



PRESSEMITTEILUNG

28 May 2026 (updated 3 June 2026)

9 July -1 August 2026, Free Admission

Durchlüften – Open Air in the Schlüterhof

Dance, gather, and enjoy under the open Berlin sky: for the sixth time, *Durchlüften* transforms the Schlüterhof courtyard into a large-scale open-air music festival. Across four summer weekends, Berlin-based and international artists celebrate the diversity of global musical cultures through 24 live acts and 12 DJs. Each evening features two live concerts followed by a DJ set. Under the motto “Culture for All,” *Durchlüften* remains free and open to everyone – a genre-crossing and sensorial celebration of music and dance curated by music expert Melissa Perales for the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss. Here, culinary delights can also be enjoyed.

From 9 July to 1 August 2026, every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Durchlüften* invites audiences on musical journeys across continents and borders. With 24 live acts and 12 DJ sets, the highly danceable program spans from electrified Mauritanian desert blues and electronic sounds from the Andes to Kurdish club rituals and Afro-Colombian bass music, all the way to Tanzanian vocal traditions and Anatolian-Nordic electronica.

Under this year’s theme, Living Archives: Cultures in Sound, the festival foregrounds artists as carriers of cultural narratives. Musicians embody musical traditions as living cultural archives, weaving ancestral instruments, languages, and storytelling into contemporary reinterpretations, diasporic exchange, and global club culture. Collaborations with independent labels such as Argentina’s ZZK Records and pakistani-based honiunhoni further expand these transcontinental sonic dialogues.

Curator Melissa Perales explains: “As a Mexican-American curator living in Berlin, I am deeply committed to creating spaces of inclusion and exchange. Many of us come from families shaped by migration, and *Durchlüften* is rooted in this awareness. This year’s program centers artists who keep cultural traditions and diversity alive through reinterpretation. Across continents and generations, the festival reflects a simple truth: tradition is never static — it adapts, breathes, and migrates, just as we do.”

Highlights

Storytelling runs like a thread through many of the musical traditions gathered at Durchlüften 2026.

Opening, Thursday, 9 July 2026: Jatun Mama (Ecuador) und Canto Diáspora (Berlin, latinamerican Diaspora): With Jatun Mama and Canto Diáspora, electronic sounds from the Ecuadorian Andes intertwine with polyphonic Latin American vocal traditions to form a powerful sonic tapestry.

Friday, 10 July 2026: Nana Benz du Togo (Togo) and 100lbs of Summer (Berlin): Voodoo traditions meet soul—made for the dancefloor. The band takes its name from a group of women who imported Mercedes-Benz cars to Togo. This year, they have performed at major festivals such as Down the Rabbit Hole, Roskilde, and North Sea Jazz. 100lbs of Summer present sun-soaked reggae grooves.

Saturday, 11 July 2026: Charlotte Colace (Cuba/France/Berlin) and Uche Yara (Nigeria/Switzerland): Two cool Berliners! Soul-Singer Charlotte Colace blends the warmth of vintage soul with contemporary grooves, shaped by her French-Cuban roots and personal storytelling. At just 23, singer, multi-instrumentalist and producer Uche Yara embodies the fearless creativity of a new generation, fusing alternative pop, R&B and club sounds into a performance that feels both intimate and electrifying.

Thursday, 16 July 2026: Noura Mint Seymali (Mauritania) and Massa Dembele (Burkina Faso, Deutschland): Noura Mint Seymali brings desert blues rooted in the griot tradition into an electrifying, contemporary context. Massa Dembélé, with his kamélé ngoni—a harp-like instrument—carries forward musical storytelling across generations.

Friday, 17 July 2026: honiunhoni label night with Ustad Noor Bakhsh and Muslim Shaggan (Pakistan): From Pakistan, acclaimed musician Ustad Noor Bakhsh brings the Balochi benju—a keyed zither—into the spotlight, while classical vocalist Muslim Shaggan continues a lineage rooted in centuries-old Hindustani musical tradition.

Saturday, 18 July 2026: Seppuku Pistols (Japan) and ADG7 (Korea): The Seppuku Pistols were formed by four former punks in the wake of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster. They fuse Edo-period aesthetics with a spirit of collective resistance. ADG7 reinterprets shamanic ritual music as a contemporary celebration. The result is an evening shaped by the raw energy of Japanese taiko punk and electronic Korean music.

Thursday, 23 July 2026: Yalla Miku (Switzerland, Eritrea) und Peki Momés (Turkey, Germany): Yalla Miku weave traditions from Eritrea and the Horn of Africa

with experimental trance, while the band Peki Momés craft groove-driven sounds that move between Turkish disco and city pop.

Friday, 24 Juli 2026: ZZK Records Evening with Humazapas (Ecuador) and Nuevos Ríos (Colombia): Between the indigenous sound traditions of Ecuador's Andes and the Afro-Colombian musical cultures of the Pacific region unfolds an evening that brings ecstatic rhythms, electronic elements, and diasporic musical connections into resonance. Humazapas also extraordinarily perform an acoustic session inside the Humboldt Forum Meso-American collection on 25 July.

Saturday, 25 July 2026: AySay (Denmark, Kurdistan) und LOMA REQS (Kurdistan, Colombia, Germany): Hybrid overlaps define the sonic landscape. AySay fuse Anatolian folk music with Nordic electronics, while LOMA REQS blends Kurdish poetry with acid-driven club music.

Thursday, 30 July 2026: BCUC (South Africa) and Morena Leraba (Lesotho): BCUC – Bantu Continua Uhuru Consciousness – have embodied the spirit of Soweto for over two decades, fusing funk, hip-hop awareness, and punk rock energy. Morena Leraba from Lesotho brings electrifying Famo traditions to life, telling stories of migration, labor, and resilience.

Friday, 31 July 2026: The Zawose Queens (Tansania) and Wura Samba (Nigeria) & Gebrüder Teichmann (Germany): The Zawose Queens erweitern das musikalische Erbe der Gogo zu einem kraftvollen feministischen polyphonen Gesang. Wura Samba & Gebrüder Teichmann verbinden Yoruba-Trommeln und Vocals mit analog-elektronischer Musik und schaffen so einen improvisierten Dialog zwischen Tradition und Experiment.

Saturday, 1 August 2026: Renata Flores (Peru) and Tamar Flores (Austria, Mexico): Renata Flores, described by *The New York Times* as the “Queen of Quechua Rap”, uses her music to champion the Quechua language and Andean culture. Singer Tamar Flores, who performs in German and Spanish, blends her Mexican roots with contemporary urban pop.

With formats such as *Durchlüften* and the film series *Box Office Around the World*, the Schlüterhof has established itself in recent years as a new open-air stage at the heart of Berlin. Last summer alone, 84,000 visitors attended the season at the Humboldt Forum. Contemporary music is an integral part of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss programme. *Durchlüften* also exemplifies the Forum's broader approach: fostering diverse relationships with international partners, creating new points of access to its themes, and developing the Humboldt Forum into a cross-disciplinary, contemporary programme venue.

Detailed programme: humboldtforum.org/en/durchlueften-2026

Press Images: humboldtforum.org/en/press

One building, four partners: This diversity is founded on the collaboration of our 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.

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