

Press Release

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## Musikmesse 2019: new competition to honour innovative therapy instruments

Johannes Weber  
Tel. +49 69 7575-6866  
johannes.weber@messefrankfurt.com  
www.messefrankfurt.com  
www.musikmesse.com

**Messe Frankfurt and the German Music Therapy Society (DMtG) will hold the 'New Therapy Instruments' competition on the occasion of Musikmesse 2019. Instrument makers, artists and music therapists are invited to develop and implement ideas for new instruments and sounds. The awards ceremony will be held during Musikmesse in April 2019. The award is worth €2,000.**

The competition will honour not only hand-crafted therapy instruments but also new digital applications, such as music apps. The condition for inclusion is that the products are suitable for use and helpful in one or more of the many areas of music therapy. They can be developments that are easy to employ, that have a special simulative nature, trigger impressive experiences or offer easier access to music for people with impairments.

Michael Biber, Group Show Director of the 'Entertainment, Media & Creative Industries' Business Unit of Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH: "Musikmesse is always open to new topics and product groups. In recent years, we have provided a platform for music therapy and its methods, and we want to expand this commitment in the future. The 'New Therapy Instrument' competition is an important step in this direction and we are particularly pleased that the renowned German Music Therapy Society has agreed to partner us in organising it and thus position the subject prominently at the fair."

Volker Bernius of the DMtG Board of Management: "From inclusion work to neurology: the use of music-therapy instruments is multifarious and new products, from which music therapists can profit, are continuously being developed. Our aim is to draw attention to this broad spectrum at Musikmesse. With the new competition, we also aim to boost innovation in the sector and make a contribution to the promotion of future-oriented projects."

An expert jury of music therapists, musicians and instrument makers will select the most successful works from the entries. Decisive for the judging are criteria such as originality, design, ease of use and potential for therapeutic use.

The deadline for receipt of prototypes, including product information, is 31 January 2019. Full details about entries can be found at [www.musiktherapie.de/verband/instrumentenwettbewerb](http://www.musiktherapie.de/verband/instrumentenwettbewerb).

Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH  
Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage 1  
60327 Frankfurt am Main

Musikmesse will take place in Frankfurt am Main from 2 to 5 April 2019.  
Further information about at [www.musikmesse.com](http://www.musikmesse.com)

#### **Background information on Messe Frankfurt**

Messe Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair, congress and event organiser with its own exhibition grounds. With over 2,400 employees at 30 locations, the company generates annual sales of around €669 million. Thanks to its far-reaching ties with the relevant sectors and to its international sales network, the Group looks after the business interests of its customers effectively. A comprehensive range of services – both onsite and online – ensures that customers worldwide enjoy consistently high quality and flexibility when planning, organising and running their events. The wide range of services includes renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction and marketing, personnel and food services.

With its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, the company is owned by the City of Frankfurt (60 percent) and the State of Hesse (40 percent).

For more information, please visit our website at:

[www.messefrankfurt.com](http://www.messefrankfurt.com) | [www.congressfrankfurt.de](http://www.congressfrankfurt.de) | [www.festhalle.de](http://www.festhalle.de)

#### **Background information about the German Music Therapy Society**

The German Music Therapy Society (*Deutsche Musiktherapeutische Gesellschaft – DMtG*) is the biggest specialist and professional association for music therapists in Germany. The association is committed to ensuring that music therapy becomes anchored in the country's health-care system. Obligatory training and quality standards ensure that patients enjoy the best possible support and protection – an important aspect given the lack of any statutory regulations governing the profession. Therefore, the specialist and professional association is also committed to ensuring that music therapy is recognised by the medical-insurance system as an approved therapy. On the basis of recognised scientific evidence of its positive effects, music therapy is already a component part of numerous medical guidelines, e.g., dementia, stroke, psychosocial therapies, etc. Further information: [www.musiktherapie.de](http://www.musiktherapie.de)

Musikmesse  
Internationale Messe für  
Musikinstrumente und Noten,  
Musikproduktion und -vermarktung  
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