

The theme of this year's Molyvos Festival is **CHAOS** – seven concerts allow you to experience the inspiring energy of disorder in music – an energy that unleashes creativity but also awakens the longing for harmony.

CHAOS – ΧΑΟΣ is the motto of this year's **Molyvos International Music Festival (MIMF)**. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of this unique chamber music festival will take place on the Greek island of Lesbos from **12 to 19 August 2025**. **Three island concerts, three concerts in Molyvos, and a concert for children and young people** offer the opportunity to experience masterpieces of chamber music in unique environments and unforgettable venues, presented by the two German-Greek pianists and festival directors Danae & Kiveli Dörken. The two sisters will be joined by artists such as Antje Weithaas, Kirill Troussov, Florian Donderer (violin), Georgy Kovalev and Sindy Mohamed (viola), Tanja Tetzlaff, and Christian-Pierre La Marca (cello).

*"CHAOS is a state of disorder and unpredictability, a state that precedes creativity and structure and which holds great potential, but it can also be a source of destruction. CHAOS challenges the human need for order and illuminates the tension between randomness and meaning in the universe. This year, let us explore and evoke the natural energy of disorder in music, while simultaneously tracing the potential for clarity and harmony, and reflect on the delicate balance between chaos and order in music and in life."*

Danae & Kiveli Dörken

*"We begin the festival with the opening concert on **12.08**, entitled **Pandemonium** – the name of the place where chaos dominates everything. From here, we embark on a journey in which we attempt to recognize the state of chaos as an opportunity and harness its potential to create a new and hopefully better world order. To do this, we must experience the pain in the concert on **13.08**, called **Pain**, which leads us to the concert on **16.08**, entitled **Opportunity**. These concrete opportunities can take many forms: for example, recognizing a positive aspect in a sea of negative aspects, overcoming difficulties in general, but one can also draw energy from the chaos and make a conscious decision to rebel against it. In this way, we reach our next concert on **17.08**, called **Rebellion**. This can also be a source of hope, as can be experienced in the concert on **18.08**, entitled **Hope**. Finally, in our last concert on **19.08**, called **Creation**, we will celebrate the creation of something new—and hopefully be reborn from the current state of chaos, realizing that we had to experience precisely this kind of disorder and unpredictability in order to achieve new structure, clarity, and harmony."*



This year, the Molyvos Festival offers an extremely exciting, multifaceted, and diverse program, spanning six concerts from Bach to 20<sup>th</sup> century music, to the premiere of a work by contemporary Greek composer Errikos

Vaios and to Congolese-inspired music by members of RAD Music International. Surprising cross-connections within music history emerge, opening up new listening experiences.

Forming the first half of the Molyvos Festival 2025 are three concerts at various locations on the island of Lesbos, which allow you to enjoy the island's beauty. The second half of the festival will take place with three concerts in Molyvos. The small town, dating back to prehistoric times, is the festival's central venue. Its eventful history has always been shaped by both European and non-European traditions. Molyvos is therefore an ideal venue and a magical backdrop for a festival that aims to bring musical diversity to life for the audience.

The opening concert on **12.08**, entitled **Pandemonium**, presents a colourful kaleidoscope of works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Manuel de Falla, Henryk Wieniawski, and Pablo de Sarasate, as well as works by the Greek composer and cellist Eleftherios Papastavrou (1920–2008). The second concert on **13.08**, called **Pain**, will be curated by cellist Tanja Tetzlaff and violinist Florian Donderer. The exciting program includes Bach's famous Chaconne for solo violin, performed by Florian Donderer, alongside the striking piece 'Kottos' by Iannis Xenakis for solo cello, interpreted by Tanja Tetzlaff. Also on the program are two subtle pieces by Lili Boulanger for piano trio and Rachmaninoff's highly expressive Trio élégiaque No. 1.

The Molyvos Festival brings together musicians of diverse origins, nationalities, and cultural backgrounds, promoting both cross-border cultural collaboration and active intercultural dialogue. The concert on **16.08**, entitled **Opportunity**, features artists from the band project RAD Music International, who once came to Lesbos as refugees and who are now living in Europe. In this concert, they enter into direct dialogue with the music of Beethoven. Works by Fritz Kreisler, Béla Bartók, and César Franck will also be performed.

Important 20<sup>th</sup> century composers such as Ernest Bloch, Bohuslav Martinů, and Mikis Theodorakis are at the centre of the concert entitled **Rebellion** on **17.08** in Molyvos. The audience will experience the premiere of a newly published work by contemporary Greek composer Erricos Vaios, and the concert will conclude with the by Felix Mendelssohn's last completed composition: his moving String Quartet in F minor, Op. 80. The following day, on **18.08**, the concert **Hope** will feature two important works of chamber music: Schumann's Piano Quintet and Dvořák's Piano Quartet in E-flat major, accompanied by excerpts from Béla Bartók's 44 Duos for Two Violins.



At the closing concert on **19.08**, entitled **Creation**, a symphonic richness of sound will be brought to the chamber music world of the Molyvos Festival: Danae and Kiveli Dörken will perform Stavinsky's famous Rite of Spring in a version for piano four hands – an event not to be missed! Schubert's Unfinished Symphony will also be performed in a thrilling version for string quartet.

The Molyvos International Music Festival (MIMF) was founded in 2015 by Danae and Kiveli Dörken as a unique project in the northern Aegean Sea, bringing together international artists for a multi-day celebration of classical music. Some renowned musicians participate regularly, such as violinist Antje Weithaas. Many are repeat performers, such as cellist Tanja Tetzlaff, but there are always newcomers, young talents, especially from Germany and mainland Greece.

*"Danae and Kiveli have a great skill at choosing the right people and repertoire," says Antje Weithaas. "We work hard, and we enjoy the beautiful views, the sea, and the parties."*

The Molyvos Festival has long since ceased to be an insider tip in the international press. Word has spread about the high artistic quality and the special atmosphere at Molyvos. *"With finely spun phrases and an exquisite tone, the quality of the performance wouldn't be out of place at Wiigmore Hall,"* writes the British music magazine **The Strad**.

Located in one of the main centers of the international refugee crisis, the 2015 Molyvos Festival played a direct role in the local efforts to address the extreme situation. Eleven years later, the goal remains to support the islanders, who now see their very existence threatened by the dramatic decline in tourism caused by the refugee crisis.

The Molyvos International Music Festival is held with the support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Athens.

## CONCERT OVERVIEW

**Χάος / CHAOS** 12. – 19. August 2025

### 12.08. Pandemonium

Works by Shostakovich, Eleftherios Papastavrou, De Falla, Wieniawski and Sarasate

### 13.08. Pain

Works by Bach, Boulanger, Xenakis and Rachmaninov

### 16.08. Opportunity (with [RAD Music International](#) \*)

"ONE DAY" (Official Video) as well as works by Papa Wemba, Beethoven, Kreisler, Bartok and Franck

### 17.08. Rebellion

Premier by Erricos Vaïos as well as works by Theodorakis, Bloch, Martinu and Mendelssohn

### 18.08. Hope

Works by Schumann, Bartok and Dvořák

### 19.08. Creation

The Rite of Spring – works by Schubert and Stravinsky

\* Musicians from [RAD Music International](#) (former refugees)

 Bettina Schimmer

Lindenstraße 14  
50674 Köln

+49 (0)221 - 168 796 23  
[bettina.schimmer@schimmer-pr.de](mailto:bettina.schimmer@schimmer-pr.de)  
[www.schimmer-pr.de](http://www.schimmer-pr.de)

## CONTRIBUTORS

### Violin

Antje Weithaas  
Florian Donderer  
Hyeyoon Park  
Kirill Troussov  
Katerina Chatzinikolaou  
Nikolia Garoufallidou

### Viola

Georgy Kovalev  
Sindy Mohamed

### Violoncello

Tanja Tetzlaff  
Christian-Pierre La Marca

### Piano

Kiveli Dörken  
Danae Dörken

### Composer

Errikos Vaïos

More information: [www.molyvosfestival.com](http://www.molyvosfestival.com)