

Unfortunately there is no full English translation of this website. However, on these pages you will find some basic information on our organisation and the work we are doing. If you would like to know more, please refer to our German website or contact our office at info@kinderkinder.de. You can also get a good overview of what we are up to by looking at our gallery.

KinderKinder e. V.

It all started in 1987 when Stephan v. Löwis of Menar, now the director of KinderKinder, organised his first festival for children in Hamburg. In the subsequent year it was decided to commence the work he had started and to give it a more structured framework: in 1988 KinderKinder e.V. was born; a non-profit organisation which made it its mission to promote high quality art for children and by children, with special focus on the presentation of international stage art for kids.

It is our opinion that fantasy and creativity are essential to life; and just as children have to strengthen their muscles and learn to walk, their creativity and fantasy has to grow, develop and gain powers too. We believe that the arts are the best training grounds for these skills. KinderKinder's mascot »Fidel Mops« – a fat dog with a propeller – symbolises this: the arts lift him up in the sky and help him to view life from a different perspective.



The International Music and Theatre Festival KinderKinder

The KinderKinder-festival is our most important project. It is an annual event which takes place in many different theatres and venues in and around Hamburg and lasts for several weeks (usually from mid-September to mid-November).

Since 1991 KinderKinder is funded by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. As part of the festival we invite the most adventurous music, the most inspiring theatre and the most exciting dance for children from all over the world.

Each year we are able to present the work of many different companies to the children of Hamburg and stage more than 50 performances, including productions for the very young.

KinderKinder's own productions for the stage.

Almost every year KinderKinder produces its own shows for children with wonderful artists. Many of these are international co-productions which explore the productive meeting of music with other forms of art. All of KinderKinder's shows are staged at our own festival, some traveled to a number of European countries, and a few of them even made it as far as India and China! You can find some video trailers of our stagershows on vimeo.com/kinderkinder.





Weltkinderfest

The "KinderKinder"-festival kicks off with a large open-air event, the »Weltkinderfest«. Each year, on the Sunday before World Children's Day, we celebrate international children's rights and give kids from many different cultures the opportunity to present their music and dances on stage. We believe that learning to 'know and love' the cultural diversity and richness of our world is a strong antidote to xenophobia and racism.

In addition to enjoying the performances by the young artists, the visitors can get active themselves:

during the event more than 70 stalls invite children to paint, climb, play the piano, participate in drum workshops, play basketball etc. Entry to the "Weltkinderfest" is free and 50.000 to 60.000 visitors enjoy the »Weltkinderfest« every year.

laut und luise

Since 1994 we celebrate the art of music and song in Hamburg's most beautiful park 'Planten und Blumen'. Every year on a Sunday in early summer thousands of children can play with the sound installations of Michael Bradke, can build their own musical instruments and participate in a variety of music workshops. On two stages they can listen to opera, jazz, contemporary music, folk and classical music or sing along with singer-songwriters that work especially for children.

Other open air activities of KinderKinder

Every summer, we invite Hamburg's children to take part in a series of open-air events in Hamburg's new HarbourCity. These include »BauTraum« and »TraumStadt« and invite children – amongst other things – to have fun with architecture, city planning and brick laying.



Every August thousands of families crowd the City Hall's yard and the adjoining Chamber of Commerce for the »Hamburger Familientag«; an event jointly organised by Hamburg's Social Ministry, the Kinderschutzbund and KinderKinder e.V.. The aim of the event is to provide families with information on anything child-related – ranging from family-counselling, nurseries, first aid to mother-child holidays. In addition, there are many play activities for visiting kids, there is children's theatre and an open air stage with comedy, folk, jazz and many other performances.





The Children's Song Congress

There has been a strong and influential scene of singer-songwriters in German speaking countries that work especially for children since the 1970s. Every couple of years KinderKinder organises a congress where the artists and those that work with their songs in the media, publishing firms and record companies can meet each other, exchange ideas and learn from each other in a range of different seminars, concerts, social events and discussion forums.

Big Bang

As part of the European Network »Big Bang – music for young adventurers« KinderKinder will establish a yearly international music festival together with Kamnagel, the Elbphilharmonie, Ensemble Resonanz and the North German Radio Bigband. The first German festival will kick-off in April 2015.



These are some of KinderKinder's regular activities. Of course there are many projects that we have organised only once or twice – such as wonderful woodcutting workshops for school pupils, a photo competition for the children of Shanghai and Hamburg with exhibitions in both cities, a seven cities theatrical tour through India ... and ... and ...

KinderKinder invites children and families to approximately 80 events and performances every year and we are proud to say that we have about 100.000 guests who come and enjoy the best art for and by children every year. **We would be happy to see you at our international festival. Welcome to Hamburg!**

Photos by: Felix Borkenau, Bernd Seuffert, Richard Stöhr, Maximilian Bartsch, Mauricio Bustamante and Arno Declair © KinderKinder e.V.