

Subject: KLANGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace: The 2026 Programme

Preview text: Light and sound art meets time, the cosmos and history.

KLANGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace: When the past, present and future shine together.

From 23 October to 7 November 2026, the Bühnen Graz arts festival will transform Eggenberg Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, into an extraordinary resonant space for light and sound art | International and national artists will perform in the palace and park | KLANGLICHT will also take place simultaneously in Vienna for the first time.

Graz, 22 September 2026 – 365 windows, 52 doors, 24 state rooms: Eggenberg Palace is far more than just an extraordinary Baroque palace. Its architecture follows a precise order of time, the cosmos and the calendar. This is precisely where KLANGLICHT 2026 comes in. From 23 October to 7 November 2026, the art festival organised by Bühnen Graz will transform this UNESCO World Heritage Site into a venue for contemporary light and sound art, inviting visitors to experience history, the present and the future in a new way.

At today's programme presentation at Eggenberg Palace, Karlheinz Kornhäusl, Regional Minister for Culture; Kurt Hohensinner, City Councillor; Bernhard Rinner, Managing Director of Bühnen Graz and organiser of KLANGLICHT; festival curator Birgit Lill-Schnabl; and Marko Mele, Managing Director of the Universalmuseum Joanneum, unveiled this year's festival programme. Also present was Georg Hoanzl, owner of the Theater im Park and organiser of KLANGLICHT IM PARK in Vienna, where KLANGLICHT will also be held for the first time in 2026.

Time becomes light, history becomes the present

Eggenberg Palace is itself a work of art created by time. Its architecture translates cosmic and calendrical orders into built space. At KLANGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace, this extraordinary structure serves as the starting point for artistic explorations of **time, the cosmos, history, the present and the future.**

International and national artists bring historical rhythms to life, uncover hidden narratives and forge new connections between centuries-old architecture and contemporary art. Time is stretched, fragmented or seemingly suspended. Past, present and future encounter one another not as a linear sequence, but as simultaneously active planes – in light, sound, space and atmosphere.

Following on from 2021, KLANGLICHT thus returns to a venue whose history and architecture seem tailor-made for the interplay of light and sound. For two weeks, visitors can rediscover the palace and its extensive historic park by night – **seeing and hearing, immersing themselves and feeling, perceiving the familiar in a new light and allowing themselves to be surprised by art.**

“With KLANGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace in 2026, we are deliberately opening a new chapter whilst at the same time building on what has defined this festival for the past ten years: wonder, inspiration, new perspectives and the shared experience of art. For us, this turning point means one thing above all: not standing still, but continuing to make things possible.”

- Bernhard Rinner, Managing Director of Bühnen Graz and organiser of KLANGLICHT

A palace becomes an artistic cosmos

The artistic works are spread across the palace grounds and selected areas of the palace. Architecture, nature and history become not merely a backdrop, but an integral part of the art.

Hartung & Trenz transform the main avenue into a poetic space of language and light. **Daniel Rossa** sets the castle's Baroque façade in motion through dance, whilst in the castle's inner courtyard, luminous mountains – the *Whispering Mountains* – come to life. In the castle church, **Robin Beekman** constructs a model of a new conception of time; **Helga Griffiths** works with scent and memory; and **Inge Dick** guides visitors through the four seasons with **jahres licht weiss** in the Planetarium.

Miriam Hamann, with **Planet 9**, directs our gaze into unknown cosmic realms; in **ABI-OSIS** in the Lapidarium, **Heleen Blanken** links the origin of life with artificial life in the future; and **Javier Riera**, through **Resonances**, redefines the relationship between light, geometry and landscape in the historic park. **Joschua Hohenbrink** transforms the pavilion's dome into a forest of light and sound; **Alicia Eggert** explores the origins of light; and **Omer van Soldt** creates a mirror sculpture, thereby allowing visitors to become part of his work. Students from **FH Joanneum** open up new perspectives with prisms of light, whilst **Zeineb Kaabi** presents a kaleidoscope of historical images.

The result at Eggenberg Palace is not a traditional exhibition tour, but a holistic night-time experience: a cosmos of light, sound, architecture and nature that every visitor can discover in their own way.

“With KLANGLICHT, we're returning to Eggenberg Palace in 2026 – but we're not turning back the clock. Rather, the artworks open up new perspectives on this special historic site and allow the past, present and future to resonate with one another. The result is a total work of art that bridges centuries-old history and the contemporary spirit of the times.”

- Birgit Lill-Schnabl, KLANGLICHT festival curator

A historic site in a new light

The fact that KLANGLICHT can take place at Eggenberg Palace is down to the close collaboration between Bühnen Graz and the Universalmuseum Joanneum. This Baroque Gesamtkunstwerk, with its historic park, provides a unique resonant space for the contemporary interventions. The invitation to the programme presentation already highlighted this interplay of history, nature and art as a defining feature of this year's edition.

“At Eggenberg Palace, time, order and architecture are intertwined in a unique way. KLANGLICHT draws on this special structure through the medium of light and sound art, opening up new perspectives on the historic site. Light reveals architectural details, transforms familiar spaces and tells stories in a particularly sensory way. This creates striking, often surprisingly beautiful images that allow visitors to experience the palace anew and create a special moment of wonder. We are delighted to welcome KLANGLICHT 2026 back to Eggenberg Palace.”

- Marko Mele, Managing Director of the Universalmuseum Joanneum

“KLANGLICHT demonstrates what is possible when forces are joined. The collaboration between Bühnen Graz and the Universalmuseum Joanneum transforms Eggenberg Palace into a special venue for contemporary art. At the same time, this year KLANGLICHT is venturing beyond Graz for the first time, bringing Styrian culture to Vienna in partnership with other organisations. This is collaboration in action, demonstrating the influence our cultural scene can develop.”

- Karlheinz Kornhäusl, Regional Minister for Culture

Space for the next generation

KLANGLICHT sees itself not only as a platform for established international and national artists, but also deliberately creates space for young art. Emerging artists will once again be part of the festival in 2026. A particular focus will be on the Young Masters Exhibition

and the collaboration with FH JOANNEUM. The involvement of young artists and the partnership with FH JOANNEUM are also a central focus of this year's programme presentation.

"Klanglicht has long been far more than just a cultural festival. More than 108,000 visitors last year – a significant proportion of whom came from outside Graz – demonstrate the event's enormous appeal. The economic impact is also tangible: expenditure by international guests alone was estimated at more than 1.2 million euros in 2024. I am particularly pleased about the renewed focus on young talent: through the Young Masters programme and our collaboration with FH Joanneum, young artists are given the chance to present their projects to a wide audience. It is precisely this combination of international appeal, economic value creation and the promotion of emerging talent that makes Klanglicht so valuable for Graz."

- City Councillor Kurt Hohensinner

From Graz to Vienna: KLANGLICHT shines in two cities for the first time

In 2026, KLANGLICHT will also be opening a new chapter: the arts festival, initiated by Bühnen Graz, will be taking place in Vienna for the first time.

With KLANGLICHT IM PARK – THE SOUND OF LIGHT, the Schwarzenberg Garden at Belvedere Palace will be transformed into a trail of international and Austrian light and sound art from 23 October 2026 to 10 January 2027. This means that KLANGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace and the Viennese edition will kick off simultaneously for the first time on 23 October.

The historic Schwarzenberg Garden, with its ancient trees, hidden paths and four terraces, will itself become a stage for the interplay of contemporary art, nature and history. The artistic contributions include, amongst others, Luke Jerram, Katja Paternoster, Alfredo Barsuglia, Philipp Artus, Yasuhiro Chida, Joschua Hohenbrink, OchoReSotto, Javier Riera, Hartung & Trenz, Miriam Hamann and Bart Ensing.

“For many years, I have been following with great interest and admiration what Bernhard Rinner and Birgit Lill-Schnabl have created with ‘Klanglicht’ in Graz – a format for which I honestly envy Graz. I am therefore all the more delighted that we are now bringing this unique and successful format to Vienna together and opening an artistically designed oasis of tranquillity in the city.”

- Georg Hoanzl, initiator of ‘Theater im Park’ and ‘KLINGLICHT IM PARK’

This marks the first time that an idea, which originated in Graz in 2015, is expanding beyond the city: on 23 October 2026, ‘KLINGLICHT’ will begin simultaneously in Graz and Vienna – at two historic venues and with two distinct artistic programmes.

KLINGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace – key details at a glance

23 October to 7 November 2026

daily from 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Eggenberg Palace, Graz

Visits to KLINGLICHT at Eggenberg Palace are only possible with a valid ticket and a pre-booked time slot.

With a valid KLINGLICHT ticket, visitors can also use **public transport within Zone 101 free of charge on the day of the event, two hours before and two hours after their visit.** ‘Free Public Transport’ with Holding Graz scheme covers buses and trams within the Graz city area.

KLINGLICHT has been awarded the **Austrian Ecolabel as a Green Event.** The festival has held this certification since 2023.

Hunger for Art and Culture:

As a partner of the ‘Hunger for Art and Culture’ initiative, we enable people who, due to their current circumstances, cannot afford to pay for entry to KLINGLICHT to collect a voucher for a KLINGLICHT ticket using their Kulturpass at the Hunger for Art and

Culture / Styria office. The voucher can then be redeemed at the Bühnen Graz ticket centre – further details can be found on the voucher itself.

Tickets and information:

www.klanglicht.at

Press releases & images:

<https://www.picdrop.com/klanglicht/32pzaTbhj>

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