



***Morgenland Festival Osnabrück 2025*** – Traveling seamlessly between genres, categories and cultural homes

***June 28 to July 11, 2025***

The internationally renowned Morgenland Festival Osnabrück will return in summer 2025 with an impressive program.

This year, the festival is all about change: after two decades of the festival's formative artistic direction by founder **Michael Dreyer**, Syrian clarinetist and composer **Kinan Azmeh** will take over as guest curator.

Kinan Azmeh: "As a Damascene/ New Yorker who feels at home at the intersections of culture, I felt it would be only natural to draw from the wide artistic expressions that I have been exposed to throughout my artistic life. The 21st edition of Morgenland Festival Osnabrück will focus on artists who feel comfortable in a multitude of identities. These are global musicians who travel seamlessly between genres, categories and geographical and cultural homes."

The Morgenland Festival opens with a powerful event on **June 29th**: The **NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra**, together with **Yo-Yo Ma**, **Kayhan Kalhor** and under the direction of **Alan Gilbert**, will present Kayhan Kalhor's new double concerto "*Venus in the Mirror*" – a work specially commissioned for the 20th anniversary of the festival in cooperation with the **NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra** and the **University Musical Society Ann Arbor/USA**.

The festival program presents a magnificent array of international artists, including the American electro-acoustic trio **Dawn of Midi**, Grammy-winning violinist **Johnny Gandelsman**, and the pioneering New York string quartet **Brooklyn Rider**.

The Syrian oud virtuoso **Issam Rafea** joins saxophonist **Asya Fateyeva** for a special duo, while the 94-year-old Franco-Syrian double bassist **François Rabbath** – a living legend – can be experienced in conversation with Kinan Azmeh and in music.

Further highlights include the Lebanese violinist and composer **Layale Chaker**, the Sri Lankan-Canadian pianist **Dinuk Wijeratne**, the Palestinian musician **Christine Zayed** (vocals & qanun), the Lebanese jazz pianist **Tarek Yamani**, the renowned **Cello Octet Amsterdam**, the Armenian-Canadian

cellist **Karen Ouzounian** in a duo with the American pianist **Lembit Beecher**, the Palestinian singer **Nai Barghouti**, the cellist **Jake Charkey**, as well as the performances of **Kinan Azmeh** and **Shabnam Parvaresh**.

In collaboration with the **Osnabrück Youth Choir** (conductor: **Clemens Breitschaft**), the Brooklyn-based composer and sound designer **Erdem Helvacioğlu** is developing a new work that combines European choral music with electronic textures from Istanbul to New York.

On **July 11**, the Morgenland Festival will conclude with an extraordinary concert by **Rami Khalifé** and **Francesco Tristano**. Two grand pianos face each other and unfold a choreographed interplay of sound, space and movement, in which music can be experienced as a sensual form of visual and acoustic encounter.

In addition to the concerts, the festival offers a diverse supporting program with **workshops, artist talks and participatory formats**.

**This year's Morgenland Festival Osnabrück will take place from June 28 to July 11, 2025. Advance ticket sales have now begun.** Concert tickets can be purchased at [www.morgenland-festival.com](http://www.morgenland-festival.com), at the **Osnabrück Tourist Information**, at [www.adticket.de](http://www.adticket.de) and at other ticket outlets.

With kind support of

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More infos at [morgenland-festival.com](http://morgenland-festival.com)

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*Information on accreditation, photos of all the artists and press materials can be downloaded online at: [www.morgenland-festival.com/presse.html](http://www.morgenland-festival.com/presse.html)*