

## Press conference to present the programme of the 2019 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

### **Jan Nast**

Managing Director of the Staatskapelle Dresden

### **Lars Zobel**

Orchestra Board of the Staatskapelle Dresden

**Sunday, 25 March 2018**

**12:00**

**Hotel Sacher Salzburg**, winter garden  
Schwarzstrasse 5–7  
5020 Salzburg

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## **The Festival centrepiece: *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg***

Richard Wagner's opera *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* will be the centrepiece of the programme for the 2019 Salzburg Easter Festival. This work, whose first performance took place in 1868, cannot boast a significant performance history in Salzburg – neither at the Easter Festival nor the Summer Festival. *Die Meistersinger* was last performed at Easter back in 1975, in a production for which Herbert von Karajan was both director and conductor.

In 2019, the work will be conducted by Christian Thielemann, the Artistic Director of the Salzburg Easter Festival. The production will be in the hands of the German director Jens-Daniel Herzog, who is active in both opera and the spoken theatre. Herzog is currently Intendant at the Dortmund Theatre, and is the designated General Intendant of the Nuremberg State Theatre. His most recent work in Salzburg was the Summer Festival's production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in the Felsenreitschule in 2012.

We can justifiably claim that our cast of singers will be one of the best possible for the *Meistersinger* today. Georg Zeppenfeld, who sang a celebrated Hunding in the *Walküre* at Easter 2017, will give his debut in the role of Hans Sachs. Vitalij Kowaljow – our acclaimed Wotan from the *Walküre* production – will sing Veit Pogner; Adrian Eröd will be Beckmesser; and Klaus Florian Vogt will sing Walther von Stolzing. Genia Kühmeier, who enjoyed immense success as Micaëla in *Carmen* at the 2012 Easter Festival, will take on the role of Eva. Christa Mayer, who most recently thrilled audiences with her Fricka at Easter 2017, will sing Magdalena.

This new production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* will be a co-production with the Semperoper Dresden, the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan and the New National Theatre in Tokyo.

## **Recipient of the 2019 Herbert von Karajan Prize: Mariss Jansons**

Mariss Jansons will be the Guest Conductor at the 2019 Salzburg Easter Festival. He will conduct Haydn's 'Military' Symphony and Mahler's Fourth, with Regula Mühlemann as soprano soloist. Mariss Jansons is one of the very few conductors for whom Herbert von Karajan was a musical mentor. As Jansons recalls: 'I met Karajan for the first time in 1968, when he and the Berliner Philharmoniker gave guest performances in the Soviet Union. The Cultural Ministry organised a master class with him, and I was the youngest of the twelve conductors who were able to perform for him. After the class, he invited me to study with him'. Despite being banned from travelling in 1969, Jansons still found a means of continuing his training with Herbert von Karajan in Vienna. In 1971, he was a prize-winner at the Karajan International Conducting Competition, and thereafter repeatedly sought collegial advice from Karajan. Given this remarkable background, it seems especially apt to award the 2019 Herbert von Karajan Prize, founded by Elette von Karajan, to Mariss Jansons.

## **Frank Peter Zimmermann will be the Artist in Residence**

In the 2018/19 season, the sought-after violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann will be 'Capell-Virtuos' of the Staatskapelle Dresden – thus its Artist in Residence. Zimmermann will also be the Artist in Residence at the 2019 Salzburg Easter Festival, where he will be a soloist both in the Orchestral Concert in the subscription, and also in the Concert for Salzburg.

Zimmermann will play Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's Violin Concerto under the baton of Christian Thielemann. In the Concert for Salzburg, Zimmermann will both conduct the Staatskapelle Dresden and play solo, together with his son Serge – who is also pursuing a career as a violinist – and the violist Antoine Tamestit. Their programme features violin concertos by Johann Sebastian Bach, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante*.

## **Antonín Dvořák's Stabat Mater in the Choral Concert**

In 2019, the Choral Concert will be conducted by Christoph Eschenbach. It will once again feature a sacred work: the Stabat Mater by Antonín Dvořák, first performed in 1880. Our four exceptional soloists will be Venera Gimadieva, Elisabeth Kulman, Pavol Breslik and René Pape. As so often at past Festivals, the Bavarian Radio Chorus will again sing the choral part.

## **Two world premières: an orchestral work by Sofia Gubaidulina and a chamber opera by Philipp Maintz**

The 2019 Easter Festival will feature two world premières: the orchestral work *Der Zorn Gottes* ('The wrath of God') composed for the Salzburg Easter Festival by the Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina, which will be given its first performance by the Staatskapelle Dresden under the baton of Christian Thielemann; and the chamber opera *Thérèse* by the German composer Philipp Maintz, which has been commissioned jointly by the Salzburg Easter Festival and the Hamburg State Opera. Works by Maintz have in the past been performed at the Salzburg Festival and the Munich Biennale.

Philipp Maintz's new music theatre work will be based on *Thérèse Raquin* by Emile Zola, which was published first as a novel and then as a play. The libretto, which draws on Zola's texts, has been written by the baritone Otto Katzameier, who will also sing in the world première. The other roles will be sung by Marisol Montalvo, Tim Severloh and Renate Behle. Nicolas André will conduct, while Georges Delnon – the Intendant of the Hamburg State Opera – will direct. The sets and costumes will be designed by Marie Thérèse Jossen. The accompanying ensemble will comprise members of the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra.

*Thérèse* will be a coproduction between the Salzburg Easter Festival and the Hamburg State Opera.

## **Tobias Moretti as speaker in the Chamber Concert**

Besides the pianist Michael Schöch and members of the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Chamber Concert will also feature a famous actor who is especially well known in Salzburg: Tobias Moretti will be the speaker in Arnold Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte*, which will be performed on both occasions. This renowned, popular Austrian actor of stage and screen has since 2017 played the title role in *Jedermann* at the Salzburg Festival.

The Chamber Concert will also feature Franz Schubert's Quartet Movement in c minor, D 703, and Ludwig van Beethoven's Septet in E-flat major, op. 20.

## **Kapelle for Kids**

The Staatskapelle Dresden's well-loved concert format for young people – the 'Kapelle for Kids' – will also be continued next year at the Salzburg Easter Festival, with a programme entitled *Playgrounds for Angels*. This programme takes its name from the work of that title by Einojuhani Rautavaara, which will be performed by members of the brass section of the Staatskapelle.

## **Volkswagen AG is extending its contract as Main Sponsor until 2020**

For more information, please read the press release of Volkswagen AG.

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## Background

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### Volkswagen as Main Sponsor of the Salzburg Easter Festival

Founded by one-of-a-kind conductor Herbert von Karajan, the Salzburg Easter Festival is one of the most important events in the world of classical music. Since 2016, the Volkswagen Group has been the main sponsor of the festival. Earlier this year the Group committed to maintaining this partnership until at least 2020.

In 2018, Volkswagen is strengthening its role as a partner, with further support for modern additions to the festival programme, such as the “Karajan Music Tech Conference” which is being held with the help of the Volkswagen Group and focuses on possible touch points between classical music and digital technologies. The Group also sponsors the premiere of the “On tour without tailcoats” concerts that bring classical music into bars and restaurants in Salzburg.

Volkswagen’s partnership with the Salzburg Easter Festival is a vital element of the Group’s multi-faceted support for arts and culture that expresses its commitment to social responsibility. On its way to becoming a global leader in social and cultural engagement, the Volkswagen Group invests significant efforts in enhancing social environments through sustainable support for creative and cultural projects. These initiatives are crucial to helping develop imagination and innovation, which are both fundamental pillars of a vibrant and forward-looking society.

As part of this commitment, Volkswagen has joined forces with a number of leading institutions and protagonists in the field of art and culture, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the MoMA PS1 in New York, the Nationalgalerie-Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in London. Furthermore, Volkswagen is helping to strengthen cultural exchange between Europe and China, for example with the Volkswagen Group of China’s partnership with an extensive education programme for young musical talents and young music lovers in China.

In addition to multi-year partnerships with the Staatskapelle Dresden, Semperoper Dresden and the Dresden Kreuzchor, Volkswagen also sponsors the Dresden Music Festival and the Soli Deo Gloria Festival in Braunschweig.

Imagery can be downloaded from the following link: <https://transfer.rethink.berlin/data/public/ddd89d>



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