



THEATER
MÜNSTER

DAS THEATER
Staatstheater Darmstadt



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NOperas! 2025/2026

Call for Projects by Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater

1 NOperas!

1.1 What is feXm?

Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater (feXm) was founded in 2006 as a joint initiative of NRW KULTURsekretariat and Kunststiftung NRW; since 2023 its funding is solely provided by NRW KULTURsekretariat. feXm is the only initiative to promote new forms of music theater in the German-speaking part of Europe. It enables artists from the independent theatre scene to create music theater projects at German municipal theaters. In this way, it aims at promoting innovative concepts of the independent theatre scene as well as at encouraging the municipal theater's engagement with contemporary new forms of music theater.

1.2 What is »NOperas!«?

feXm's funding initiative »NOperas!« was started 2019. Each season several theaters join forces under the shared label »NOperas!« to realize a music theatre project that is first produced at one of them, then further developed at the others, with different versions being staged at these theaters. Each theater provides its ensemble of singers, orchestra members, technical equipment and general infrastructure. All other costs (fees, travel, accommodation, additional guests, supplementary technology) are covered by a production budget that is financed jointly by feXm and the theaters while being managed by the elected production team itself (→ see 2.2).

1.3 What projects can receive funding?

The aim of "NOperas!" is to promote contemporary new forms of music theatre and to establish them within the workings of municipal theatres. The initiative is therefore oriented towards an advanced understanding of the term "music theatre" which is not fixed to forms of contemporary opera.

- Funding is available for any projects aimed at reexamining the relationship between musical sound, language and theatrical action in music theatre. This includes projects that are "process-oriented" (→ 1.4) and/or extended into the area of social media.
- The performances at the subsequent theaters are explicitly not to be mere recastings, but self-contained productions specific to the location and theater. Projects can be designed with a view to continuous development or as a multi-part series.

- Projects may involve stage personnel from outside the theaters (→ 2.2). However, the substantial participation of the existing artistic staff (singers, instrumentalists) of the theaters remains essential.

1.4 Project development and work method

Within the framework of flexible rehearsal times customized as needed for the respective project, "NOperas! opens up ways of developing a performance that are directly linked to the rehearsal process. A rehearsal period of up to ten weeks in total is provided for. In consultation with the theaters, applicants are free to divide this period into up to five separate phases according to their own preferences.

1.5 Who can apply?

- Teams are expected to cover from within their group all the basic artistic tasks involved in their work such as composition, text, stage direction, set design and so forth.
- The group must include a production manager, responsible for the basic tasks of organization in consultation with the theaters and the management of finances.
- Please note: Funding can only be made available to an organization of German legal form, such as a German production company entrusted with handling of finances or an artistic team that is organized within the status of a GbR (Gesellschaft beschränkten Rechts).

1.6 Services provided by feXm and the theaters

The participating theaters provide

- Ensemble of singers and instrumentalists,
- crafts, workshop times, equipment, rehearsal rooms,
- support in the areas of study, musical direction, dramaturgy, marketing.

In addition, feXm, together with the theaters, provides a production budget to be managed by the production team itself.

- feXm's share is granted by means of a notification of support.
- For the theaters' share, separate production agreements will be signed between the theaters and the production team.

1.7 Function and further services of feXm

Within the framework of the funded project, feXm acts not only as a funding institution, but also as a co-producer of the participating theaters. It provides organizational support, its own dramaturgical supervision and its own public relations work. This includes continuous media support during project development via social media and other digital media.

2 Call for Applications Season 2025 / 2026

2.1 Participating Theaters and Special Conditions of the Current Call

The following theatres will participate in "NOperas!" in the season of 2025/2026:

- *Theater Münster*
- *Staatstheater Darmstadt*.

The initial production will take place at *Theater Münster*. The Münster premiere is scheduled for February 2026, the second premiere in Darmstadt for May 2026.

- In Münster, the "Kleines Haus" stage is available for the project, in Darmstadt the comparable space of "Kammerspiele". In both cities, however, projects can also be aimed at performances in city space or the foyers.
- There is no fixed guideline for the number of singers provided by the theaters; the orchestra size should not exceed 14 instrumentalists.
- Darmstadt can also provide choir singers, Münster cannot. In Münster, 2 dancers can also be used if requested. Extras can be provided at both theaters.
- Voice categories that are not covered by the respective ensembles (such as counters etc.) and instruments beyond the classical-romantic orchestral line-up must be covered by externals and must be financed accordingly from the production team's budget. The same applies to the use of actors and (in Darmstadt) dancers.

2.2 Budget

For the season 2025/2026, a production budget of up to 150,000 euros is available. The production team is responsible for financing the following from the production budget:

- Fees, travel and accommodation expenses of the production team (including production management) and other guests involved in the work.
- material for set design and costumes
- technical equipment, if not existing at the theaters.

2.3 Budget Plan

The application is expected to include a detailed statement of the estimated production costs within the financial framework of the requested funding amount. The two-stage jury process (→ 2.6) offers finalists the opportunity for preliminary discussions with the theaters and for any necessary subsequent corrections to the submitted budget.

- A minimum of three performances is aimed for at each of the participating theaters. Three performances at each theater shall be used as the basis for calculating the budget.
- For the calculation of rehearsal and performance fees, feXm follows the current recommendations of *Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste* (BDFK) on minimum fee for the independent performing arts:
 - Rehearsals: 140 euros per day (with membership in Germanys *Künstlersozialkasse* (KSK)) / 165 euros per day (without KSK membership).
 - Performances: 310,00 Euro per performance (with KSK-membership) / 360,00 Euro per performance (without KSK-membership)

2.4 Obligations of production team

- The openness of the intended work process requires flexibility in the coordination between production team and the theaters. Planning and more detailed elaboration of the concept must be based on the realities and possibilities of the theaters. Accordingly, the budget plan requested with the application can only be an initial guide to mutual

orientation for both sides. In the course of the two-stage jury procedure (→ see 3.2), it remains to be adjusted or revised after more detailed discussions.

- The supervision by the dramaturgy of feXm forms an important mediating link in the contact between production team and theaters. Throughout the production process, the feXm dramaturgy must be involved at all times in consultations with the theaters and kept informed of the current status of the project.
- The production team commits itself to active and continuous participation in accompanying measures carried out by feXm in the fields of digital media.

2.5 Time Range

All performances will take place in the 2025/2026 season. Rehearsals can begin already during the 2024/2025 season if desired.

2.6 Jury procedure

A jury consisting of one representative of each of the participating theaters and of feXm as well as three independent experts from the field of contemporary music theatre will decide on the funding project on the basis of the applications received. Prior to an in-depth discussion with the jury, finalists have the option of contacting the theaters to explore their options in more detail.

2.7 Deadlines

The deadline for this call is 15 July 2024. The jury's decision is scheduled for the first half of October 2024.

3 Application

3.1 How Do I Apply?

Applications should be submitted to noperas@nrw-kultur.de. With the application, a preliminary budget plan within the scope of the requested amount of funding is expected. Please adhere to the subdivision and naming of files outlined below when applying. Integrate all of your application materials into the six individual files listed. Do not attach additional files (audio, video, scores, play texts) to your application. If your application requires additional explanations, explain them in the form of a personal cover letter.

3.2 Application components

- **Form** (File name: **1_formular**).
Please fill in and scan the download PDF.
- **Short Description** (File name: **2_kurzbeschr**).
To be no longer than a total of 3,000 characters including blank spaces.
- **Detailed Project Description** (File name: **3_ausf_beschr**).
Text to be no longer than 20,000 characters including blank spaces. There is no limit to the number of pages. Images, score extracts, etc can be integrated, if so wished.
→ Alongside a convincing presentation of the aims of your project, this file should also contain the outline of a thought-out working modus that correlates to the rehearsal periods available (see above) to develop the play.
- **Short biographies** of the team and any participating guest artists, if relevant (File name: **4_cv**)
- **Links** to previous work of participating artists and their websites, if available. (File name: **5_links**)
→ This file is to be used solely for providing links to examples of work (video or audio extracts) that might give the jury a feel for the work of the participating artists. Please specify which particular links seem essential for a more accurate insight. If people in your team have already worked together before, links to joint works are of particular interest.
- **Provisional budget** within the limits of the feXm budget (File name: **6_kfp**)
→ See remarks under 2.4

3.3 Queries

For questions, please turn to feXm dramaturgy, represented by Roland Quitt (quitt@nrw-kultur.de). Make sure to provide a telephone number where you can be reached.