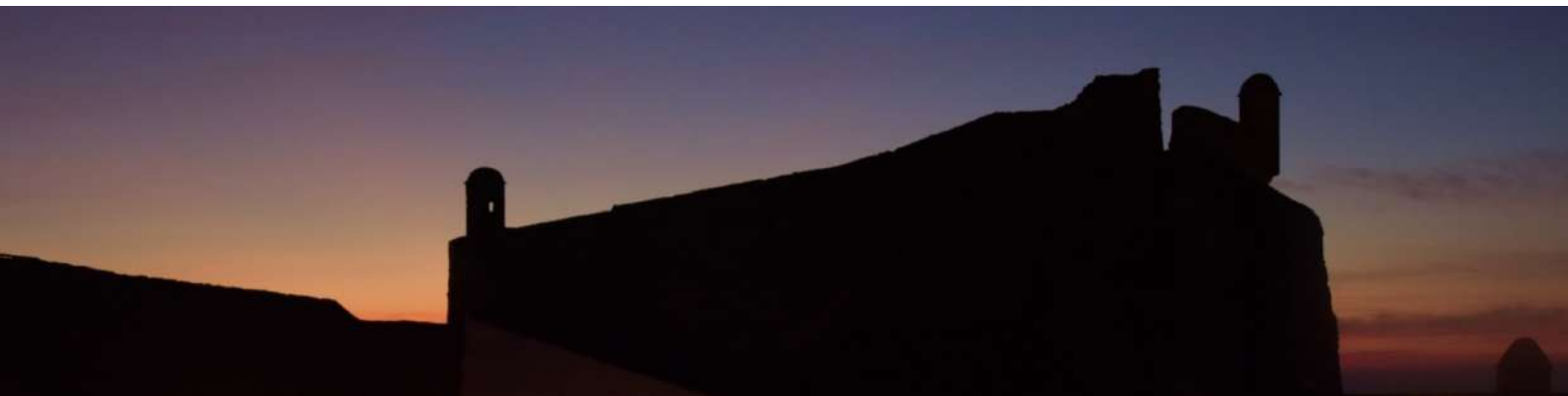




Press Release

12th Marvão International Music Festival (FIMM)

24 July – 2 August 2026

Artistic Direction:
Juliane Banse & Christoph Poppen



AT A GLANCE

The Marvão International Music Festival (FIMM) returns for its 12th edition from 24 July to 2 August 2026, bringing together world-class artists in one of Europe's most extraordinary cultural landscapes.

Set within the medieval village of Marvão, the Festival offers a unique encounter between music, history and nature where performances unfold across open-air stages, historic architecture and vast horizons.

Dates: 24 July – 2 August 2026

Location: Marvão, Alentejo | Portugal

Programme: ~40 concerts & events

Artistic Direction: Juliane Banse & Christoph Poppen



THE FESTIVAL

The Marvão International Music Festival (FIMM) returns from 24 July to 2 August 2026 for its 12th edition.

Founded in 2014 by soprano **Juliane Banse** and conductor **Christoph Poppen**, the festival has grown into one of Portugal's largest classical music festivals, attracting audiences, musicians and cultural professionals from across Europe and beyond. Today, it combines international artistic standards with a format that remains unusually personal and accessible.

FIMM takes place in and around **the medieval village of Marvão**, in Alentejo region, located within the Serra de São Mamede Natural Park near the Spanish border. Over ten days, concerts, artistic projects and cultural activities unfold across churches, castle spaces and the archaeological site of Ammaia, creating a close relationship between music, landscape and heritage.

Unlike many festivals built around touring schedules and one-off appearances, FIMM encourages artists to remain in Marvão throughout the festival. Musicians participate in multiple projects, perform alongside different colleagues and become part of the life of the village, creating an atmosphere shaped as much by collaboration and encounter as by the concerts themselves.

FIMM 2026

*The 2026 edition presents **more than 40 concerts** and complementary events, bringing together **more than 320 musicians**, conductors, singers and artists from Portugal, Europe and beyond.*

The programme ranges from orchestral concerts and chamber music to song recitals, choral projects, contemporary works and Late Night Specials. Alongside the musical programme, the festival also includes guided tours, drawing workshops, open rehearsals, children's events, artistic installations and the return of the Marvão Festival Chorus under the direction of Pedro Teixeira.

Among the highlights of this edition are the BPI | Fundação "la Caixa" Opening Gala, the bp Portugal Orchestra Concert, the Ammaia BPI | Fundação "la Caixa" Concert at the Roman archaeological site of Ammaia and the European première of Time (in-)Linear by Hong Kong composer Alice Yeung. The programme also marks the 50th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's death and includes a Late Night composer portrait dedicated to Isang Yun.

As in previous editions, the Festival combines internationally recognised artists with emerging talents and long-standing artistic collaborations. Rather than focusing on a single headline event, FIMM 2026 is built around a sequence of interconnected musical experiences that unfold across ten days and multiple venues, encouraging audiences to explore the programme as a whole.

PROGRAMME

With more than 40 events across ten days, the 2026 programme can be explored in many ways. Below is a thematic overview designed to help readers navigate its main formats, from orchestral concerts and chamber music to late-night specials, contemporary projects and activities beyond the concert stage.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

Large-scale orchestral performances frame the festival, from the Opening Gala to the Farewell Gala, bringing together international soloists, conductors and ensembles in the Castle Courtyard and at the Roman archaeological site of Ammaia.

24 July, 19:30 — Castle Courtyard

BPI | Fundação “la Caixa” Opening Gala

Cologne Chamber Orchestra · Christoph Poppen · Juliane Banse · Ruifeng Lin

26 July, 19:30 — Castle Courtyard

bp Portugal Orchestra Concert

Cologne Chamber Orchestra · Roc Fargas · Niek Baar · Ben Kim · Horácio Ferreira

29 July, 19:30 — Castle Courtyard

Symphonic Band Concert

Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa · David Fiuza · William Youn

31 July, 21:00 — Ammaia Archaeological Site

Ammaia BPI | Fundação “la Caixa” Concert

Hong Kong Sinfonietta · Christoph Poppen · Cy Leo · Daniel Chu · Reinhold Friedrich · Rafael Fingerlos

1 August, 19:30 — Castle Courtyard

Orchestra Concert

Ensemble TIMF · Soo-Yeoul Choi · Sumi Hwang · Tae-Hyung Kim

2 August, 19:30 — Castle Courtyard

Farewell Gala

Hong Kong Sinfonietta · Christoph Poppen · Juliane Banse · Valentin Lee · Martin Mitterutzner · Rafael Fingerlos · Veronika Eberle · Ruifeng Lin · Nils Mönkemeyer · Raphaela Gromes · Horácio Ferreira · Reinhold Friedrich · Cy Leo

CHAMBER MUSIC

Chamber music remains at the heart of the festival, unfolding across churches and historic venues throughout the ten days.

25 July, 19:30 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Goldmund Quartet

29 July, 16:00 — São Tiago Church
Arete Quartet

31 July, 16:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Novus String Quartet & Arete Quartet

1 August, 11:00 — São Tiago Church
Nils Mönkemeyer · William Youn · Horácio Ferreira

2 August, 11:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Raphaela Gromes · Julian Riem

2 August, 16:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Novus String Quartet

SONG RECITALS & VOCAL MUSIC

The 2026 programme includes song recitals, sacred repertoire, a cappella concerts and vocal chamber music.

25 July, 11:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Cupertinos

25 July, 16:00 — São Tiago Church
André Baleiro & David Santos

26 July, 11:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Holy Mass & Mozart Mass

28 July, 16:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Kölner Domchor

28 July, 19:30 — São Tiago Church
Juliane Banse · Niek Baar · Ben Kim

30 July, 16:00 — São Tiago Church
Juliane Banse · Valentin Lee · James Cuddeford · Aleksandar Madžar

30 July, 19:30 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Sumi Hwang & Tae-Hyung Kim

1 August, 16:00 — N. Sra. da Estrela Church
Marvão Festival Chorus

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Contemporary repertoire appears throughout the programme, from composer portraits to new commissions and interdisciplinary performances.

27 July, 16:00 — São Tiago Church

Composer Portrait – Benjamin Britten
(50th Anniversary of His Death)

27 July, 19:30 — Espírito Santo Church

Pierrot Lunaire
Ars Ad Hoc

29 July, 23:00 — Castle Cistern

“Klangwerk” for Cello and Full Moon
Igor Sacharow-Ross

30 July, 23:00 — Castle Cistern

Composer Portrait – Isang Yun

31 July, 21:00 — Ammaia Archaeological Site

European Première
Time (in-)Linear by Alice Yeung

LATE NIGHT SPECIALS

A series of informal late-night concerts explores different instruments, traditions and musical languages in unique festival venues.

24 July, 23:00 — Castle Cistern

Mandolin — Alon Sarel

25 July, 23:00 — Castle Cistern

Portuguese Guitar — Marta Pereira da Costa

28 July, 23:00 — Espírito Santo Church

Jazz Piano — Daniel Chu

29 July, 23:00 — Castle Cistern

“Klangwerk” for Cello and Full Moon
Igor Sacharow-Ross

30 July, 23:00 — Castle Cistern

Composer Portrait – Isang Yun

1 August, 23:00 — São Tiago Church

Accordion — João Barradas

BEYOND THE CONCERTS

The festival programme extends beyond the concert stage through a range of complementary activities.

- **Guided tours** (27 & 30 July)
- **Drawing Classes with Luci Eyers** (27–31 July)
- **Meet the Artist: “Igor Sacharow-Ross”** (26 July)
- **Meet the Artist: “Synchronize”** (28 July)
- **Children’s Concert – “RE.sound”** (29 July)

ARTISTS & ENSEMBLES

The 2026 edition brings together musicians from across Europe and around the world, representing a wide range of generations, traditions and artistic backgrounds. Many artists appear in multiple concerts throughout the festival, creating connections across programmes and contributing to the collaborative spirit that has long been characteristic of FIMM.

SOLOISTS & PERFORMERS

Aleksandar Madžar — piano
Alon Sariel — mandolin
André Baleiro — baritone
Ana Caseiro — soprano
Ben Kim — piano
Carla Isabel — soprano
Cy Leo — chromatic harmonica
Daniel Chu — jazz piano
David Santos — piano
Dmitrii Kalashnikov — piano
Florian Poppen — double bass
Horácio Ferreira — clarinet
Inês Montoia — percussion
Jaeyoung Kim — violin
James Cuddeford — violin
Jang Yoon-Sun — viola
Jeon Chae-Ann — violin
João Barradas — accordion
João Casimiro Almeida — piano
João José Pita Júnior — 7-string guitar
Joseph Moog — piano

Julian Riem — piano
Juliane Banse — soprano
Kyuhyun Kim — viola
Louis de Boncourt — baritone
Martin Mitterrutzner — tenor
Marta Pereira da Costa — Portuguese guitar
Niek Baar — violin
Nils Mönkemeyer — viola
Park Eun-Joong — violin
Park Seong-Hyeon — cello
Pinchas Adt — violin
Rafael Fingerlos — baritone
Raphaella Gromes — cello
Ricardo Carvalho — flutes
Reinhold Friedrich — trumpet
Rodrigo Gomes — piano
Ruifeng Lin — violin
Sumi Hwang — soprano
Tae-Hyung Kim — piano
Valentin Bauer — piano
Valentin Lee — tenor
Veronika Eberle — violin
William Youn — piano
Wonhae Lee — cello
Yoosin Park — cello
Young-Uk Kim — violin

ENSEMBLES & ORCHESTRAS

Arete Quartet
Ars Ad Hoc
Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa
Cologne Chamber Orchestra
Coro Ricercare
Cupertinos
Ensemble TIMF
Goldmund Quartet
Hong Kong Sinfonietta
Kölner Domchor
Marvão Festival Chorus
Novus String Quartet

CONDUCTORS

Alexander Nihues
Christoph Poppen
David Fiuza

Pedro Teixeira
Roc Fargas
Soo-Yeoul Choi

FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

FIMM is shaped by a team that combines artistic leadership, educational commitment and organisational experience. Together, they define the festival's vision, develop its programme and cultivate the relationships that connect artists, audiences, partners and the village of Marvão itself.

Artistic Direction

Juliane Banse

Internationally acclaimed soprano, recognised for her work across opera, concert and Lied repertoire. Alongside her performing career, she has been deeply involved in music education and artistic mentorship. Since co-founding FIMM in 2014, she has played a central role in shaping its artistic identity.

Christoph Poppen

Conductor, violinist and educator, internationally recognised for his work with leading orchestras and his commitment to innovative programming. Founder of the Marvão International Music Festival and the International Academy of Marvão, he continues to guide the festival's artistic vision while maintaining an active international career.

Full biographies:

<https://marvaomusic.com/en/artistic-direction/>

FIGURES

A few numbers that help illustrate the scale and reach of the 2026 edition of the Marvão International Music Festival:

- **Approximately 15,000 visitors** expected from Portugal and around the world
- **Nearly 40 concerts and events** presented over **10 days**
- **Around 25% of events** free to attend

- **More than [70 institutional partners](#) and sponsors**, both Portuguese and international
- **Over 320 artists and musicians** from many different countries and regions, including Australia, Austria, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, the USA, and others
- **Six main festival venues** across Marvão and its surroundings, from churches and castle courtyards to the Roman ruins of Ammaia
- **One European Première** – *Time (in-)Linear* by Alice Yeung
- **Several artist débuts** in Portugal

THE MARVÃO VILLAGE

Marvão is not simply the location of the festival. It shapes the way the festival is experienced.

Set within the Serra de São Mamede Natural Park, close to the Spanish border, Marvão is one of Portugal's best-preserved medieval hilltop villages. Located at an altitude of 860 metres, it is the highest village in Portugal and the seat of a municipality of around 3,000 inhabitants. Yet within its medieval walls, little less than 100 permanent residents remain.

During the festival, that small community is joined by musicians, audiences, volunteers and cultural professionals arriving from Portugal and around the world. For ten days, the village becomes a shared space where artists and audiences move through the same cobbled streets, cafés and picturesque public squares.

The compact scale of Marvão allows visitors to experience the festival on foot. Concerts are rarely more than a few minutes apart, and encounters that might feel exceptional elsewhere become part of everyday life: a rehearsal heard through an open window, a conversation after a concert, or a chance meeting between artists and visitors in the village square.

Situated approximately 2,5 hours from Lisbon, Marvão combines accessibility with a sense of remoteness. Concerts take place across a network of historic venues, each offering a distinct relationship between music and place. Together, they create a festival that extends beyond the concert hall and becomes embedded in the village itself.

FESTIVAL VENUES

Castle Courtyard

Located within Marvão Castle, whose origins date back to **the 9th century**, the Courtyard is the festival's principal open-air venue. It hosts the Opening Gala, the Farewell Gala and several major orchestral concerts throughout the festival.

Castle Cistern

Part of the medieval defensive complex, this atmospheric underground space provides an intimate setting for the festival's **Late Night Specials** series.

Nossa Senhora da Estrela Church

A historic pilgrimage church situated just outside the village walls, offering panoramic views over the surrounding landscape.

São Tiago Church

One of Marvão's historic religious buildings and a central venue for chamber music, recitals and vocal programmes throughout the festival.

Espírito Santo Church

A former hospital church whose intimate scale makes it particularly suited to contemporary and interdisciplinary projects.

Ammaia Archaeological Site

The remains of a Roman **city founded in the 1st century AD**. Located a few kilometres from Marvão, Ammaia hosts the festival's largest concert and one of its most distinctive cultural experiences, bringing large-scale orchestral performances into an extraordinary archaeological setting.



Marvão | Castle Courtyard



Marvão | Castle Cistern

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Festival App

The official Marvão International Music Festival app is available for both [Android](#) and [iOS](#) devices. It provides access to the full programme, artist information, venue details, maps, accommodation suggestions and practical information for visitors.

Tickets

Tickets are available online via [Ticketline](#) and through partner outlets, including Worten and FNAC stores. As several venues have limited capacity, advance booking is strongly recommended.

Transport

While most festival venues are located within walking distance of one another in Marvão, selected events take place outside the village, including at the Ammaia Archaeological Site. Dedicated festival shuttle buses are provided for these performances, allowing audiences to travel easily between venues.



Discover the Region

FIMM takes place in **Alto Alentejo**, one of Portugal's least densely populated and best-preserved regions. Located near the Spanish border and within the Serra de São Mamede Natural Park, the area is known for its cork oak forests, olive groves, vineyards, historic villages and rich cultural heritage shaped by centuries of exchange between Portugal and Spain.

Marvão provides an ideal starting point for exploring the wider territory. Visitors can discover Roman archaeological sites, local wineries, traditional gastronomy, hiking trails and one of the world's most important cork-producing regions, all within a landscape that remains remarkably untouched by mass tourism.

Many audiences choose to combine the festival with a longer stay, using the concerts as an opportunity to experience the culture, history and landscapes of Portugal's interior and the unique character of this border region.

From Marvão, visitors can also explore some of the most remarkable towns and historic sites on both sides of the border, with **places of interest located between just 10 minutes and up to 90 minutes away by car**, including Castelo de Vide, Portalegre, Valencia de Alcántara, Elvas, Cáceres, Badajoz, Estremoz, Vila Viçosa and Alcántara. From fortified towns, castles and Roman ruins to museums, wineries, local gastronomy and UNESCO World Heritage sites, the region offers a rich and diverse cultural landscape that extends far beyond the festival itself.

PRESS MATERIALS

The following materials are available for download and editorial use.

Credits: © **FIMM / Paulo Gouveia & Zuza Rožek**

- **Image Library**

Access and download the image library [HERE](#).

- **Press Photo Pack**

Download a curated selection of press images [HERE](#).

- **FIMM 2026 Logo Pack**

Download the official FIMM 2026 logos [HERE](#).

- **Press Kit (online)**

See the FIMM 2026 Press Kit in online format [HERE](#).

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

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Agência Regional de Promoção Turística do Alentejo
Turismo de Portugal

Click [HERE](#) to see the full list of current SPONSORS, PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS

MEDIA & STREAMING

The Marvão International Music Festival extends beyond the live experience through professional concert recordings, documentary productions and international media coverage.

Selected concerts are professionally recorded in partnership with **K&T Rights** and **CaixaForum+**. Recordings from previous editions remain available online through both platforms, extending the festival experience well beyond Marvão.

Concerts from previous editions are available free of charge:

[CaixaForum+](#) – selected full-length performances, available on the CaixaForum+ platform (Spain and Portugal)

[K&T Rights YouTube Channel](#) – selected performances available worldwide

The festival has also been the subject of a dedicated **RTP documentary**, offering a behind-the-scenes look at FIMM, its artists and the unique atmosphere of Marvão:

[RTP Documentary: Uma Estória de Silêncio e Harmonia \(2025\)](#)

International Press

“For eleven years, the festival has transformed the quiet of this small Alentejo village into one of Portugal’s most international classical music gatherings.”

Ricardo da Rocha
Público, Portugal

“Marvão, perched on its rocky summit, feels outside of time — a place where one truly listens.”

Roland Machenaud
InfoTravel, France

“In Marvão, the all-encompassing silence is so dense that it feels as though you can hear it.”

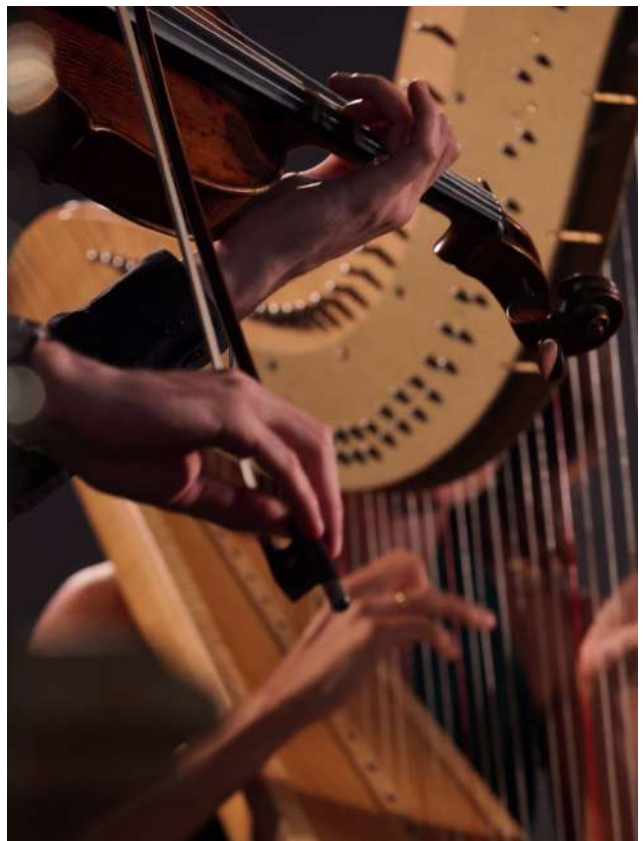
Alberto Mattioli
Il Foglio, Italy

“The essence of the festival is simple: excellent musicians, rarely heard repertoire, and an almost enchanted setting.”

Nicola Cattò
Rivista Musica, Italy

“In July and August, the supreme art of music also takes residence here.”

João van Zeller
Observador, Portugal



CONTACT

General Information

Marvão International Music Festival website: www.marvaomusic.com

info@marvaomusic.com

<https://marvaomusic.com/en/for-press/>

Press Accreditation

Journalists and media professionals can request accreditation through [the festival website](#).

Social Media

Instagram: [@marvaomusicfestival](#) / Marvão Music Festival - FIMM

Facebook: [Festival Internacional de Música de Marvão](#)

YouTube: [@MarvaomusicFestival](#) / Festival Internacional de Música de Marvão