



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Creative Cities Network

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Bologna

UNESCO City of Music

Fast facts

- Remarkable role of associations: over 500 cultural associations registered at the City Council, 122 of which promote music events
- The University of Bologna was the first Italian University to establish a department for “Art, Music and Show (DAMS)”, a structure which boasts over 7000 students

The city in context

- Extraordinary musical tradition thanks to the role of long-established institutions such as the Accademia Filarmonica (founded in 1666), the Teatro Comunale (inaugurated in 1763) and The Giovan Battista Martini Conservatory (1804);
- Home for artists: the city has welcomed musicians such as Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Wagner and Respighi. Verdi and Wagner have received honorary citizenship from the City. Bologna is still the residence of many important artists from the Italian musical scene;
- Music is at the core of Bologna’s social life. Musical performances take place throughout the city thanks to a rich variety of public places for musical performances (theatres, concert halls, open air terraces, parks, etc)

Music events and cultural offering



- The Intercultural Festival “Sunoni dal Mondo” (Sounds of the World): welcomes artists performing traditional music from all parts of the world, including xylophone players from the island of Karpatos (Greece) and musicians from Burkina Faso;
- The Scanderella Festival: festival that presents concerts of bands in the Bologna rock scene in a very original manner;
<http://www.scandellararock.net>
- Bologna Music Festival: classical music festival in May – June
<http://www.bolognamusicfestival.it>
- The International Composition Competition “2augusto”: established in 1994, it takes place every year on 2 August
<http://www.concorso2agosto.it>
- Bibliographical City Museum for Music: prestigious collection of printed music from the 16th to the 20th Centuries, originally made up of 17 000 volumes saved from Napoleon’s confiscations;
- International Museum and Library of Music: opened in 2004, aims to promote the varied musical heritage of the city (paintings, volumes, instruments);
- Flashmusica: website designed by the City Council, dedicated to emerging music and youth, aims to help young people who are active in music make the transition from amateur to professional status.
<http://www.flashmusica.it>

Economic impact

- The music industry is an important sector of Bologna’s economy and it should not only be measured in terms of cultural tourism linked to special events, but especially in terms of local income generated by the variety of associations and private enterprises;
- The city hosts many recording studios, independent

labels and management offices that represent internationally famous artists such as Paolo Conte and Andrea Bocelli;

- The federal government supports cultural activities linked to show business through the “FUS” (Exclusive Fund for the Show Business) with resources stemming from the lottery.

Music conferences and networks

- The project “La via Emilia della musica” (The Emilia Road of Music) is a collaboration with the cities of Ferrara, Reggio Emilia and Modena dedicated to opera and orchestral music, aims to enable the cities involved to identify best practices and share solutions to common problems;
- The International Carlo Alberto Award: founded by the City Council for producers, patrons and cultural promoters who have distinguished themselves in the field of music.

