

Press release:

2021 Salzburg Easter Festival – Christian Thielemann and Peter Ruzicka present their last joint programme

- ***Turandot* with Anna Netrebko in the title role**
- **Hilary Hahn to be awarded the Herbert von Karajan Prize**
- **Sir Antonio Pappano as guest conductor**
- **Denis Matsuev will play Grieg's Piano Concerto**
- **Philippe Herreweghe to conduct Bach's Mass in b minor**
- **Sir Andrés Schiff will direct the Concert for Salzburg from the piano**

Salzburg, 9 March 2020

Christian Thielemann, the Artistic Director of the Salzburg Easter Festival, and **Peter Ruzicka**, the Intendant and Managing Director, are delighted to be able to present the **programme for the 2021 Salzburg Easter Festival**. This will be the last for which Christian Thielemann and Peter Ruzicka will be jointly responsible.

As has been known for some time now, Peter Ruzicka will step down as planned on 30 June 2020 after five years in his post. The **artistic direction** of the Salzburg Easter Festival will remain in the hands of **Christian Thielemann** until and including the 2022 Easter Festival. The **Staatskapelle Dresden** will also remain the **Orchestra in Residence** of the Salzburg Easter Festival until that date.

The **highpoints** of the 2021 Salzburg Easter Festival programme:

Anna Netrebko to give her debut in the title role of *Turandot* in a complete scenic production of the opera, with an extra performance outside the subscription process

Each year, the Easter Festival's new opera production stands at the heart of its programme. In 2021, it will attract special attention because the celebrated soprano **Anna Netrebko** will be giving her stage debut in the title role of Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot*, in the version of the opera completed by Franco Alfano. This will also be the first-ever time that this opera has been performed at the Salzburg Easter Festival.

Anna Netrebko needs no introduction here. She is one of the world's most prominent vocal artists of our time. She enjoyed her international breakthrough in 2002 in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Salzburg Festival, where Peter Ruzicka was Intendant. Since then, she has sung in all the great opera houses and concert halls of the world.

Anna Netrebko often performs alongside her husband, the tenor **Yusif Eyvazov**, who is giving his debut at the 2020 Salzburg Easter Festival in the title role of *Don Carlo*, and will return in 2021 in the role of Calaf. He gave his debut in this role at the Vienna State Opera in 2016. His career has taken him to the most renowned opera houses of the whole world. In Salzburg, his roles have included Radamès (*Aida*) in the summer of 2017.

Golda Schultz will sing the role of Liù. She is an in-demand soprano who is enjoying an impressive international career. At the Salzburg Festival, she sang Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) in 2015 and Vitellia (*La clemenza di Tito*) in 2017. She gave her debut at the Vienna State Opera in 2018 as Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*). She has also sung in Glyndebourne, Munich, Zurich, New York, Hamburg, Milan and Tokyo.

Jürgen Sacher, tenor, will sing Altoum. He is a member of the ensemble of the Hamburg State Opera, where his many roles have included several in Wagner's operas. He has sung as a guest in Japan, Milan, Salzburg and elsewhere.

Alexander Tsymbalyuk will sing the role of Timur. He, too, was a permanent member of the ensemble of the Hamburg State Opera for several years. Today, this bass is sought after on the international scene, and has sung at the New York Met, La Scala Milan, the Bolshoi in Moscow, the Royal Opera House in London, and in Tokyo, Chicago, Berlin, Paris, Barcelona and Copenhagen.

Yona Kim will be directing Puccini's last opera. She is active both as a director and as a librettist. Originally from South Korea, she studied in Vienna, and today lives in Germany. Her productions have garnered much attention and have been seen at the State Opera in Stuttgart, the Hamburg State Opera, the National Theatre in Mannheim, the Semperoper Dresden, the Munich Biennale and the

Schwetzingen Festival. The specialist magazine *Opernwelt* chose Yona Kim as 'Director of the year' in 2017 for her production of Robert Schumann's *Genoveva* at the Mannheim National Theatre.

The sets will be designed by **Christian Schmidt**, who has enjoyed much international success, especially in his collaboration with the director Claus Guth. Schmidt already has extensive experience at the Salzburg Festival (most recently with *Aïda* in 2017 and with *Pique Dame* in 2018).

In order to meet the **demand for tickets**, the Salzburg Easter Festival has scheduled a **third performance of *Turandot*** – outside the subscription process – on 31 March 2021. Patrons of the Easter Festival will have first preference for this performance. On 1 November 2020, the remaining tickets available will be put on sale to the general public.

Hilary Hahn to be awarded the Herbert von Karajan Prize

The three-time Grammy-winning violinist **Hilary Hahn** was once a celebrated 'Wunderkind', and is today acclaimed as an international star. Her dynamic style of music-making has inspired a worldwide community of fans.

Hilary Hahn will be awarded the Herbert von Karajan Prize at the 2021 Salzburg Easter Festival. It is given each year either to an exceptional artist of the younger generation (thus Daniil Trifonov in 2017, Sol Gabetta in 2018 and Janine Jansen in 2020), or to someone who had a special connection to Herbert von Karajan (such as Mariss Jansons in 2019).

The 2021 Guest Conductor will be Sir Antonio Pappano

The Guest Conductor at the 2021 Salzburg Easter Festival will be **Sir Antonio Pappano**. Hilary Hahn will play Mozart's A-major Violin Concerto under his direction, and he will also continue our recent focus on exceptional Mahler conductors with a performance of that composer's Seventh Symphony. Pappano is one of the most distinguished conductors on the international music scene today. He has been the Music Director of the Royal Opera House in London since 2002, and he has been the Music Director of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome since 2005.

Denis Matsuev will play Grieg's Piano Concerto under Christian Thielemann

Denis Matsuev is one of the most sought-after pianists of the younger generation. He will play Grieg's Piano Concerto under the baton of **Christian Thielemann**. In 1998, Denis Matsuev won the Tchaikovsky Competition and was thereafter invited to perform all over the world. He has performed with the leading orchestras and conductors of the world, such as the New York and Munich

Philharmonic Orchestras, the Mariinski Orchestra under Valery Gergiev, the Berliner Philharmoniker and the Vienna Philharmonic under Mariss Jansons, the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, the London Symphony Orchestra under Gianandrea Noseda, the Filarmonica della Scala under Riccardo Chailly, the London Philharmonic under Yuri Temirkanov and the Staatskapelle Dresden under Christian Thielemann.

In the second half of the concert, **Christian Thielemann** will conduct the famous tone poem *Ein Heldenleben* by Richard Strauss – a composer whose work he values and knows like almost no other conductor today.

Philippe Herreweghe will conduct Bach's Mass in b minor

Philippe Herreweghe came to the Salzburg Easter Festival in 2018 to conduct Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion*. He will be returning in 2021 with his **Collegium Vocale Gent** to perform Bach's Mass in b minor in the Choral Concert – one of the most important vocal works in music history.

Philippe Herreweghe is a specialist in historically informed performance practice, especially in the work of Johann Sebastian Bach. He is the founding director of the vocal ensemble Collegium Vocale Gent, which he will conduct together with the Staatskapelle Dresden in 2021, as he did in 2018. The soloists in the Mass will be **Dorothee Miels** (soprano), **Eva Začik** (mezzo-soprano), **Iestyn Davies** (countertenor), **Reinoud Van Mechelen** (tenor) and **Krešimir Stražanac** (bass).

Sir Andrés Schiff will direct the Concert for Salzburg from the keyboard

Sir Andrés Schiff will be the 'Capell-Virtuos' (Artist in Residence) of the Staatskapelle Dresden in its 2020/21 season, and will thus be working closely with the orchestra throughout its concert season. Schiff's international reputation rests equally on his solo recitals and his performances with orchestra. He will be performing as both pianist and conductor at the popular *Concert for Salzburg* at the 2021 Easter Festival. His programme will include Joseph Haydn's Piano Concerto in D major Hob. XVIII:11, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto in d minor K 466 and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's Symphony No. 3, the 'Scottish'.

Works by Giuseppe Sinopoli in the Chamber Concert – the former Principal Conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden

Giuseppe Sinopoli (1946–2001) was one of the most important conductors of the 20th and early 21st centuries. From 1984 to 1994 he was the Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra London

and from 1992 to his death he was the Principal Conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden. Sinopoli's compositions were long overshadowed by his successes as a conductor. In its 2021/21 season, the Staatskapelle Dresden will commemorate its charismatic former director by honouring him posthumously with the title 'Capell-Compositeur', and placing his oeuvre as composer in the foreground.

The first of the two Chamber Concerts of the 2021 Salzburg Easter Festival will feature Sinopoli's *Klangfarben auf eine Reihe von Riccardo Malipiero* for String Quintet and his Piano Sonata, alongside chamber music by Anton Webern, Robert Schumann and Franz Schubert. Michael Schöch will be the soloist, and he will be joined by the 'kapelle 21' ensemble comprising musicians from the Staatskapelle Dresden.

The second Chamber Concert will be devoted to the string octet, and will present what are surely the best-known examples of the genre – two brilliant works, each composed when its composer was still in his teens. These are the octets of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and George Enescu, both performed by musicians from the Staatskapelle Dresden.