



Ivo Hentschel to become Musical Director and Chief Conductor at the Theater Hof from the 2021/2022 season



In the 2021/2022 season, Ivo Hentschel will become musical director and chief conductor at the Theater Hof. He will reopen the then newly renovated house with "Médée" by Luigi Cherubini. Further highlights in his first season at the Theater Hof will be "Lucia di Lammermoor" by Gaetano Donizetti and the German premiere of "Helena Citrónová" by the Thai-American composer Sontow Papinian Sucharitkul. This opera, which premiered in Bangkok in January 2020, is based on the real person Helena Citrónová, a Slovakian Jewess who was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Second World War, where she had to sing a German birthday song for an SS guard.

"With Ivo Hentschel, we get a very versatile artist as music director who brings a lot of experience in classical musical theatre as well as in the areas of operetta and musical. He knows the house because he was already extremely successful during his engagement in the 2013/14 season as "Erster Kapellmeister". We, i. e. the theatre management, soloists, choir and the Hof Symphony Orchestra

are very much looking forward to working together and to present musical theatre at the highest level", says director Reinhardt Friese.

"The Theater Hof offers an outstandingly diverse programme in each of its four sections. I am very much looking forward to the task of helping to shape it as Music Director and Chief Conductor and, together with the ensemble, the choir, the Hofer Symphoniker and all the staff of the theatre, to implement the programme in great liveliness and quality for our audience", asserts Ivo Hentschel.

After studying at the conservatoire in Mannheim, Ivo Hentschel, who was born in Stuttgart, followed the classical Kapellmeister-path from répétiteur to music director, with stations at the theatre in Heidelberg, the Theater Hof and the Staatstheater Cottbus. He was Kapellmeister at the Komische Oper Berlin for the year without General Music Director (2017/18) and has been closely associated with this house as a regular guest conductor ever since. He has also conducted as a guest at the theatres of Bern, Bonn and Lübeck and at the Nationaltheater Mannheim, among others. As a concert conductor he has been at the podium of the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Orchestra of the Komische Oper Berlin, the Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie Koblenz, the Neue Philharmonie Westfalen and the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 2019/2020 he is Principal Guest Conductor of the Mecklenburg State Theatre.

Ivo Hentschel has made a name for himself as an accomplished opera conductor and fascinating concert conductor with his stylistically confident and at the same time inspired lively reading of the scores. He has a broad repertoire from baroque to 21st century. A further focus of Ivo Hentschel's work is the conception and implementation of music education programmes.

In 2006, Ivo Hentschel was a prize-winner in the international Jorma Panula conducting competition. In 2011, he was awarded the prize of the Freundeskreis am Theater Heidelberg and in 2013 he was a special prize winner of the German Conductors' Prize.



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