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**Vienna's 2012 Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival under the patronage of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO**  
Festival to Host Israel's Multi-Cultural Galilee String Orchestra and Ensembles from 17 Other Countries

Vienna, Austria (November 28, 2011) Via Musica, the organization that hosts the annual [Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival](#), recently announced that its sixth annual SCL festival, which will be held July 7 -11, 2012 in Vienna, has been endorsed by the Austrian Commission for UNESCO.

"It is a great honor for our Festival to be under the patronage of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO," notes Christian Bender, co-founder of the prestigious annual event. "This is the Commission's highest form of support: it demonstrates its endorsement of an 'exceptional activity.'

"The purpose of UNESCO is to promote international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication in order to preserve peace and security – and our SCL Festival is a clear example of what is possible when people from all over the world come together to share their passion and perform beautiful music."

Every year since 2007, the SCL Festival has given the most talented youth choirs, bands and orchestras from around the world a unique opportunity to perform, compete and interact on an international level. In 2012 it will be the first time that the Jezreel Valley Center for the Arts in Israel will send its multicultural (Arabs, Jews and Christians) Galilee String Orchestra to participate. The Center also houses 'Mifne,' Zubin Mehta's program for the advancement and fostering of outstanding young Jewish and Arab musicians, in conjunction with the Bochman

Metha Music High School and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (see <http://www.emekyizrael.org.il/2034-he/Emekisrael.aspx>).

In addition to the Galilee String Orchestra, ensembles from 17 other countries (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Croatia and Austria) are scheduled to participate in 2012.

The [SCL Festival Vienna](#) is Austria's premier global youth music festival for choirs, bands and orchestras. Taking place every July in Vienna's two main classical concert venues, the [Golden Hall of the Musikverein](#) and the [Konzerthaus](#), it offers an international environment where more than a thousand young musicians enjoy intercultural exchanges and build bridges that span continents. Ensembles participate either in the Festival's [Competition](#) or [Celebration](#) (non-competitive) events.

The true focus of the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival is to offer the participating international youth the opportunity to create lasting connections across all borders. Music is the language all share, and this global event will build bridges between the many young participants, representing many different countries. The friendships that result will have far-reaching benefits, now and in the future.

To enjoy a 3-minute video about the SCL Festival, please click here: <http://www.sclfestival.org/impressions.htm>. For more information, visit [www.sclfestival.org](http://www.sclfestival.org) or contact IMTC Concerts in Atlanta, Georgia at (800) 790-4682.



Summa Cum Laude Festival – The Golden Hall, Musikverein, Vienna

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