, exploring relationships between bodily movement, musical expression, perception and the environment.

Artistic Concept and Research

The central artistic question of the residency concerned how the expressive possibilities of a traditional instrument can be expanded through contemporary digital technologies. Yellow Wasabi presented approaches to combining the acoustic properties of the guzheng with electronic sound processing, experimental noise music and interactive audiovisual systems. Her work also addressed the relationship between scientific research and artistic experimentation, particularly embodied cognition, data sonification and the role of physical movement in musical performance.

Concerts and Public Presentations

The residency included three principal public concerts in Estonia:

- 5 April 2025 – Pärnu St Elizabeth's Church: A concert in the MUSICA SACRA series, introducing the guzheng and Yellow Wasabi's electroacoustic performance practice to local audiences.
- 9 April 2025 – Tartu St John's Church: A further MUSICA SACRA concert, presenting her experimental approach to the traditional Chinese instrument.
- 10 April 2025 – Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music, Tallinn: A concert and artist presentation/workshop within the Schönberg Concert Series, focusing on the relationship between instrumental performance, electronic sound processing and interactive media.

Educational Activities and Professional Exchange

On 11 April, Yellow Wasabi presented an artist talk and workshop at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre as part of the live electronics lecture series led by Hans-Gunter Lock. The presentation addressed interdisciplinary collaboration between art and science, bodily movement and musical expression, computational music using Max/MSP, data sonification, artificial intelligence in new media art, and the professional development of independent artists. The residency also included meetings with members of the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society and other musicians, a visit to the Estonian Literary Museum in Tartu, and opportunities to become acquainted with Estonia's contemporary music environment.

Artistic and Organisational Significance

The project brought together traditional Chinese instrumental culture, experimental music, scientific research and contemporary digital technologies. It demonstrated the Society's ability to support interdisciplinary artists whose practices extend beyond conventional contemporary music performance. By combining concerts, educational presentations, professional meetings and cultural exchange across several Estonian cities, the residency introduced new artistic approaches to different audiences and strengthened connections between international experimental music practices and Estonia's artistic community.

Website: LINK

Eriko Takahashi (Japan)

2025

Contemporary Piano Music and International Repertoire Exchange

Japanese pianist Eriko Takahashi participated in the SCHOENBERG RESIDENCY programme in 2025. A documented public outcome of her residency was the concert *Midnight Songs* (*Kesköö laulud*), presented on 11 September 2025 at the Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music in Tallinn as part of the Schönberg Concert Series. The programme focused on twentieth- and twenty-first-century piano music from Estonia, Finland and Japan, bringing together works from three different musical cultures. Through this repertoire, the concert provided an opportunity to explore connections and contrasts between contemporary compositional traditions and introduce international piano music to Estonian audiences. The project represents the Society's continuing interest in international repertoire exchange and the presentation of contemporary music through collaboration with visiting performers.

Website: LINK