

# Press release

## **Major donation: new instruments for Youth Music School**

***Künzelsau, February 2020 – Birthday present with many zeros: on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the Künzelsau Youth Music School was pleased to receive a large donation of 10,000 euros for the project "Music Making in Class". Nearly 8,000 euros came from the proceeds of the latest benefit concert, which was jointly organized by the Albert Berner Foundation, Sparkasse Hohenlohekreis and the Rotary Club Künzelsau-Öhringen. The Albert Berner Foundation rounded off this amount by a further 2,000 euros.***

The municipal Youth Music School has been cooperating very successfully with the Georg Wagner School and the Ganerben High School for many years now. As part of regular school lessons or as supplementary lessons, pupils from the fifth grade upwards have the opportunity to learn various wind or string instruments at both institutions. Currently, more than 50 boys and girls take part in the practice lessons.

"This offer not only enriches the cultural life of our city, but is also of enormous value for the development of the children and young people who participate," emphasizes Ursula Berner, Chairwoman of the Foundation Council of the Albert Berner Foundation. "The pupils are introduced to music through singing and various instruments. In this way, they develop a different social behavior, which has a positive effect on all learning processes."

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When it comes to learning an instrument, however, the purchase costs are often the biggest hurdle for families. The Albert Berner Foundation has therefore repeatedly supported the Youth Music School with large sums of money in recent years – 25,000 euros were donated in 2018 and 7,500 euros in 2019. "With our support, new instruments can be acquired to gradually expand the inventory," explains Ursula Berner. "For parents, this has the advantage of significantly reducing rental fees for trumpets, clarinets, flutes, violins and many other instruments. We hope that in this way we will be able to offer even more children the chance to participate in valuable music lessons in the future."

Jürgen Koch, Director of the Künzelsau Youth Music School: "The donation will provide long-term support for our students. The number of children enrolled at our school could be increased significantly and cooperation with other schools could be intensified. My heartfelt thanks!"

Matthias Ankenbrand, Chairman of the Künzelsau Youth Music School Friends Association: "'From Brahms to Beatles', the motto of the benefit concert, could also be used as a headline for the work of the Youth Music School. Thanks to professional teaching, pupils become acquainted with a wide range of music genres. But where would they be without instruments? Thanks to the Albert Berner Foundation, we can offer the children an unparalleled level of support."

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## **Popular event series**

The benefit concert is organized annually by the Albert Berner Foundation, Sparkasse Hohenlohekreis and the Rotary Club Künzelsau-Öhringen. The 19th edition of the popular event series took place last November – and with nearly 300 visitors it was a great success, as always! Under the motto “From Brahms to Beatles”, the strings of the casalQuartet and the four exceptional cellists of the Rastrelli Cello Quartet provided a musical tour de force. The proceeds from the charity concerts are always donated in full to worthy projects, institutions, clubs or associations in the region.

## **Albert Berner Foundation**

The non-profit Albert Berner Foundation was established in 1995 to mark the 60th birthday of its namesake, Albert Berner. The Albert Berner Foundation is dedicated to supporting children and adults in the social and cultural field, as well as in sports and education, mainly in the Hohenlohe region. Since its inception, the foundation has helped extensive lighthouse projects as well as smaller organizations to advance their goals. The Albert Berner Foundation pays particular attention to the long-term nature of the projects it supports, in addition to the regional factor. For many years, numerous organizations and projects have enjoyed the support of the Foundation. Internet: <http://www.albertbernerstiftung.de>