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La Semaine du Son de l'Unesco
XXIII^{ème} édition
Partout en France

www.lasemaineduson.org



la semaine
du son

Presse release
December 15th, 2025

Agenda

23rd UNESCO Sound Week 2026 (19 January – 1 February)

“Sound and Innovation”

Science, economy and creation: reinventing the way we listen to the world

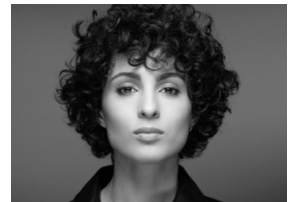
From January 19th to February 1st 2026, the 23rd edition of UNESCO Sound Week explores the theme “Sound and Innovation.” This major event, held in Paris (week 1), throughout France (week 2), and in more than 20 UNESCO Member States, will highlight the impact of scientific and technological advances on our relationship with sound, hearing health, and the sound environment. A global event inviting the general public to discover how innovation is transforming the sound world in response to major economic, health, cultural and societal challenges.

Full programme available at www.lasemaineduson.org

• **Two distinguished patrons: Pascal Lamy and Barbara Pravi**

2026 edition of UNESCO Sound Week is sponsored by two complementary and inspiring figures:

- **Pascal Lamy**, diplomat and former Director-General of the WTO, Vice-President of the Paris Peace Forum, will highlight the often-overlooked impact of sound on economic and social life.
- **Barbara Pravi**, committed singer-songwriter and performer, will embody the sensitive and artistic dimension of sound.



Together, they represent the dual ambition of UNESCO World Sound Week: to consider sound as a global issue and to experience it as a universal human expression.

“Sound lies at the heart of the world’s transformations: it connects, warns, heals and educates. Sound innovation is a lever for balance between technological progress and humanity. Guided by this vision, the 2026 edition will explore how technical and scientific innovation provides solutions to major economic and societal challenges such as hearing health and the sound environment. This major gathering will also be punctuated by musical interludes with our patron Barbara Pravi, as well as André Manoukian, patron of Sound Week 2024, and many other surprises!”

Christian Hugonnet, Founder and President of the NGO La Semaine du Son

- **Key highlights of an exceptional programme**

Thursday, January 15 – Image & Sound Relationship – Ministry of National Education at La Fémis (2:00–4:00 pm)

Award ceremony for the school competition **“When Sound Creates the Image,”** a flagship event designed to raise young people’s awareness of sound creativity and its relationship with image. This year, students from Year 9 to Year 13 are invited to create a short film of around two minutes using the original soundtrack *“Sorhag”* composed by André Manoukian.

Monday, January 19 – Opening Evening at UNESCO (Room 1, 7:00 pm)

An opening event led by Barbara Pravi, accompanied on piano by André Manoukian, in the presence of Pascal Lamy. The evening will officially launch the *“Sound and Innovation”* edition, celebrating dialogue between science, art and emotion.

Tuesday, January 20 – Hearing Health at UNESCO (Room 2, 10:30 am–6:30 pm)

A day of discussion and discovery organised in partnership with the Clinique de l’Oreille and IHU reConnect. The programme includes panels on AI and hearing, inclusion, hearing aids, sound over-compression and advances in gene therapy, with contributions from:

- **Carolina Der**, Technical Officer for Hearing Programme, WHO
- **Michaël Eliezer**, Founder, Clinique de l’Oreille
- **Anne-Lise Giraud**, French neuroscientist, Director of the Institut de l’Audition
- **Rose Paynel**, French comedian, author and speaker, hard of hearing and cochlear implant recipient

Wednesday, January 21 – Sound Environment and Housing at UNESCO (Room 2, 10:00 am–6:00 pm)

In collaboration with Saint-Gobain and École des Ponts, this day will focus on innovations dedicated to acoustic comfort in sustainable housing.

With the participation of Erik Orsenna, panels will address sound semantics, legislation, prevention, and the link between acoustics and carbon footprint.

For the first time, several next-generation products will be presented by manufacturers.

Thursday, January 22 – Sonic Excellence: Recorded and Live Music, Between Technology and Emotion (6:30–7:30 pm), and a concert by Thibault Cauvin (7:30–8:15 pm)

Presentation of the *“Expected Sound Quality”* label initiated by L-Acoustics, and experimentation with a reference sound system featuring guitarist Thibault Cauvin, in partnership with Universal Music.

Friday, January 23 – Voice and AI : from usurpation to restoration (10h-13h)

A debate with five international experts, including Nicolas Curien, member of the French National Digital Ethics Advisory Committee, and Laurence Devillers, Professor at Sorbonne University and researcher at the CNRS Laboratory of Computer Science for Mechanics and Engineering Sciences. The discussion will address the ethical and technological challenges of synthetic voice and voice cloning, a topic set to be the subject of a future UNESCO resolution.

**La Semaine du Son launches the “Orchestras Weekend”
24–25 January, across France**

As part of its mission to promote musical and sound expression, the NGO La Semaine du Son is launching the **Orchestras Weekend**, a national participatory event celebrating collective instrumental practice. In collaboration with Harmonie La Renaissance, the Confédération Musicale de France (CMF), the Fédération Musicale de Paris (FMP), the Association Française des Orchestres (AFO), and the Association Française pour l’Essor des Ensembles à Vent (AFEEV), orchestras across the country will open their doors to the public for rehearsals or concerts.

- ➔ In Paris, two debate-concerts open to the public will be held at the CRR and Salle Traversière on 25 January.

A second week all across France

From 26 January to 1 February, more than 40 cities across France will host sound-related events: round tables, concerts, sound walks, discovery workshops, and more.

Internationally

Many countries organise World Sound Weeks throughout the year, including Belgium, the United Kingdom, Tunisia, Brazil, Portugal, Canada and Egypt, as well as new participating countries such as the United States, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa).



More information at www.lasemaineduson.org

About the NGO La Semaine du Son

Founded in December 1998 by acoustic engineer Christian Hugonnet, the association La Semaine du Son aims to raise awareness among the public, policymakers and all societal stakeholders about the societal challenges of sound. Since 2004, it has organised an annual nationwide awareness campaign each January, based on a cross-disciplinary approach covering five sound-related fields: health (hearing health), acoustics and sound environment, recording and broadcasting techniques, image and sound relationship, musical expression and education.

The La Semaine du Son Charter defining objectives in each sound field was unanimously adopted by all 195 countries at UNESCO's General Conference on 31 October 2017 as Resolution 39C/59: **"The Importance of Sound in Today's World: Promoting Best Practices."**

In 2019, the event became **UNESCO World Sound Week**, expanding internationally with editions organised in more than 20 countries each year.

In 2024, La Semaine du Son became an official UNESCO partner NGO, the only NGO dedicated exclusively to sound.

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