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Dr. Alan Bern to be awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Other Music Academy is pleased to announce that its Chairperson of the Board and Artistic Director **Dr. Alan Bern will be awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by President Steinmeier** in person on September 30.

The Order of Merit is awarded to people who have rendered **outstanding service to the Federal Republic of Germany**. In its citation, the Office of the Federal President praised, in particular, **Dr. Bern's role in transmitting Jewish and Yiddish culture via Yiddish Summer Weimar** and his **founding and leadership of the Other Music Academy** as an institution that "brings together diverse people in cultural projects." Dr. Bern, the citation goes on to say, **especially aims to engage young people in creating a future informed by memory**.

The entire publication of the Office of the Federal President can be found at this [link](#). The event on September 30 will be streamed live here: www.bundespraesident.de, starting at 11 AM.

Dr. Bern commented:

"The news of the award took me completely by surprise. I'm deeply honored by this recognition, which also belongs to my many colleagues in Weimar and throughout the world who have helped envision the Other Music Academy and its projects such as Yiddish Summer Weimar, Altenburg am Meer, Generation J, Caravan Orchestra, and many others.

Humanity appears to be simultaneously on the verge of profound discoveries and of destroying itself along with much of life on earth. I believe that a living understanding and appreciation of our shared histories and creative potentials can help us imagine social forms that are life-affirming and mutually empowering rather than driven by fear, mistrust and domination.

That is the ultimate aim of the Other Music Academy. I am very grateful for the passionate engagement of our project participants and audiences for more than 20 years, and for the trust and support of the City of Weimar, the State of Thuringia, and many other public and private supporters. We all

share responsibility for the successes that have led to this recognition. Thank you!"

Yiddish Summer Weimar (www.yiddishsummer.eu) took place for the 22nd time last summer with 9000 international visitors. The Other Music Academy (www.othermusicacademy.eu) was founded as an association in 2006 and has since organized dozens of cultural projects with partners around the world. In early September 2022, two productions of Yiddish Summer Weimar were shown at the Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto, and the documentary film "The Young Kadyas" about an exchange project with Israel is currently showing in cinemas throughout Germany. In spring 2022, Alan Bern's oratorio about the life of Glikl von Hameln premiered at the FRANZ LISZT Academy of Music in Weimar. Current Other Music Academy projects can be found at www.omaworks.eu.

More media and information:

Photos of Dr. Alan Bern can be downloaded at this [link](#). They are free to reprint if the photographer is credited.

Biographical information on Dr. Alan Bern can be found on Wikipedia at this [link](#).

Dr. Bern is available for interviews and press inquiries. Please contact Eva-Maria Thiele by phone at +49 1575 1820899 or by email at presse@othermusicacademy.eu.

The Other Music Academy e.V. is currently planning a reception for Dr. Bern in Weimar in early November. Invitations will be sent out separately.