



Dresdner
Philharmonie



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Marek Janowski conducts the commemorative concert for February 13th - broadcast live on the radio and via livestream on television

On February 13, 1945 Dresden was destroyed to a large extent during air raids. Since then, the events of that day have been commemorated every year on this day. At the same time the day stands for admonition for peace and all victims of war and violence.

The Dresden Philharmonic's traditional commemorative concert in memory of the destruction of Dresden on February 13, 1945 will be broadcast live by MDR and Sachsen Television. The programme includes works by Bach, Mozart and Strauss. Prime Minister Michael Kretschmer and Lord Mayor Dirk Hilbert will give greetings.

Marek Janowski, Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Dresden Philharmonic:

"For us as Dresden Philharmonic, it is very important that the traditional concert for the commemoration on February 13th will take place this year, too. I know that the specific tradition of remembrance, which includes the Dresden Philharmonic's commemorative concerts, is still very important for many Dresdeners and that it also has an impact far beyond Dresden. The works by Bach, Mozart and Strauss, which we have selected for this year's programme, should, I think, give this day a special musical imprint."

Frauke Roth, Artistic Director of the Dresden Philharmonic:

"Their commemorative concerts on February 13th are a lived and deeply rooted ritual for the Dresden Philharmonic. On this day they offer a special framework for remembering what happened back then and for thinking about the responsibility we all have for peaceful coexistence today and in the future. In this difficult time for all of us, rituals like this give strength and lift-up public spirit. It is also part of the tradition that the audience and orchestra rise at the end for a minute's silence and that there is no applause. There will be no applause this year, for other reasons, and I invite you all: let us all rise up inside!"

About the programme:

Anton Webern's arrangement of the famous **"Ricercar a 6" from Johann Sebastian Bach's "Musikalisches Opfer"** for small orchestra opens the concert. After the "Anschluss" of Austria in 1938, Webern, as a "cultural Bolshevik", no longer had a chance in official musical life and increasingly withdrew from the public eye. On September 15, 1945, he was tragically shot by accident by a soldier of the US Army.

In the middle of the programme is **Mozart's Symphony in G minor, K. 183**, which has always posed riddles and given rise to diverse speculations due to its key, its strong expression and its special instrumentation (four horns). The Mozart scholar Alfred Einstein spoke of "fury" and an "inner turmoil of the orchestra".

The concert programme for Dresden Memorial Day on February 13, 2021 finally culminates in **Richard Strauss's "Metamorphoses"**, a work for 23 solo strings, which was written in March 1945 as a result of the "Mourning for Munich", but also under the impression of the destruction of Dresden. Strauss dedicated it to

Paul Sacher, who premiered it with the Collegium Musicum Zurich in 1946. At the end, the funeral march motif from Beethoven's "Eroica" is quoted, the composer notes in the score: "in memoriam".

With their concert on February 13, the The Dresden Philharmonic continues a tradition dating back to 1946. At that time the orchestra performed "Ein Deutsches Requiem" by Johannes Brahms with the Dresden Kreuzchor under the direction of Rudolf Mauersberger. Since then, the concert, which was almost without exception conducted by the respective chief conductor, has become a permanent part of Dresden's musical culture of remembrance.

At the beginning, Prime Minister Michael Kretschmer and Lord Mayor Dirk Hilbert will each address the audience.

The concert will be broadcast by **MDR Klassik** and [MDR Kultur](#) from **8.05pm (CET)** onwards and will be available for listening at [mdr-klassik.de](#) and [mdr-kultur.de](#). Sachsen Television will broadcast the concert live at 6.30pm (CET) and on the internet on [Dresden Philharmonic](#) and [Dresden Philharmonic Facebook](#) also **live from 6.30pm (CET)**.

SAT 13 FEB 2021

KULTURPALAST

Concert Hall

DRESDNER COMMEMORATION DAY

Michael Kretschmer, Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony

Dirk Hilbert, Lord Mayor of the City of Dresden

Bach/Webern: Ricercar a 6

from „Das Musikalische Opfer“ BWV 1079 (1747)

Version for Orchestra by A. Webern

Mozart: Symphony in G minor KV 183 (1773)

Strauss: „Metamorphosees“ – Study for 23 Solo Strings (1945)

Marek Janowski | Conductor

Dresden Philharmonic

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