

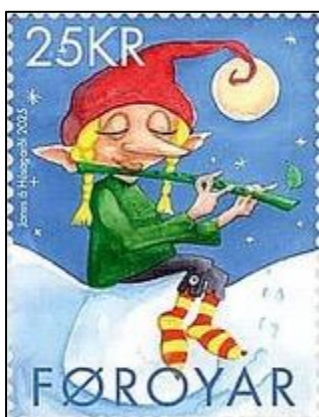
MOST POPULAR MUSIC STAMP 2025

YEHUDI MENUHIN TROPHY 2026

Stamp issues marking significant anniversaries of famous figures from the worlds of culture, science, and politics have long been highly popular among postal authorities and collectors alike. Against this backdrop, it comes as no surprise that the stamp commemorating the 200th anniversary of the “Waltz King” Johann Strauss, was voted the most popular music-themed stamp of 2025 by collectors worldwide, garnering 6.07% of the vote. Issued by Austrian Post on January 18, 2025, the stamp combines the figure from the Johann Strauss monument in Vienna’s Stadtpark with a detail from the title page of the first edition of the piano score for the waltz “The Blue Danube” (“An der schönen blauen Donau”), published by C.A. Spina in Vienna in 1867. The stamp was designed by Viennese artist Kirsten Lubach, who is being honored with the Yehudi Menuhin Trophy 2026 for her work.



Born in Troisdorf (Germany) in 1973, Kirsten Lubach trained as an engraver at the Zeichenakademie in Hanau. She subsequently pursued further studies in Lahti, Finland, on a scholarship and qualified as a master engraver there in 1999. After working for a specialised firm for several years, she moved to the Austrian State Printing Office in 2003, where she was initially responsible for correcting and retouching printing plates. The first stamp she engraved — part of the “Wildlife of Austria” series — was released in 2006. In 2012, Lubach became self-employed, opening her own copperplate engraving and printing studio in Vienna. Over the years, she has designed numerous stamps for various postal authorities and already received the Yehudi Menuhin Trophy in 2023 for the “Trombone” stamp — part of the “Musical Austria” series — which was voted the most popular music-themed stamp of 2022.



With 4.59% of the vote, the “The Pixies’ Christmas” stamp from the Faroe Islands, issued on October 20, 2025, took second place. The stamp was designed by Janus á Húsagarði, a Faroese photographer and visual artist based in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland.

Taking third place with 4.43% of the vote was the German stamp “Semper Opera House”. For the design, graphic artist Jan-Niklas Kröger utilized the AI image generator DALL·E.

It is fascinating to observe the diverse graphic approaches taken with these three stamps: ranging from collage and poetic, fairy-tale-style illustration to the use of artificial intelligence — though one hopes that postal authorities will not succumb to the temptation of replacing the craftsmanship of graphic artists with AI.



More information on the Yehudi-Menuhin-Trophy

While the stamps delight collectors and postal customers around the world, the creators of these small works of art remain largely unknown. By awarding the Yehudi-Menuhin-Trophy to the designer of the year's most popular music stamp, Motivgruppe Musik, the international Philatelic Music Study Group, gives a face to one of the artists, representing the many unnamed.

The vote for the most popular music stamp has been held by music stamp collectors around the world since 1980. The trophy is awarded in memory of the great violinist and conductor Lord Yehudi Menuhin, who was patron of the Philatelic Music Circle for 30 years, from 1969 until his death in 1999.

More information on Motivgruppe Musik

Motivgruppe Musik, the international Philatelic Music Study Group, was founded in 1959 as philatelic study group "Music, Theater, Literature". With about 200 music stamp collectors from 36 countries, Motivgruppe Musik is one of the biggest thematic study groups within the Association of German Philatelists (BDPh) and, as an internationally active study group, it is a member of the American Topical Association (ATA).

(Further information is available online at www.motivgruppe-musik.com.)