

Festival Dolomites 2025 – 15 Years of Sonic Art in the Mountains

A cultural anniversary in Dobbiaco

Dobbiaco/Toblach, September 2025 – With standing ovations, heartfelt enthusiasm, and a program of extraordinary diversity, the anniversary edition of the Festival Dolomites came to a close on 13 September 2025. Under the motto *“KunstGriffe”*, the festival celebrated not only its 15th edition, but also 15 years of music, encounters, and inspiration at the Gustav Mahler Hall in Dobbiaco.

2010–2025: a festival of heart, vision, and goosebump moments.

What began in 2010 as the bold vision of Maestro Gustav Kuhn and the Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano and Trento has grown into an indispensable fixture of South Tyrol’s cultural landscape. Under the artistic direction of M° Daniele Spini and Dr. Hubert Stuppner, Dobbiaco has welcomed international greats such as Ludovico Einaudi, the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Jeffrey Tate, Daniele Gatti, Zubin Mehta, Martin Grubinger, and Stefano Bollani.

Curator Dr. Josef Duregger placed strong regional accents with exhibitions at the Grandhotel Toblach, bringing renowned South Tyrolean artists such as Lois Anvidalfarei, Annemarie Laner, Christian Stecher, Wilma Kammerer, Julia Bornefeld, and Friedrich Feichter into the festival spotlight.

The anniversary year 2025 was all about sonic diversity and stylistic openness – from classical to jazz to the art of silent film scoring – once again proving the radiance of a festival that has touched the hearts and souls of audiences and artists alike for 15 years.

Highlights 2025

- *Opening concert with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica (25 August):* An impressive evening weaving together Bach, Arvo Pärt, and contemporary reflections, crowned by standing ovations.
- *Salut Salon (30 August):* The quartet ignited a musical fireworks display of virtuosity, wit, and emotion – lighting up the Gustav Mahler Hall.
- *Schaghajegh Nosrati (31 August):* The pianist captivated with timeless Bach interpretations, accompanied by the Bolzano String Academy under the direction of Georg Egger.
- *Jazz Weekend (6–7 September):* With the Julia Hülsmann Quartet, Hildegunn Øiseth, and the Sarah Chaksad Large Ensemble, Dobbiaco experienced jazz at the highest level – improvisational, boundary-crossing, and full of energy.
- *Finale with “Nosferatu – A Symphony of Horror” (13 September):* F. W. Murnau’s silent film classic was given a fascinating contemporary dimension by Jannik Giger’s live score and the Ensemble Phoenix Basel – a powerful close to the anniversary edition.

Voices on the anniversary. Festival President Christian Gartner emphasized at the opening: *“We are celebrating not only 15 years of Festival Dolomites, but also 15 years of passion,*

encounters, and musical highlights. None of this would be possible without our audience. This anniversary is also a look ahead: curious, bold, and open to new horizons.”

Thanks also went to long-time companions Hanspeter Fuchs, Philipp Moser, and artistic directors Christoph Bösch and Josef Feichter, who shaped the 2025 program with creativity and great stylistic breadth.

Encounter, inspiration, and joie de vivre. Festival Dolomites once again proved itself to be far more than just a concert series: it was a meeting place where musicians, audiences, and cultural creators connected – whether in the concert hall or over a convivial toast at the Alma Bar.

With its anniversary program, Festival Dolomites 2025 sent a strong signal for the unifying power of music. It demonstrated that sonic art in the mountains not only moves people, but also creates spaces for exchange, emotion, and new perspectives.

A new chapter begins: Festival Dolomites in late winter from 2026.

With fresh momentum, Festival Dolomites enters its next decade: starting in 2026, the traditional concert series will move to the late winter season – from late February to mid-March. A date music lovers should already mark in red on their calendars is **15 March 2026** at the Gustav Mahler Hall in Dobbiaco.

On the program: celebrated conductor Hossein Pishkar and internationally renowned violinist Veronika Eberle, together with the Orchestra da Camera di Mantova. The evening will feature Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Violin Concerto* and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy’s *Symphony No. 4*, the famous “*Italian*.”

A first taste of a festival that promises goosebump moments – even in its new seasonal setting.

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