

SUPERAR

Music for social change

„Music should belong to everyone!”

“There are regions of the soul, that only music can illuminate”

/Zoltán Kodály/

“Music has to be recognized as an agent of social development in the highest sense, because it transmits the highest values – solidarity, harmony, mutual compassion.”

/José Antonio Abreu/

Introduction:

Sing together, practice together, perform together, grow together.

Develop strength, learn from each other, achieve together, encourage each other.

Have fun together, work hard, experience joy, passion, enthusiasm and pride.

Learn for life through music.

This is Superar.

Overcome boundaries

Superar is a European initiative that empowers children and young people – especially those with limited or no access to high quality education - to overcome national, language and social boundaries through active music-making. Superar sees intensive and regular music immersion as a vehicle to reach people of every social, ethnic, religious, political and educational background.

We aim to provide high-quality music-making access to all children regardless of their ethnicity, religion or social status. This in turn boosts self confidence and helps all children unfold their potential, giving them a better chance to play an important role in society.

The organisation

The non-profit association was founded in 2009 in Vienna, by Caritas Vienna, Vienna Konzerthaus and the Vienna Boys' Choir. Based on the strong tradition of choral singing from the Vienna Boy's Choir and inspired by the musical and social movement El Sistema from Venezuela, Superar began creating choirs in local schools on the periphery of Vienna. The success of this beginning gave a strong impulse for the quick growth of the organisation. Soon followed locations in Graz, Vorarlberg and Salzburg. In 2011 Superar expanded to Zurich and later to other towns in Switzerland (Basel, Lugano). First Superar location in Eastern Europe was established in Romania in 2012, followed by Bosnia and Slovakia in 2013, and recently by Hungary in 2018. A string program was founded in Vienna in 2013, a second location in Zurich the following year, and the addition of percussion and wind ensembles soon after.

Today, more than 3000 children enjoy choral and instrumental programs led by Superar in Austria, Switzerland, Slovakia, Bosnia, Romania, Liechtenstein and Hungary. The regular cooperation between different locations at the national and international levels contributes to widen the horizon for children, teachers and participating schools.

Superar is also a founding member of Sistema Europe, the umbrella organisation for all Sistema inspired music programs in the region. Thus, Superar actively participates in a continued process of intercultural exchange with partner organisations across Europe, mostly through international summer camps and concerts.

The opportunity to get in touch with people from so many different cultures, to make new connections, to work together for common goals, to find a way to understand each other and learn to cooperate without a common language, all this through the power of music: these experiences have a life-changing effect for all involved.

Encourage, motivate and connect

Mission

The Superar experience not only develops the musical abilities of the participants, but also strengthens important additional skills such as concentration, motivation, communication skills, creativity, self-awareness, self-discipline, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility. Superar uses the positive effect of music and performing arts, and the opportunities they provide to inspire children and young people, to make a discernible step towards an equal-opportunity society. Superar empowers children to overcome boundaries, to develop their potential and seize opportunities through active music-making.

Aims and principles

As a movement, Superar aims to make a real difference by creating a tangible sense of social cohesion as well as making music. The aim is to establish a longterm music network across Europe. Existing structures are therefore developed and expanded on an ongoing basis, to make challenging, high-quality singing and instrumental lessons an integral part of the daily lives of a broad base of children and young people.

The most important principles of the program are:

Regularity an intensity: Singing and orchestra practice usually take place four times a week, and twice as a bare minimum, for children and young people, at preschools, schools and community centres.

Free of charge: Participants do not pay to join any of the Superar projects, nor do they pay for the instruments they use. This is a necessary step towards promoting equal opportunities.

Artistic excellence: Superar sets the bar high pedagogically, artistically and musically when putting together teaching units and selecting teachers. Regular further training for teachers helps underpin the high quality of the teaching.

Recognition: From day one, the children's sense of self-worth and social cohesion is fostered via regular performances – some of which take place on famous stages.

International cultural exchange: The international structure of Superar, and the partnership with Sistema Europe offers to all participants the opportunity to make music together with people from other cultures and to break down borders.

The way of teaching

All Superar programs (both choral and instrumental) involve entire classes or groups of pupils who have not undergone any prior selection process. Rehearsals held two to four times (4-8 hours) a week with a trained choir conductor or instrumental teacher. Students receive high-quality, long-term musical training to help them to achieve the best level possible. The intensity and the inspiring way of teaching ensures a continual creative musical process, and the consecutive development of cognitive and social skills for all the participants.

Superar Hungary – Superar Zeneművészeti Program Magyarország

Superar Hungary started with a choir program in two schools in Budapest in September 2018. After only two months of rehearsals it is already remarkable to see how this unique and holistic educational approach of Superar positively affects the lives of children and helps schools to improve their own institutional environment. To develop a positive working atmosphere, a community that is a safe place for children and teachers to learn together, grow together, explore together, create together: that is the spirit of Superar.