Music industry in Berlin
Berlin, the capital of the music industry

Around 1,450 companies with about 13,300 employees have their headquarters on the River Spree and generate a turnover of about 1.9 billion euros per year. Nowhere else in Germany do more people make a living from music and form an international uniquely diverse music scene. The mixture of classical and popular music, small businesses and large multinationals, music/cultural institutes and newcomers has made the city one of the most central music hubs in Europe. Successful music companies such as the market leader Universal Music Deutschland, the concert organizers Deutsche Entertainment AG and the fourth-largest music publisher in the world BMG Rights Management can be found here. Software manufacturers such as MAGIX, Native Instruments and Ableton supply cutting-edge solutions. Idagio has joined other global streaming services like Shazam, SoundCloud and Spotify along the river Spree. Startups like Endel Sound, Holoplot, Melodrive and Mimi Hearing Technologies provide innovative impulses, connect various industries and integrate new technologies.

» Berlin is creative and dynamic and its large network of hungry entrepreneurs provide the ideal conditions for founders. There are numerous founder events and a genuine start-up scene in certain parts of the city. «
Frank Briegmann
CEO Universal Music Deutschland

A city with a beat

Creatively, Berlin is also on an international level. This applies to classical music with internationally leading symphony orchestras such as the Staatskapelle Berlin and the Berliner Philharmoniker, eight other renowned orchestras, three internationally recognized opera houses and numerous ensembles and choirs. But the other side of Berlin’s music scene also sets the tone. The city is a magnet for composers, musicians and DJs from all areas of music. The wide range of professional recording studios makes Berlin the ideal production location and its proximity to the many music events allows companies to adopt trends quickly. The ease of access to the scene makes the discovery and marketing of new artists easier. Plus it has an internationally celebrated club scene. The Berlin Clubcommission, an association of Berlin’s club operators, already has more than 140 members alone; it is estimated that a total of up to 400 clubs in Berlin compete to win the public’s favor.

Events, Festivals and Awards

Berlin is the city with the most diverse concert and event offering in Germany. Musical events in every imaginable music genre shape the cultural life of the capital city. International stars appear daily in the city, but Berlin also provides countless young up-and-coming musicians with an audience and places to demonstrate their skills.
For classical music fans, the annual Berliner Philharmoniker Waldbühne concerts and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra are the highlights of Berlin’s summer cultural calendar. Then there’s the Classic Open Air at Gendarmenmarkt, Musikfest Berlin and the Young Euro Classic festival, to which the best youth orchestras in the world are invited. For jazz lovers, there is “Jazz in Town” and “Jazzfest Berlin”.

Berlin also offers music fans a series of regularly recurring major events that radiate far beyond the city limits, including Fête de la Musique and festivals such as club trans-mediale and Lollapalooza.

Musicboard, Associations and Networks

Important music associations such as the Bundesverband der Musikindustrie and the Verband unabhängiger Musikunternehmen (VUT) have their headquarters in Berlin. In 2013, the Berlin Senate created the Musicboard, the first of its kind in the country. The goal of the Musicboard is to actively support Berlin’s pop music scene and strengthen its cultural and economic appeal beyond the city limits.

On behalf of the Senate Administration, the Berlin Music Commission connects the city’s music industry and offers advice and coaching on various topics through its Competence Center. The digitization of the industry will be discussed and communicated on the Most Wanted Music in workshops, panels and talks. With more than 1,000 participants, over 70 individual events and 130 speakers, as well as the listen to Berlin Award, it is the capital’s largest networking event. The Federal Association of Music Technology Germany is also at home in Berlin.

Project Future, the Berlin state initiative to support the growth areas of ICT, media and the creative industries, also pursues the objective to intensify interaction within the music scene and with other industries. Clubcommission Berlin has been both the mouthpiece of the Berlin club scene since 2000 and supports its members through industry-specific training, consulting, public relations and networking. The goal of Initiative Musik, an institute funded by the Federal Government for the music industry in Germany, is to promote up-and-coming musicians, integrate people with a migrant background and promote German music abroad.

Festivals | Trade Fairs | Awards

- Berlin Festival
- Classic Open Air
- Club Transmediale
- Deutscher Orchestertag
- Fête de la Musique
- Hanns-Eisler-Preis
- Jazzfest Berlin
- Kulturlinvest!
- Listen to Berlin Award
- Lollapalooza
- Loop
- MaerzMusik
- Mobile Music in the making
- Most Wanted Music / Hybrid Music Lab
- Music Hack Day
- Musikfest Berlin
- New Music Award
- Open Air Classic Sommer
- Pop-Kultur
- Red Bull Music Academy república
- Stadt nach acht
- Tech Open Air (TOA)
- Ultraschall Berlin
- We make Waves
- Young Euro Classic

Initiatives | Associations

- Berlin Music Commission
- Bundesverband der Musikindustrie e.V.
- Bundesverband Musiktechnologie Deutschland e.V.
- Bundesvereinigung der Musikveranstalter e.V.
- Clubcommission Berlin
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für elektroakustische Musik e.V. (DEGEM)
- Deutscher Musikverlegerverband e.V. (DMV)
- Die Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten mbH (GVL)
- Digital Musician
- DOSchool
- Funkhaus Berlin/ MONOM
- GEMA Generaldirektion Berlin
- Gesellschaft zur Verfolgung von Urheberrechtsverletzungen e.V. (GUV)
- Initiative Musik gGmbH
- Musicboard Berlin GmbH
- Music Pool Berlin
- Netzwerk TAPP
- Projekt Zukunft
- Sound of Berlin (SOB)
- The Venue Berlin
- Verband unabhängiger Musikunternehmen (VUT)
Your contact partner in Berlin

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www.berlin-partner.de
www.businesslocationscenter.de/musik

Project Future State Initiative

Project Future – an initiative of the Senate Department for the Economy, Technology and Research – specifically supports the digital and creative economy. As the link between business, science and politics, Project Future has been working for more than 20 years to improve the conditions for the growth area of ICT, media and the creative industries, which includes the music industry, and strengthening the capacity for innovation and competitiveness of Berlin-based companies. Its goal is a creative, innovative and digital metropolis with international influence.

Project Future develops strategies for the city, develops new funding instruments and coordinates the players. Through networks, conferences, workshops and platforms, Project Future organizes exchanges with companies: with each other, across branches and throughout the world.

www.projektzukunft.berlin.de
www.berlin-music-commission.de/en
www.creative-city-berlin.de