

Cologne, 14.01.2026

Learning by doing, side by side: This is the guiding principle of the **zamus: academy**, an intensive support program firmly integrated into the **zamus: early music festival**. Through focused rehearsals, participants work with renowned instructors to develop a challenging concert program within a short period, thereby significantly enhancing their chamber music skills. The scholarship program was launched in 2021 by KGAM members Leonard Schelb and Clara Blessing, along with the festival's then artistic director, Ira Givol. In 2026, the **zamus: academy** will be led by oboist Clara Blessing and clarinetist Robert Oberaigner, both of whom bring their international experience as soloists, orchestral musicians, and university professors. This year's focus is on the pinnacle of wind chamber music: the classical wind quintet. The highlight of the collaborative work is a concert at the **zamus: early music festival 2026**.

In addition, all participants will receive two online coaching sessions with the instructors and the zamus team. Topics range from historical performance practice to practical insights into the independent early music scene – including networking, fundraising, and grant applications.

:academy is awarding 5 places this year and is aimed at students of historical instruments in the following categories:

:academy scholarship program for oboe, flute, clarinet, bassoon, horn

The repertoire consists of classical wind quintets as well as duos and trios.

Tuning and instruments: 430 Hz, classical.

Instructors are Prof. Clara Blessing and Prof. Robert Oberaigner.

Accommodation costs for the period from May 21 to 25, 2026, are covered by zamus (shared accommodation with single rooms). Scholarship recipients receive a public transport ticket for the rehearsal period and a pass for the entire **zamus: early music festival**, valid for all festival events.

Schedule:

Mentoring: Each participant receives 2 x 30 minutes of mentoring.

May 21: Arrival at midday, half-day rehearsal (1 x 3 hours), plus a shared meal (lunch or dinner) and attending the opening concert together.

May 22: Half-day rehearsal for the instructors, half-day rehearsal for the participants independently (1 x 3 hours).

May 23: Full rehearsal day (2 x 3 hours).

May 24: Full rehearsal day (2 x 3 hours).

May 25: Full rehearsal day (2 x 3 hours), dress rehearsal and concert

Requirements and Application:

Applicants must be enrolled at a university and no older than 30 years of age at the time of registration. With the completed application form, we require:

- CV (in tabular form)
- audio recording (MP3, etc.) of two pieces of your choice, each 3–4 minutes long, played on a classical instrument (tuned to 430 Hz). An accompaniment is desirable, but not required.

Closing date

The closing date for applications is **28.02.2026** (the jury's selection will be announced from 14.03.2026).

Contact

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please send an e-mail to: lea.wolf@zamus.de

Application form

The application form is available on our website at the following link:

zamus.de/projects/academy

The required documents and recordings can be uploaded there.

