

# Ink Still Wet

## Composer Conductor-Workshop

### Call for Compositions



A central pillar of the Grafenegg Festival is the Composer in Residence programme, which every year shines a light on an eminent composer of contemporary music. During their stay in Grafenegg, the distinguished composers premiere their own works, but are also there to give advice and support to colleagues in the workshop Ink Still Wet.

Composer conductor-workshop Ink Still Wet's aim is to be a **springboard for the next generation of composers** and to promote a unique creative exchange between audiences, composers and performing musicians.

Led by the Composer in Residence of the Grafenegg Festival, the intention of the Ink Still Wet Workshop is to provide impulses for the creation of new works for orchestra. In addition, the workshop offers the opportunity to rehearse and perform an own work with a professional orchestra. Thus, also gaining a new perspective on one's own work. The participants' works will be presented to the public in the workshop's closing concert as part of the Grafenegg Festival.

Previous years have shown how important and multi-layered these workshops are for the composers. What has only existed in their head or on paper is now tested in the exchange between the performing musicians and its performance on a major concert platform. Do the imagined sounds pass the trial run, or do they need to be revised? Is there a better way to notate one or another musical idea? Or, more fundamentally: as a composer, how do you approach a long-established professional orchestra, and how do you explain or, when necessary, defend your musical ideas?

2026 sees the 16th edition of the Ink Still Wet composer conductor-workshop.

#### WORKSHOP LEADING TEAM

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The Ink Still Wet workshop is led by **Olga Neuwirth**, composer in residence of the Grafenegg Festival 2026. The workshop will be accompanied by the Tonkünstler Orchestra, one of the orchestras in residence of the Grafenegg Festival. Composer and conductor **Brad Lubman** will work as conducting coach with the participants.

## WHAT DO WE OFFER?

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The workshop takes place in two work phases. Part 1 of the workshop allows the participating composers the opportunity to work on and complete their work with the workshop leaders and section leaders of the Orchestra. In Part 2, taking place during the Grafenegg Festival, the workshop's focus is on the preparation of the world premiere: participants will have the unique opportunity to rehearse their own compositions as conductors with the Tonkünstler Orchestra and present their works in concert.

Olga Neuwirth and Brad Lubman will work with the participating composers on the fine-tuning of their works and support them in the preparation of conducting their pieces. The experience of performing one's own composition from the conductor's desk allows to gain a new perspective on one's own work. Overcoming possible barriers between composers and the musicians in charge of executing the piece as well as the promotion of creative exchange are at the heart of the workshop.

All orchestra rehearsals are documented in detail, so that the participants and workshop leaders can continuously work on the realisation of the pieces and the fulfilment of the participants' musical ideas.

The compositions of all participating composers will be presented in a **final concert** in the Auditorium Grafenegg on **21 August 2026, 7.30 pm**.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

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- Composers and students of composition etc.
- Experience in conducting is an advantage but not required
- No age limit
- Course language: English

Successful applicants will be highly talented composers at the beginning of their professional careers with a keen interest in gaining a new perspective on their own work in the practical execution with orchestra and who want to get an insight into possible tensions between one's own imagination of sound during the composition process and the actual sound experience in the concert hall.

## SCHEDULE

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The schedule will include daily rehearsals, Music Lab lectures and workshops, discussions, open rehearsals and other social gatherings.

### **Workshop Part 1**

21–24 April 2026 · Grafenegg & Vienna

Score analysis and working on the applicants' compositions, workshop with section leaders of the Tonkünstler Orchestra as well as a workshop on musical notation for creating a professional score.

## Workshop Part 2

14–22 August 2026 · Grafenegg

Orchestra rehearsals, conducting coaching, video analysis of the orchestra rehearsals and Music Lab-workshops on career development for composers.



## Ink Still Wet Closing Concert

Fri. 21.08.2026 / 7.30 pm · Auditorium

Subject to changes

## GENERAL CONDITIONS / ACCOMMODATION / TRANSPORT

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Each position in the Ink Still Wet composer conductor-workshop is fully funded by the Grafenegg Festival:

- Accommodation (in single rooms in the Grafenegg Cottages)
- International travel expenses (fully reimbursed up to a given amount depending on the origin of your trip)
- All local transport to and from Vienna
- Subsistence costs during the duration of the workshop
- Tickets to any available concerts of the Grafenegg Festival during part two of the workshop will be provided free of charge

## APPLICATION

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Completed applications to be submitted online require the following:

- 1 / A completed **application form**
- 2 / **Curriculum vitae** in German or English (maximum of two pages) including name and contact of the current composition teacher (if available)
- 3 / Full scores of three **works of reference** for various instrumentation and ensembles including recordings (if available)
- 4 / An **application video** (max. three minutes duration) or a **motivation letter** (max. 3.000 characters) including answers to:
  - What do you expect from participating in the workshop?
  - What would you wish for if participating?
  - Why is it important for you to attend the Ink Still Wet composer conductor-workshop?
- 5 / **Composition**: a new, unpublished, unperformed orchestral work with a duration of minimum 5 minutes and maximum 7 minutes (when finished).
  - Required is only the elaborated score of **at least two minutes** of this new composition and a description of the concept or idea behind it (max. 3.000 characters) as well as possibly a sketch for the further composition. For information on the orchestral instrumentation and layout please refer to the «Guidelines for Instrumentation and Layout».



Applications will be accepted electronically only (in PDF format) on  
→ [muvac.com](https://muvac.com)

Deadline for application: **25 November 2025**

## SELECTION PROCESS

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The Workshop Leader will choose the participants after the application deadline. Only complete applications will be accepted. Successful applicants will be contacted for more information by **Wednesday, 21 January 2026**. If admitted to the Ink Still Wet composer conductor-workshop, the composition must be further developed until workshop part 1 in April 2026.

The conducting score and all instrumental parts as PDF must be submitted by **2 June 2026**.

Number of participants: max. 5 persons

## INFORMATION & APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

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Ink Still Wet is part of the Grafenegg Festival.

### Venue

Grafenegg 10  
3485 Grafenegg  
Austria/Europe

### Contact

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