

PRESS RELEASE:

2021 SALZBURG EASTER FESTIVAL – Programme changes

Salzburg, 7 October 2020

The 2021 Salzburg Easter Festival will take place with a slightly different programme, and with reduced audience numbers. Christian Thielemann, the Artistic Director of the renowned Festival and the conductor of the *Turandot* production at the next Easter Festival, remains just as excited about Anna Netrebko in the title role of Puccini's opera, accompanied by the Staatskapelle Dresden. However, the opera will be given in a concert version on account of the current situation.

"We decided that we didn't want to forgo this grandiose work altogether, but we still wanted to take into account the current uncertain situation. At times like these, a work of this size and complexity can benefit if we direct our fullest concentration to the music", says Christian Thielemann.

Nikolaus Bachler assumed his post as Intendant and Managing Director of the Salzburg Easter Festival in July 2020. For the auditorium, he is following the example of the Salzburg Festival, albeit with minor adjustments in line with current ministerial guidelines: "We are starting to sell tickets straightaway, and can offer just under 1,400 – this is the only way we can guarantee the safety of our guests. Regrettably, the major changes to the seating plan naturally mean we might not be able to satisfy everyone's ticket requests. But we will do our best and hope that our loyal audiences will show their understanding and support".

The main concert programme remains unaltered. The violinist Hilary Hahn will play Mozart's A-major Violin Concerto under the baton of Sir Antonio Pappano. The guest artists at the Festival will also include international piano virtuosos once again: Denis Matsuev, one of the most in-demand pianists of his generation, will play Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto, and the same programme will offer Richard Strauss's famous tone poem *Ein Heldenleben*, with the Staatskapelle Dresden performing under its Chief Conductor, Christian Thielemann. Sir András Schiff will feature in a dual role as pianist and conductor in the "Concert for Salzburg", performing piano concertos by Haydn and Mozart and conducting Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony*. After their great success in 2018, Philippe Herreweghe will be returning to Salzburg with his Collegium Vocale Gent, this time with Bach's monumental B-minor Mass.

We shall also be continuing our lovely tradition of offering chamber music concerts with musicians from the Staatskapelle Dresden: they will perform string octets by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and George Enescu in the Great Aula of the University.

Our first chamber concert planned for the Museum der Moderne in Salzburg offers too little space for musicians and audience together, and so will be postponed to the 2022 Easter Festival. The children's concert "Kapelle for Kids" will also only be given in 2022.

Contact:
Christoph Koch – c.koch@ofs-sbg.at – +43 676 840045420

Osterfestspiele Salzburg GmbH
Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz 11
5020 Salzburg · Austria

Tel. +43/676 840045 420
Fax +43/662/8045-790

www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at

