



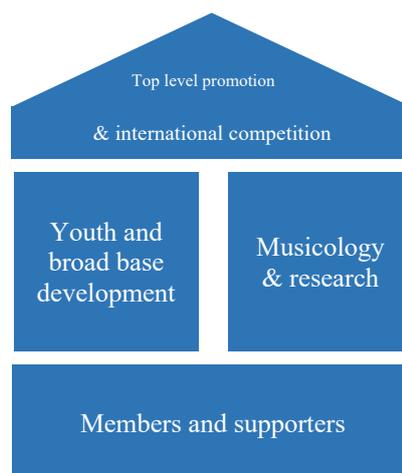
THE INTERNATIONAL J.M. SPERGER SOCIETY

The Int. J.M. Sperger Society was founded in 2001. Its registered office is in Ludwigslust, Germany. The association is non-profit. At present the Int. J.M. Sperger Society is sustained exclusively by its members. The society has approximately 100 registered members of international origin.

We put the double bass in the limelight

Areas of activity of the society

The Society aims to promote international solo double bass music, with patronage and conservation of the important composer and double bassist Johannes Sperger. With the support of our members and sponsors, we carry out musicological work and research as well as the promotion of young musicians. The International J.M. Sperger Competition for Double Bass is our flagship for the fostering of exceptional talents.



1. Fostering musical excellence through an international music competition

The International J.M. Sperger Competition for Double Bass is the central activity of the ISG. This prestigious event has long been a brand in the international double bass scene and is a highlight in the cultural calendar of the city and region of Ludwigslust and the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The competition is the driving force of the society. As a supporter and motivator for young double bassists, it has the highest international reputation among experts.

The International J.M. Sperger Society provides the artistic directorship of the International J.M. Sperger Competition, while also offering organizational support.

- Dates of next competition: 19 – 26 July 2020

- Website: www.spergercompetition.com

Impact

- **The double bass:** the largest string instrument represents a valuable Classical music image for sponsoring and PR capital
- **Large international public, enthusiasm and recognition for the double bass:** TV, radio, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, live-stream at all four competition rounds. All events are open to the public.
- **A podium for top talents:** national and international promotion of young double bassists
- **World-famous patrons:** currently Thomas Hengelbrock, former patrons: Zubin Mehta, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nikolaus Harnoncourt
- **Unique selling point:** the world's largest international competition for solo double bass. The 2-year cycle of the competition allows for repeated participation. Our competition is internationally known as a career springboard for double bassists, enabling them to enter the artistic profession and establish themselves.
- **internationally renowned jurors** and répétiteurs
- **prize money** of € 17.000.-; material prizes totaling € 50.000.-; concert prizes
- an **international double bass meet**, exchange of ideas and diversity networking - also for teachers
- **Star concert** to start the competition week
- **“meet & greet” event:** direct contact possibility between candidates, jurors, press, supporters and politicians
- **free masterclass** for all eliminated candidates
- week-long **exhibition** by luthiers, music businesses and music publishers
- the special **ambience** and flair of the city of Ludwigslust: the **perfect backdrop** for the competition
- **cooperation** with the Music Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the professional orchestras of the region
- **cultural partner:** NDR Hamburg (North German Radio)
- **media partner:** NDR Schwerin
- promoting the **performance** of the works of J. Sperger, conservation and distribution of double bass works and cooperation with publishers
- **world premières**, active repertoire expansion by **commissioning contemporary works for the instrument**
- **concerts** in the region and throughout Germany, putting the double bass center stage
- **primary target group:** Candidates are **young double bass soloists** from all over the world - international candidates up to 35 years, 80-90 applicants, 50-60 selected participants.
- **secondary target groups:** professors (international), double bassists, trade press, regional, national and international audiences, society members, regional businesses, TV viewers, radio listeners and internet streaming audience.

2. Musicological Research

- Exploration and study of the life and work of the composer **Johannes Sperger**
 - Publication of a **magazine and a newsletter**
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- **Symposium:** music history by and for specialists and for everyone; "Ludwigslust Classicism" - a large area to be explored
- **Catalogue of works** - documentation of the compositions and copies of Johannes Sperger
- **Publication** of performance material, **Urtext editions**, cooperation with publishers
- Cooperation with the state library **Landesbibliothek Schwerin** and universities for music-historical research purposes
- **Specialist information** for double bassists, professors and other interested parties – opportunities for further study

3. Youth and broad base development

- **nurturing** and promotion of the double bassists of tomorrow
- **youth concerts and courses**
- **youth competition** with candidates up to approx. 15 years of age
- a platform for gaining **experience**
- **early international networking** and gaining new perspectives– and also for teachers
- expanding the **repertoire**
- **building an audience** for the double bass; greater **public attention** for the double bass
- **preparation** for music college
- **youth concerts** in the region and in the whole Federal Republic of Germany, which puts the double bass on the map
- new, **young audience** for the double bass, enthusiasm and **recognition** for the double bass
- **primary target group:** double bass pupils aged 5 and over
- **secondary target groups:** double bass teachers, parents, families, music schools, the youth music competition "*Jugend musiziert*" and double bass lovers. In Germany there are many amateur and professional bassists interested in the international double bass scene.

Johannes Sperger (1750 Feldsberg -1812 Ludwigslust)

Johannes Sperger was born on 23 March 1750 in Feldsberg (today Valtice, Czech Republic), in what was then Lower Austria. After his years of training in Vienna he became a member of the chapel of the later Cardinal of Hungary, Prince Joseph of Batthyany in Bratislava in 1777. There he composed 17 of his 45 symphonies and 6 of his 18 double bass concertos. This makes him one of the exceptional composers who wrote works for the double bass. Sperger gained a reputation as a "virtuoso on the violon bass" and became a member of the Vienna *Tonkünstler-Societät* in 1779. In 1789 he gave concerts at the Berlin court before the then Crown Prince and later King Frederick William II. After the "highest acclaim" he received, he was employed in the same year as "*Kammer Musikus*" at the Schwerin court chapel of Duke Friedrich Franz I of Mecklenburg-Schwerin in Ludwigslust. Sperger belonged to this chapel until his death on 13 May 1812.

Sperger's complete works are archived in the state library *Landesbibliothek Mecklenburg-Vorpommern* in Schwerin, along with his copies of many other works of the classical double bass literature. The music school which bears his name, a street named after him, a prominently placed, life-size Sperger sculpture and not least the International J.M. Sperger Competition bear witness to the composer's good years in Ludwigslust and the recognition he continues to receive in the Ludwigslust region today.

Our partners

- Businesses in the music industry
- Supporters of young talents – image enhancement for their business
- Companies that support culture
- New companies wishing to establish themselves on the market
- Regional sponsors
- Long-term supporters

Our information channels

- Competition website in German and English
- Society website in German and English
- Annual Magazine
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Social media channels (Facebook, Instagram)
- Production and distribution of print media
- Posters, flyers and roll-ups
- Press office in Ludwigslust
- Regional radio and television

The Association Bodies of the International J.M. Sperger Society

Board

President: Prof. Christine Hock

Vice President: Michaela Kober

Treasurer: Andreas Veit

Secretary: Maja Plüddemann

Assessor: Dr. Ulrich Heni

Assessor: Reinhard Mach

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Musicological advisors: Prof. Dr. Josef Focht, Tobias Glöckler

Advisor for logistical support: Dr. Gernot Hempelmann

Advisor for Marketing/Design: Wolfgang Krasa

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