

**PRESS RELEASE****6 June 2025****17 July until 9 August 2025, Free Admission**

## **Durchlüften – Open Air in the Humboldt Forum**

**Dancing, music, and good vibes – all for free under Berlin's open sky: For the fifth time, *Durchlüften* (airing out) turns the Schlüterhof into a vibrant music festival. On four weekends, Berlin artists and international guests celebrate the richness of global music cultures: from the raw energy of Mexican Cumbia-punk to the hypnotic pulse of Kenyan Dodo Blues, from soulful jazz to Hip-hop and Caribbean-tinged Japanese folk. Embracing the spirit of "Culture for all", *Durchlüften* stays free and open to all – a genre-spanning festival of music, dance, and culinary delights. Curated by the music expert Melissa Perales for the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss.**

Over twelve evenings – from 17 July to 9 August 2025, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday – the festival *Durchlüften* invites audiences to musical discoveries that cross borders and continents. With 24 live acts and 12 DJ sets, the irresistibly danceable programme spans sounds from the streets of Mexico to the desert blues of Niger, through the club scenes of Nairobi and Tokyo – and back to Berlin's own dance floors.

***Durchlüften* is more than a festival.** It creates an open, communal space where music becomes a universal language that brings people together — in a place deeply intertwined with Berlin's multi-layered history. This year, curator, Melissa Perales highlights the dynamic interplay of artists from Africa, South America and Asia —artists who are exploring how their vibrant musical traditions evolve locally or in their new home, Berlin.

"As a Mexican-American curator based in Germany, I'm deeply committed to fostering inclusivity and celebrating the multiplicity of cultures in the arts. Since 2021, *Durchlüften* has been about uniting sounds and stories across borders, creating a platform for musicians and communities to share their craft without commercial constraints. I am incredibly honoured to curate this year's program and bring together so many extraordinary artists from both local and global stages. We have curated something special for every music lover, so bring your friends and family, and let us plant new seeds of connection and joy. I cannot wait to celebrate with all of you!" says Melissa Perales.

With formats like *Durchlüften* and the film festival *Box Office Around The World*, the Schlüterhof Courtyard in Humboldt Forum has established itself in recent years as a new open-air stage in the heart of Berlin. Last summer alone, 68,000 visitors attended the

Humboldt Forum's summer season. Contemporary music is an integral part of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss programming, making the entire site an accessible and vibrant place for cultural experience. Airing Out also exemplifies the approach to foster diverse relationships with international partners, to offer new musical ways of engaging with the Forum's themes, and to develop the Humboldt Forum into a cross-disciplinary and forward-looking cultural venue.

One building, four partner: This diverse approach to programming is grounded in the collaboration of four partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition.

### **Selected Highlights**

- **Odd Okkodo (Kenya-Germany):** Olith Ratego's soulful Dodo Blues from Kenya's Lake Victoria meets the intricate rhythms of German multi-instrumentalist Sven Kacirek in a cross-cultural fusion.

- **Jeano Elong (Cameroon-Germany):** A powerful reflection of his journey as a refugee, and living in Hamburg. Jeano's music weaves the ceremonial dance of Mkoum into a vibrant call for unity.

- **Minyo Crusaders (Japan-Colombia):** Based in Tokyo, the Minyo Crusaders fuse traditional Japanese folk (Min'yo) with Colombian cumbia, offering a fresh take on ancient sounds.

- **Charif Megarbane (Lebanon-Global):** Blending genres effortlessly, Charif's music is shaped by a life spent between Lebanon, Nairobi, and Lisbon. His new album, Hawalat, explores themes of diaspora and exile.

**Ibelisse Guardia Ferragutti & Frank Rosaly (Bolivia/Brazil/Puerto Rico/Amsterdam):** With a focus on decolonization and identity, the duo weaves together musical influences from Bolivia, Brazil, and Puerto Rico, creating a rich sonic language that moves between resistance and ritual.

**KASIVA (Kenia):** The artist and power percussionist has just released her debut album Desturi – a rhythmic, soulful journey that marks her evolution from acclaimed percussionist to visionary singer-songwriter, guitarist, and producer. This is our highlight from Zanzibar's Sauti Zu Busara festival selection.

**Special Partner Highlights:**

This year, Durchlüften proudly collaborates with two visionary festivals: Sauti za Busara in Zanzibar and the XJAZZ! Festival in Berlin.

Sauti za Busara is one of East Africa's most popular music festivals, renowned for promoting East African music and cultural expression.

The XJAZZ! Festival is Berlin's trailblazing festival, redefining jazz through cross-genre collaborations and global musical dialogue.

**Detailed programme:** [humboldtforum.org/en/durchluften](https://humboldtforum.org/en/durchluften)

**Press images:** [humboldtforum.org/en/press](https://humboldtforum.org/en/press)

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