December 2025

International Zither Gathering 2026 - Invitation

Dear Zither Friends,

We are delighted to invite you to the **2026 International Zither Gathering (IZG)**, taking place **April 8–12, 2026**, in **Hanau-Steinheim, Germany** (near Frankfurt am Main). This special event is being organized by **Anne Prinz, USA** and **Tomy Temerson, Germany**.

The Gathering will bring together zither enthusiasts from around the world — from beginners to advanced players — to celebrate our shared love of zither music. Together, we will learn new techniques, exchange musical ideas, and enjoy the joy of playing and connecting in an international zither community.

Since our first announcement, we've received an enthusiastic response from zither players around the globe! **Thirty participants** from **five countries** have expressed their excitement by saying, "Yes," to coming to the event, and we hope you will be among them.

To make this event even more special, Anne spent time in Germany this fall scanning previously unperformed zither orchestra arrangements by **Mr. Gernot Sauter, which are now available**. Mr. Sauter created more arrangements for the zither than anyone else, and we're honored to showcase a variety of his musical styles, including Folk, Romantic, Classical, Jazz, Ragtime, and more.

Three months before the event, **Tomy will share a professional practice recording** from his sound studio so everyone can prepare with confidence.

For many years, we have organized seminars and workshops across different countries to encourage the growth of zither music and to build community through our shared passion. Now, we warmly invite you to join this international gathering in the country where zither music has its roots. We look forward to welcoming participants from **Austria, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, the USA, Canada**, and beyond!

This letter provides preliminary information so you can begin planning your trip. More details will follow soon.

Workshops - Participation Includes

- Your music for the workshops and concert as well as professional practice recordings by Tomy Temerson
- Orchestra workshops and rehearsals from Wednesday afternoon – Saturday, April 8-11.
- Public Zither Concert in the Kulturhalle Hanau-Steinheim on Sunday, April 12.

The cost for the seminar workshops is 195,- Euros.

Your Musical Toolkit – Practical Practice Tools for Zither Players – This is a new workshop being offered by Tomy Temerson on Wednesday, April 8, from 10:00am – 12:00pm.

Whether you are just beginning your zither journey, building confidence as an intermediate player, or refining artistry at an advanced level, this workshop is designed to meet you exactly where you are — and move you forward with clarity and purpose.

- **If you are a Beginner** and feel unsure what to practice or how to structure your time, you will gain a clear, step-by-step approach that builds confidence, coordination, and musical understanding — so you leave each session knowing exactly what to do next.

- **If you are an Intermediate player** who feels stuck, inconsistent, or ready to "level up," you will learn targeted tools to strengthen technique, improve accuracy, and develop musical expression — turning practice from repetition into real progress.

- **If you are an Advanced player** who wants to use practice time more efficiently and achieve higher artistic results, you will discover refined strategies for precision, polish, interpretation, and performance readiness — so your playing reflects the depth of your musicality.

This workshop is not about practicing more. It's about practicing smarter — with tools you can immediately apply to every piece you play.

The fee for this workshop is **35, Euros**. **Please reply to this email if you would like to participate in this workshop.**

Private Zither Lessons

During the seminar, we are happy to offer **45-minute private lessons** with **Tomy Temerson** and **Anne Prinz** (lessons for beginners will be available in English).
If you would like to schedule a private lesson, please let us know in advance so we can reserve a time for you. If there is a high level of interest, we may invite an additional professional zither teacher to join us.

We look forward to helping you deepen your skills and enjoy personal guidance during the seminar! The fee for a private lesson is **40,- Euros per session.**

Zither Products

We are delighted to share that **Tomy Temerson** and **Anne Prinz** will present their **new line of zither products** at the Gathering! Participants will be the first to experience these exciting new instruments and accessories.

Throughout the event, there will also be ongoing exhibits featuring a variety of sheet music vendors, including Musikverlag Gernot Sauter – offering more than 4,600 pieces, from solos to full orchestra arrangements – as well as Psalteria Verlag and others.

Zither Strings – Seminar Discount

As a bonus benefit for all attendees of the IZG 2026, we are offering a 10% discount on zither strings at the event. Lenzner Fisoma is what will be available unless otherwise specified. **If interested, please let us know by March 4, 2026, so we can have them available for you at the event.** (This is only for regularly manufactured strings and not special orders as the manufacturer would not be able to make special orders in time for the event.)

Evening Events

We have some special evenings planned during our event. On **Wednesday evening, April 8**, **Tomy Temerson, will be providing a concert** for all participants and their guests in the old town of Steinheim at the **Old Parish Church of St. Johann**, which was built over 500 years ago. Tomy is looking forward to sharing his music with you in this beautiful church.

On **Thursday evening, April 9**, Tomy will be giving a workshop on **Zither Skills and Techniques, plus a Question-and-Answer** time for you to ask Tomy any zither technique questions you have wanted to learn. So, get your questions ready. We will ask you to submit them prior to the event.

On **Friday evening, April 10**, we invite you to join us for **dinner at a traditional German restaurant** with some great local food to order. We will have a **zither "open mic" night** after dinner for anyone interested in sharing their zither music with friends.

Sheet Music

All registered participants will receive the **seminar workshop sheet music 3 month prior to the event.** This is **included in your registration fee** and is yours to keep.

If you would like to have the **complete set of concert music**, it will be available for purchase for **50,-Euros**. The collection includes all pieces, all voices, and the full conductor's score, conveniently provided on a **flash drive**.

Please let us know by **March 30** if you would like to order a flash drive, so we can prepare it for you in advance.

Zithers for Loan:

For those traveling without their own instrument, we are happy to offer **zithers for loan** during the event. If you would like us to reserve one for you, please let us know when you register. The cost to borrow a zither is **50,-Euros**. Instruments from **Meinel, Wünsche, Volkmann**, and other makers will be available, depending on supply.

Light Lunches and Afternoon Deserts at the Workshop
Tomy's wife, Estelle, has informed us that she will be providing light lunches and afternoon desserts for us again this year! If you were able to join us in 2024, you know her meals and desserts were such a wonderful addition to the event!

Each day she will be offering a meal that will also have a vegetarian option. Some of the meals will be local specialties. Then during the afternoon session, she will offer several types of cake with coffee or tea as well.

I**f you are interested in the lunch on Wednesday, April 8, please let me know if you want the regular or vegetarian meal**. Estelle is still pricing the food for the event, but expects the lunch to be around or under 10, Euros and the afternoon dessert will be around 4, Euros each day.

During each afternoon session, Estelle will let us know what is on the next day menu. You will need to sign up at that time in order for her to have a meal prepared for you.
If you already know that you want all of the lunch meals, just let me know.

Hotel Accommodations:

To make your stay comfortable, a block of rooms has been reserved at both **Hotel Zur Linde**, and **Haus Anna an der Stadtmauer**, from **April 6–14, 2026**.
This gives participants traveling from afar a few extra days to **relax, explore, and enjoy this beautiful region of Germany** before and after the Gathering.

Both hotels offer free Wi-fi, parking, and they include breakfast each morning during your stay.

Single room (includes a twin size bed) is **104,-Euros per night**
Double room for two people (includes two twin beds) is **125,-Euros per night**

Reservation deadline for this rate at either hotel is February 20, 2026. If you have any issues making a reservation, please let us know. There are a limited number of Double rooms, so if they do not have a room for you, please let Anne Prinz know and she will assist you in making accommodations. The group block is under the name "IZG 2026." If you want to extend your stay longer, I am sure they will be able to assist you.

Hotel zur Linde:

Address: Steinheimer Vorstadt 31
Zip code: 63456 Hanau-Steinheim, Germany
Website: https://www.hotel-zur-linde-hanau.de
Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/r6qjxdQxuVyTgdz5A

You can make your reservation by email, phone, or fax. Their email address is: mail@hotel-zur-linde-hanau.de. Their phone number is +496181–9643210 and their Fax number is: +496181–9643249.

Haus Anna:

Address: Steinheimer-Vorstadt 52
Zip Code: 63456 Hanau-Steinheim, Germany
Website: www.haus-anna-an-der-stadtmauer.de
Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/gztBBfDefzTjhGZn8

You can make your reservation by email, phone, or fax. Their email address is: mail@haus-anna-an-der-stadtmauer.de. Their phone number is: +496181-9699040 and their Fax number is: +496181-96990441.

Travel Information

Airport:
The most convenient airport to fly into is **Frankfurt am Main Airport (FRA)**. It is the largest international airport near Hanau-Steinheim and offers many flight connections from around the world.

Taxi:
From the airport, it's about **29 kilometers (18 miles)** to the hotels. The trip takes approximately **25 minutes by taxi**, with an estimated fare of **70–90, Euros**.

Train:
You can also travel by train from **Frankfurt am Main Airport** to **Hanau Central Station**. The journey takes about **45 minutes** and costs around **9–18, Euros**.

From Hanau Central Station, you can take a **taxi, Uber, or Lyft** approximately 4.5 kilometers (3 miles) to reach **Hotel Zur Linde** or **Haus Anna an der Stadtmauer**.

Additional Travel Resources

If you plan to spend a little extra time exploring this beautiful region of Germany, we recommend visiting the **City of Hanau's official website**: www.hanau.de. You'll find helpful information about local attractions, restaurants, and travel tips.

Registration and Contact Information

If you are planning to attend, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can send you **detailed information and the event music** ahead of time.

Contact:

Anne Prinz
Phone: +1- 309-797-4779
E-mail: zitherinternational@gmail.com

Tomy Temerson
Phone: +49-172-8307226
E-mail: zither@zither.de

Important Travel Notes

Since this event takes place in Germany, please remember that you will need a **valid passport** to travel. We also recommend **travel insurance** for any incidents that can occur when travelling.

Workshop and private lesson fees (if applicable) will be **collected upon arrival** and should be paid in **euros (cash).**

A Warm Welcome

Anne Prinz and Tomy Temerson warmly welcome you to **Hanau-Steinheim, Germany** for this special international zither gathering!

This is a wonderful opportunity for zither players from around the world to come together for **five days of music, friendship, and joy**.

Come and share in the zither excitement **— an experience to remember!**

With warm regards and musical anticipation,

Anne Prinz and Tomy Temerson
Your 2026 International Zither Gathering Team