



Moers Kultur GmbH
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XN / Experimental Encounters - open call

XN is a partnership project between the moers festival and the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (= hcmf//) (UK). The project focuses on improvisation and combines genres such as jazz, free improvisation, composition and electronic music, with a special focus on emerging artists based in Germany.

The three-day workshop will explore the processes of exploration, experimentation, listening and playing exercises and the study of semi-guided scores, culminating in a new ensemble piece for improvisers that will be performed in the main program of the 55th moers festival.

Under the direction of **Heather Roche** (clarinet & bass clarinet)

Heather Roche's practice unfolds in the fluid space between performance, collaboration and experimentation. Canadian-born and now based in London, she has been described by BBC Radio 3 as "an adrenaline shock to the UK new music scene." Her work is shaped by a continuous engagement with composers such as Dai Fujikura, Annika Socolofsky, Christopher Fox and Martin Iddon, and by an ongoing exploration of the clarinet's expressive potential. Through her duo with German accordionist Eva Zöllner, long-term collaborations with Apartment House and Modern Nature, and performances across Europe and the Americas, Roche's artistry is defined by openness, curiosity and a deep commitment to new sound worlds.

Schedule

May 21st, 2026 / rehearsal from 10:00am - 6:00pm

May 22nd, 2026 / rehearsal from 10:00am - 6:00pm

May 23rd, 2026 / general rehearsal 11:00am

May 23rd, 2026 / concert within the 55. moers festival

Each of the four selected participants will receive a fee of €1,650. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered.

How to apply

To apply, please send the following information to Polina Titova at polina.titova@moers-festival.de with the subject "XN workshop 2026":

- A short biography, including your career as a musician and a summary of your work/specialty
- One to three links to music samples. Please do not send these examples as attachments.

The application deadline is Sunday, 12 April 2026. If you have further questions about the project, please contact polina.titova@moers-festival.de

Geschäftsführung: Tim Isfort
Künstlerischer Leiter: Tim Isfort
Aufsichtsratsvorsitzende: Mark Rosendahl

Bankverbindung:
Sparkasse am Niederrhein
IBAN: DE42 3545 0000 1101 0038 28
BIC: WELADED1MOR

Sitz der Gesellschaft:
Ostring 9, D-47441 Moers
Handelsregister:
Amtsgericht Kleve HRB 7610

Steuernummer:
119/5706/0264
Umsatzsteuer-ID:
DE2411322254

Information about the co-operation partners

hcmf// is the UK's largest international festival for new and experimental music. It takes place for 10 days each November and features over 50 events - including performances, installations, exhibitions, talks and workshops - as well as a year-round learning and participation programme. The aim of hcmf// is to provide life-changing and unique artistic experiences to the widest possible audience; to be an international platform for new music and related contemporary art forms in the UK; to engage existing audiences and attract new audiences through adventurous programming and diverse, informed presentation; to provide innovative creative opportunities for all; to reduce our environmental impact and make progress towards sustainability; and to be an ambitious, dynamic participant within our cultural community.

By fostering collaborations and artistic synergy, XN empowers the European new music scene network.

<https://hcmf.co.uk/>

The internationally renowned moers festival has been held annually at Whitsun since 1972 and has been organized by Moers Kultur GmbH since 2005. Over the course of five decades, the festival has continued to open up and expand from a pure new jazz festival; in 2026, it bears the subtitle „Jazzfestival für Rotkäppchen, klatschende Frösche, Wirklichkeitsflucht und: Âventiure“. Other formats, institutions and series such as the moers sessions (morning sessions or projects) of the improviser in residence (since 2008), the discussions

(since 2017), changing youth projects (since 2018) or hybrid formats (@the same time or the VR moersland, since 2021) expand the festival cosmos.

<https://moers-festival.de>

XN is funded by the Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten mbH ([GVL](#)) and Phonographic Performance Limited ([PPL](#)) with the support of the [Goethe-Institut London](#).

