

**Press conference for the programme
of the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival**

with

Christian Thielemann

Artistic Director of the Salzburg Easter Festival
Principal Conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden

Prof. Dr Peter Ruzicka

Intendant and Managing Director of the Salzburg Easter Festival

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Sunday, 14 April 2019

12:00

Hotel Sacher Salzburg, winter garden

Schwarzstrasse 5–7

5020 Salzburg

Giuseppe Verdi's *Don Carlo* with a new prologue by Manfred Trojahn

An extraordinary new opera production will be at the heart of the programme for the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival. Giuseppe Verdi's *Don Carlo* will be performed in its four-act, Italian version, directed by Vera Nemirova and conducted by Christian Thielemann. But the opera will be preceded by the world première of Manfred Trojahn's new Prologue to it, jointly commissioned by the Salzburg Easter Festival and the Semperoper Dresden. This instrumental Prologue is entitled *Blick – Traum – Übergang* ('Glance – dream – transition') and will take the place of the so-called *Fontainebleau Act*, which ushers in the action in the five-act French version of the opera.

The German composer Manfred Trojahn is one of the most successful of our time. His music drama *Orest*, composed in 2011, is currently playing at the Vienna State Opera. Trojahn's *Four Women from Shakespeare* for soprano and ensemble was given its world première at the 2016 Salzburg Easter Festival.

After her successful production of Wagner's *Walküre* in 2017, Vera Nemirova will be directing an opera for the second time at the Salzburg Easter Festival. The sets will be designed by Heike Scheele, who was responsible for the stage designs for *Salome* at the 2011 Easter Festival, and the costumes will be by Frauke Schernau.

There will be an outstanding cast of soloists, including Ildar Abdrazakov as Filippo II and Yusif Eyvazov in the title role. Franco Vassallo will sing Rodrigo. After her triumph as Tosca in 2018, Anja Harteros will return to sing the role of Elisabetta, while Ekaterina Semenchuk will play Eboli. The Easter Festival's Orchestra in Residence, the Staatskapelle Dresden, will once again accompany the opera in the pit. This new *Don Carlo* will be a co-production with the Semperoper Dresden.

Daniel Harding as guest conductor, with Mahler's Tenth Symphony

The guest conductor of the 2020 Easter Festival will be Daniel Harding. Born in 1975 in Britain, he is one of the most successful conductors of the younger generation. He has been the Chief Conductor of the Orchestre de Paris since 2016, and has held the same position with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra since 2007.

Daniel Harding will conduct the Staatskapelle Dresden at the Easter Festival, whom he knows well from previous engagements. He will conduct Gustav Mahler's unfinished Tenth Symphony in its completed version by Deryck Cooke.

World première of Sofia Gubaidulina's *The wrath of God* in the Beethoven year 2020

The world première of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Der Zorn Gottes* ('The wrath of God'), commissioned for 2019, will now take place at the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival. It will be performed by the Staatskapelle Dresden under the baton of Christian Thielemann.

The composer's autograph bears the dedication 'To the great Beethoven', so it seems especially appropriate for it to be given its first performance in the Beethoven year 2020, when the world will be celebrating his 250th birthday. In *Der Zorn Gottes*, Sofia Gubaidulina takes up ideas from her most recent oratorio, first performed in 2016, entitled *On love and hatred*; this work is a spiritual reaction on the part of the composer to the increasing amount of strife to be found in our world today.

Janine Jansen to be awarded the 2020 Herbert von Karajan Prize

The Herbert von Karajan Prize, endowed by Eliette von Karajan and worth EUR 50,000, will be presented to the extraordinary Dutch violinist Janine Jansen at the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival. Since making her debut at the BBC Proms in 2003, she has delighted international audiences and critics alike and is regarded as one of the leading violinists of the younger generation. Being awarded the Herbert von Karajan Prize is a confirmation of her exceptional gifts.

Janine Jansen performs with the most renowned orchestras of the world, and also regularly plays chamber music. The music critics have outdone each other in their assessment of Jansen's unique art of music-making. The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* recently wrote as follows about a performance by her: 'What concentration, even before she played a note. How natural is her communication with the conductor and the orchestra; what a rich variety of colours she entices from her Stradivarius violin; and above all, what unalloyed authority she conveys, eschewing anything artificial! There is no doubt that this is a soloist who reveals her soul when she plays'.

At the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival, Janine Jansen will play Beethoven's Violin Concerto, conducted by Christian Thielemann.

Arnold Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder* in the Choral Concert, conducted by Christian Thielemann

Arnold Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder*, his monumental late-Romantic work for soloists, chorus and orchestra, will in 2020 feature for the first-ever time on the programme of the Salzburg Easter Festival.

Christian Thielemann will conduct this Choral Concert with a first-class set of soloists: Camilla Nylund, Christa Mayer, Stephen Gould, Wolfgang Ablinger-Sperrhacker, Kwangchul Youn and Franz Grundheber. As so often in recent years, the Easter Festival will in 2020 again welcome the Bavarian Radio Chorus as a guest ensemble for the Choral Concert. Its ranks will be strengthened by men and women from the Prague Philharmonic Choir.

World première of the chamber opera *La piccola Cubana* by Hans Werner Henze

The new Chamber Opera series of the Salzburg Easter Festival was successfully initiated in 2017 with Salvatore Sciarrino's *Lohengrin*. In 2018, the Easter Festival offered Bruno Maderna's *Satyricon*, and the series continues at 3pm today, 14 April, with the world première of Philipp Maintz's chamber opera *Thérèse*. Yet another world première will be on the programme for 2020.

United by similar interests and a sympathetic passion for Cuba and its fate, Hans Werner Henze and Hans Magnus Enzensberger joined forces in 1973 to develop the music-theatre project *La Cubana or A life for art*. It was performed as a TV opera entitled *La Cubana* in 1974, and was presented in a stage version the following year. Both author and composer wanted to develop their 'vaudeville' further, but never got beyond the descriptive stage and an initial musical concept for a chamber opera.

At the heart of the work stands Rachel and her life story. She is a dazzling artiste who moves between the worlds of variety and ballet – appearing at one and the same time as an ambitious singer, happy-go-lucky *femme fatale*, revue girl and critical commentator. The new, chamber opera version reveals a many-layered panorama of the societal, political and artistic life of Cuba in the first half of the 20th century, staged as a multifaceted piece of music theatre that combines epic narrative, popular entertainment, grotesque chansons and gripping drama. Elements from spoken theatre are here combined with sequences of arias and choral movements from the operatic tradition. The attainments of the 'songspiel' genre as practised in the 20th century by Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler and Paul Dessau (who was a close friend of Henze's) are continued here, and transported into the 21st century.

The 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival will bring the world première of *La piccola Cubana* in an arrangement for chamber ensemble by Jobst Liebrecht. Peter Ruzicka will conduct, Pauline Beaulieu will be responsible for the production, Lena Newton will design the sets, and Veronika Bleffert the costumes. Isabel Karajan will play the role of Rachel as an old woman; her most recent guest performances at the Easter Festival were in 2015 with a Shostakovich project and Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. She will be joined by members of the International Opera Studio of the Berlin State Opera Unter den Linden: Victoria Randem, Andrés Moreno García, Jaka Mihelač and others. They will be accompanied by members of the Staatskapelle Berlin, of the Orchestra Academy of the Staatskapelle Berlin, and by other guests.

La piccola Cubana is a co-production with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, and is supported by the City of Salzburg.

Rudolf Buchbinder in the Concert for Salzburg, featuring well-known works by Beethoven and a rarity

The Concert for Salzburg will feature Rudolf Buchbinder – one of the great pianists of today, who enjoys international renown. He gave his last guest performance at the Easter Festival in 2016. Rudolf Buchbinder is regarded as one of the most knowledgeable, most experienced interpreters of Beethoven's music. Given that 2020 is a Beethoven year, it is also fitting that Buchbinder will play and conduct Beethoven's First and Fifth

Piano Concertos. His concert programme will also include a rarity that is almost never performed: the fragment of Beethoven's Sixth Piano Concerto, left unfinished by the composer, but which Rudolf Buchbinder will play in a version by Nicholas Cook.

From classics to a world première: The Chamber Concerts

Besides their orchestral repertoire, the members of the Staatskapelle Dresden also maintain a longstanding tradition of playing chamber music. In 2020, the Orchestra in Residence at the Salzburg Easter Festival will once again demonstrate its stylistic breadth and its skill in different genres by offering two Chamber Concerts.

The first Chamber Concert is devoted solely to works for string quartet: Joseph Haydn's *The seven last words of our Saviour on the Cross* and Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth String Quartet – the third of the so-called 'Razumovsky Quartets'. They will be performed by the Arabella Quartet, which comprises four members of the Staatskapelle: Matthias Wollong, Jörg Faßmann, Sebastian Herberg and Norbert Anger.

The second concert will bring us into our own time. Besides Mozart's *Dissonance Quartet*, two works each by Hans Werner Henze and Aribert Reimann – who will be the Composer in Residence in the Staatskapelle Dresden's 2019/20 season – will be on the programme. We can now announce that this concert will feature the world première of Henze's opus 1, many years after it was first composed. Henze's *Concert music for solo violin and small chamber orchestra* was composed at the age of 17, between December 1943 and January 1944, after which it was rehearsed by the students who had remained behind to study at the State Music School in Braunschweig – all of them aged 16 or 17. But these young musicians were called up into the army or to labour service in January 1944, so the world première of the work was never able to take place. It will be performed at the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival, 76 years later, by concert master Matthias Wollong and musicians of the Staatskapelle Dresden. Henze's *Kammerkonzert 05* will feature on the same programme – a version of his First Symphony for 15 players – as will Aribert Reimann's *Adagio – zum Gedenken an Robert Schumann* ('Adagio – in memory of Robert Schumann') for string quartet, and his *Metamorphoses on a Minuet by Franz Schubert*.

Beethoven's string quartets for children: Kapelle for Kids

In 2020, the Easter Festival's well-loved concert format for children and the young at heart – Kapelle for Kids – will be devoted to Beethoven. Under the title *Beethoven x 4*, musicians from the Staatskapelle Dresden will illustrate Beethoven's art of the string quartet, together with Julius Rönnebeck as moderator, Magdalene Schaefer and Alma the puppet.