



Ernst von Siemens Music Prize awarded to Sir Simon Rattle

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation honours the 2025 prize winners.

This year's Ernst von Siemens Music Prizes were awarded yesterday in Munich. The Board of Trustees of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation honoured Sir Simon Rattle with the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize for his life's work. In its official statement, the Foundation praised him as an artist whose outstanding interpretations are both transparent and vibrant, and who has actively and emphatically promoted contemporary music. The laudatory speech for the Music Prize laureate was delivered by British-Jamaican bass-baritone Sir Willard White. In addition to the main prize, composers Ashkan Behzadi, Bastien David, and Kristine Tjøgersen, as well as the two ensembles collective lovemusic and Ensemble Tacet(i), were awarded prizes.

Tabea Zimmermann, chair of the Foundation Board of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, presented the 2025 Ernst von Siemens Music Prize to Sir Simon Rattle at a festive prize ceremony. The certificate reads: "Sir Simon Rattle's transparent and colourful interpretations are outstanding. He has actively and emphatically promoted new music." Sir Willard White paid tribute to the Prize Winner with the following words: "Each time I see Simon conduct I see a metamorphosed man, in full commitment to the absolute present. His legacy is not just in the music he conducts but in the countless lives he has touched and the future he has inspired." Sir Simon Rattle expressed his gratitude, saying: "It's an indescribable honor to be in this illustrious company of the Ernst von Siemens Prize Winners and I am profoundly grateful to the Siemens family and to all the many people who had made this possible." The evening concluded with Sir Simon Rattle conducting members of the BRSO in a performance of Arnold Schönberg's Chamber Symphony No. 1.

Earlier in the evening, Ilona Schmiel, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, presented the Composer Prizes to Iranian-Canadian composer Ashkan Behzadi, Bastien David from France, and Kristine Tjøgersen from Norway, as well as the Ensemble Prizes to collective lovemusic from France and Tacet(i) Ensemble from Thailand. The Riot Ensemble performed one work by each of the young composers. In her remarks, Ilona Schmiel highlighted the Foundation's extensive global initiatives, announcing that it will support projects around the world with €4.3 million in funding in 2025. She placed special emphasis on the new funding programme for young musicians. At the opening of the ceremony, Tabea Zimmermann, in conversation with Annekatrin Hentschel, addressed the significant challenges currently facing classical music and contemporary music in particular. Approximately 900 spectators attended the event.

The Prize Ceremony was recorded by Bayerischer Rundfunk and will be broadcast on May 22, 2025 at 11:03 p.m. (sponsorship awards) and on May 27, 2025 at 10:05 p.m. (Sir Simon Rattle) in the 'Horizonte' series on BR-KLASSIK. The event will also be available as an audio stream shortly afterwards at www.br-klassik.de and www.evs-musikstiftung.ch

Photos of the award ceremony, Sir Willard White's laudatory speech, and Sir Simon Rattle's words of gratitude are available for download in the press section of the Foundation's homepage: [Presse | Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung](#)

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