



Press Release  
13th of May 2020

## 2020/2021 - The Dresden Philharmonic Presents Their New Concert Season

LIVE, with LOVE, and FOR ALL in the highest QUALITY - for 150 years, the musicians of the Dresden Philharmonic have strived to provide audiences with experiences of this sort and they will continue to do so in the upcoming season. The orchestra will celebrate its anniversary with an array of concerts in addition to exhibitions, talks and publications. The orchestra is particularly proud of its intimate relationship with its loyal audience and in this year's edition of the season booklet, an entire article has been dedicated to this special bond, featuring interviews with musicians and audience members alike.

Frauke Roth, General Manager of the Dresden Philharmonic, on the importance of the Kulturpalast as a space for encounters:

*"Lived traditions are radically contemporary in nature. In order to keep these traditions alive, we must engage in discussions and help others understand them. For me, this does not mean merely providing our audiences with performances of the highest possible artistic quality. It is about the exchange between the orchestra and our audience: be it on the stage of the concert hall, during our chamber concerts, throughout concert introductions, amidst the rehearsals of our Bürgerchor or in the contexts of our exhibitions and other offerings to the public. When art of the highest standard meets discourse, this is when something novel is created - culture in its truest form. Then, and only then, does the Kulturpalast become a place that openly promotes creativity."*

### **Chief Conductor Marek Janowski**

*"Ever since my return to the Dresden Philharmonic, I have developed a sense of confidence about being able to work efficiently with the orchestra in just limited amounts of time. I am optimistic and truly believe that the future of this orchestra, having been given the gift of this concert hall, is very bright."*

What Marek Janowski announced to the press in February earlier this year reflects his aspirations and goals for the upcoming season as well, during which his tenure as Chief Conductor and Musical Director of the Dresden Philharmonic continues. The focus of the programme for autumn 2020 lies in musical contributions dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Dresden Philharmonic and Beethoven's 250th birthday. Maestro Janowski will open the season with one of Beethoven's late masterpieces, Missa Solemnis, followed by a cycle of Beethoven's piano concertos with soloist Seong-Jin Cho, winner of the 2015 international Chopin Competition. Shortly before Christmas, Janowski will conduct a programme comprising an orchestral version of Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 131 as well as Beethoven's Violin Concerto, played by the young virtuosa María Dueñas. At the end of the year, Janowski will revive an old tradition of performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in a series of New Year's concerts.

The end of November marks the highlight of the 150th anniversary year of the Dresden Philharmonic. Three large programmes, conducted by Marek Janowski at the end of November, comprising works by Schumann, Wagner, Strauss and Bruckner pay tribute to the musical traditions of the orchestra, while a world premiere of a commissioned piece by Salvatore Sciarrino hints at the future. On the 29th of November 2020, the 150th anniversary of the orchestra's founding, the orchestra will present a gala concert featuring Dr. Thomas de Maizière, who will begin the event with a gala key note addressing the question "Whom does music serve?".

It is important to Marek Janowski to direct the memorial concert on the 13th of February 2021, during which the orchestra will perform Hans Werner Henze's Symphony No. 9, a symphony featuring lyrics taken from Anna Segher's novel "The Seventh Cross". The concert is a joint production of the Dresden Philharmonic and the MDR Rundfunkchor and highlights the close and successful cooperation of the two institutions. In addition, Janowski will conduct Dvořák's Symphony No. 7, Schubert's Symphony No. 9 (The Great Symphony) in C Major, Schönberg's "Pierrot Lunaire" and Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder", the final two of which will feature soloist Elisabeth Kulman.

### **"The Ring of the Nibelung" - Concertante Performance in autumn 2021**

In October 2021, the Dresden Philharmonic, under the direction of Marek Janowski, will perform a concertante version of Richard Wagner's "The Ring of the Nibelung" in the Kulturpalast. The programme will feature soloists such as Catherine Foster, Emily Magee, Marina Prudenskaya, Greer Grimsley, Jochen Schmeckenbecher and Vincent Wolfsteiner, amongst others. The pre-sale of tickets for these concerts begins on the 4th of May 2020.

### **In the Spotlight:**

#### **Herztöne - The New Festival at the Beginning of the Season**

"From the heart - may it return to the heart!" reads the inscription on the first page of the score of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. For the Dresden Philharmonic, this inscription represents the motto of a festival that lasts for over a week: "Herztöne" - an event that from now on will be repeated at the beginning of every concert season.

This year's programme is dedicated to the late works of Beethoven and other composers and seeks to ponder the question how these works reflect the extreme situations humans are confronted with.

Marek Janowski and the Dresden Philharmonic will open the festival with performances of Missa Solemnis and end the festival with a range of Beethoven's Piano Concertos. In addition, ample other events and concerts have been planned into the schedule of the festival: a panel debate between "practitioners", musicologists and medical experts will devote a discussion to the vocal challenges of Beethoven's later works. Pianist Stefan Wirth will perform a version of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 9, adapted for piano by Albert Breier. Julian Prégardien will sing Schubert's "Winterreise" (composed interpretation by Hans Zender), yet another work that thematises borderline experiences. Quatuor Diotima will contrast Luigi Nonos' String Quartet "Fragmente - Stille, An Diotima" with Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 132. Talks with artists and experts, film screenings and a ListeningBar ("HörBar") will complement the festival's diverse range of musical performances.

#### **"Historical Moments": Theme Days on the 2nd and 3rd of October 2020**

Two theme days will mark the continuation of the successful series established by the Dresden Philharmonic, which delves into the world of compositions written in the time of the GDR. In line with the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Germany and following a motto of "Historical Moments", the pieces from former East Germany will be contrasted with their West German counterparts. The world premiere of Christfried Schmidts Symphony No. 2 "In memoriam Martin Luther King", written in 1968(!) marks an absolute highlight of the series. The programme also features Bernd Alois Zimmermann's "Ekklesiastische Aktion", composed in 1970. In addition to the concerts, the series includes talks, readings and film screenings. An evening in the Dresdner cabaret theatre "Herkuleskeule" is dedicated to literature from both the East and West and will be hosted by pianist and composer Steffen Schleiermacher. Sebastian Weigle will conduct Friedrich Goldmann's "Klangszene I" as part of an orchestral programme.

## **Tours and Guest Concerts of the Dresden Philharmonic**

Under the baton of Maestro Pablo González, the Dresden Philharmonic will embark on a tour of Spain in January of 2021, performing works by Beethoven, Strauss and Korngold. The orchestra will also tour Great Britain with Pablo González, during which they will play works by Brahms, Adams and Saint-Saëns in London, Birmingham and Edinburgh, amongst others. The Dresden Philharmonic will also continue their longstanding tradition of performing in the Gasteig in Munich alongside percussionist Martin Grubinger.

### **Artist in Residence: Elisabeth Kulman**

Her musicality, musical self-will and enormous stage presence have made Elisabeth Kulman one of most sought after singers and artistic personalities of the classical world. In the upcoming seasons she will perform for the Dresdner audiences on multiple occasions: a song recital of hers will feature works by Brahms, Loewe, Schubert and Wolf. Her multi-genre music show "La femme c'est moi" features a coherent blend of different musical styles ranging from opera and classic Lieder to musicals and pop and highlights her innate skill and virtuosity. A performance of Gustav Mahler's "Kindertotenlieder" in Dresden will again pay tribute to her creative force. She will also sing Arnold Schönberg's "Pierrot Lunaire", a key work of classical modernism that demands an extraordinary amount of creativity and musicality of its performers.

### **Composer in Residence: Salvatore Sciarrino**

Sciarrino's music is unmistakable. The language of his music is contemporary, yet he is less interested in the novel and new than in the liberation of the ancient, the forgotten, the repressed. As such, it comes as no surprise that Sciarrino's music often includes elements of mythology and features motives from cultural history. Sciarrino will present himself and his works to the Dresdner audiences on four occasions: his composition "*Vanitas. Natura morta in un atto per voce, violoncello e pianoforte*" will be presented in a matinee. This still life of sounds delves into the phenomenon of transience and draws parallels to the literature of the early baroque era. That same evening, baritone Michael Nagy and the Dresden Philharmonic, under the baton of Maestro Janowski, will christen yet another of Sciarrino's pieces: "Piogge diverse" (Types of rain). Throughout the season two further pieces of him will be presented in different contexts: "Tre duetti con l'eco" and his Piano Concerto No. 2.

### **Palastorganist: Thierry Escaich**

Both a composer and an organist at the same time: Thierry Escaich is a unique personality of contemporary music and one of the most important French composers of our time. His works are influenced by French composing traditions and combine contemporary, traditional and spiritual music. In the past season, he played a guest performance on the "Eule"-organ in the concert hall of the Dresden Kulturpalast. In the upcoming season 2020/2021, he returns as Palastorganist and will perform as both a soloist on New Year's Eve and in collaboration with the Ellipsos Saxophone Quartet. Together with the Dresden Philharmonic he will present his own symphonic poem titled "La barque solaire". His late night organ concert is dedicated to his compatriot, Olivier Messiaen.

### **Guest Conductors and Soloists**

Ample renowned and sought after conductors and soloists have accepted invitations extended by the Dresden Philharmonic to perform as guests in the Dresdner Kulturpalast. These include Alain Altinoglu, Nicholas Collon, Pablo González, Louis Langrée, Cristian Măcelaru, Cornelius Meister, Juanjo Mena, Rafael Payare, Vasily Petrenko, Markus Poschner, Markus Stenz, Krzysztof Urbanski and Sebastian Weigle, who return to the Dresden Philharmonic as guests. Michael Sanderling, former Chief Conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic, is also among the many returning guest artists. He will conduct Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony with the Dresden Philharmonic.

Kerem Hasan, Thomas Hengelbrock, Jaime Martin und Maxime Pascal, in addition to the young conductors Tabita Berglund, Bruno Borralhinho, Marta Gardolińska and Mateusz Molęda, will celebrate their debuts with the orchestra.

The long list of renowned soloists is further proof of the excellence of the Dresden concert hall and includes: Renaud Capuçon, Arabella Steinbacher, Antoine Tamestit, Lucas and Arthur Jussen, Jan Lisiecki, Francesco Piemontesi, Martin Grubinger, Alice Coote, René Pape, Catherine Foster, Michael Nagy, Andreas Schager and Georg Zeppenfeld.

### **Premieres and World Premieres**

Contemporary music plays an important role in this season's programme of the Dresden Philharmonic. The orchestra's performance of "Piogge diverse" (Types of rain), by Salvatore Sciarrino, under the baton of Marek Janowski, marks a unique world premiere suitable to the occasion of the orchestra's 150th anniversary. The "Historical Moments" series features a world premiere of Paul-Heinz Dittrich's "Kammermusik XVII" (2015), played by the Scharoun Ensemble. The ensemble will also present the Dresden premiere of Mark Andre's "Drei Stücke für Ensemble" (2018). Rainer Promnitz's new version of the music to the film "Schattensucher" (Shadow hunters) will be revived and premiered. Jan Müller-Wieland's oratorio-melodrama "Maria - Eine Vertreibung", which celebrated its world premiere at the Ruhrtriennale in 2018, will be performed in Dresden for the first time under the direction of Thomas Hengelbrock. The new Percussion Concerto written for Martin Grubinger by Daniel Bjarnason will also celebrate its premiere in Dresden this upcoming season.

### **Music starts at a young age: Musical Education Projects**

The current season of the Dresden Philharmonic has already seen many additions to its education programme. In addition to musicians visiting schools, school classes visiting rehearsals of the orchestra, family concerts with Sarah Willis and Malte Arkona and the partnership with the 139th Primary School in Dresden-Gorbitz, the amount of school concerts is still steadily increasing. The goal of this project is to grant every schoolchild in Dresden one visit to the Kulturpalast to experience a performance of a large symphony orchestra at least once throughout their respective school careers. To ensure that all children, regardless of socioeconomic status, have equal access to the concerts, the orchestra has decided to make these concerts free of charge for the relevant groups. This offer is graciously supported by Dresden's Mayor for Culture, Annetrin Klepsch, and the City Council of Dresden.

### **Philharmonic Choirs**

The Philharmonic Choirs are part of the philharmonic family and as such, a special emphasis will also be placed on their own performances and on joint performances with the Dresden Philharmonic. For the fourth time now, the "Dresdner Chortag" (Dresden Choir Day) will take place in the Kulturpalast, where tribute will be paid to the accomplishments of Dresden's amateur choirs. Just like in the previous four years, the event will see the presentation of one of the amateur choirs with the "Laienchorpreis" (Amateur Choir Prize) by representatives of the State Capital. Dresdner school choirs are also invited to organise a concert with the Philharmonic Children's Choir. Traditional events such as "Are the candles lit?", a Christmas eve concert performed by the Philharmonic Children's Choir, and "Come, dear May...", a spring concert, will of course take place. Another event worth mentioning is the musical rendering of the fairy tale "The Brothers Lionheart" - an event to which the whole family is invited!

Three New Year's performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Dresden Philharmonic under Marek Janowski mark a particular highlight in the season of the Philharmonic Choir.

## **Bürgerchor at the Kulti (Dresden's Locals Choir at the Kulturpalast)**

The founding idea behind the establishment of the choir in 2019 was simple: bring together Dresdner locals of all ages in a choir in the Kulturpalast and let them work towards an upcoming project. The project is open to anybody and everybody. Membership merely requires one thing: a passion for singing. The concept was widely welcomed and meanwhile approximately 150 people regularly meet, spend time together and rehearse under the direction of Gunter Berger.

## **Jazz, World Music and Literature**

Combinations of film and live music, literature and music as well as jazz and world music increase the variety of the upcoming season's programme beyond the extent of the philharmonic programmes. The Dresden Philharmonic will accompany a screening of the classic film "Battleship Potemkin" with a live performance of the film music. Science fiction fans can look forward to another episode of the Star Wars Saga ("The Empire Strikes Back"), with a live performance of the film music by the Dresden Philharmonic. There will, however, also be something for fans of seldomly shown films about Beethoven (during the "Herztöne"-festival) and arthouse films such as "Schattensucher am Schillerplatz" (during the theme days on the 3rd of October). Upon invitation by the Dresden Philharmonic, China Moses and her band will perform in the Kulturpalast for the very first time. Nesrine, who makes use of the highly modern and unusual combination of voice and E-Cello to perform music reminiscent of the musical traditions of the Mediterranean, is another highly anticipated act of the season. Richard Galliano and the Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra will whisk the audience away into the world of Argentinian tangos, while the Chinese New Year's concert will introduce audiences in the Kulturpalast to a style of music from an entirely different part of the world.

## **Organ Concerts in the Kulturpalast**

The organ season will begin with an entirely new format: Organ Late Night is directed at listeners that prefer going to concerts beginning in the later hours of the evening. The first late night concert will be performed by Holger Gehring; Palastorganist Thierry Escaich will then perform during the second late night concert. In addition, the audience can look forward to Olivier Latry, who will perform both on the harmonium and the organ together with his duo partner, pianist Eric Le Sage. A highlight of the organ season is, without a doubt, the concert by Thierry Escaich in which he will present works of his own plus works by Bach, Schumann and Piazzolla in arrangements for organ and a saxophone quartet.

## **Kurt Masur Akademie**

The orchestra academy of the Dresden Philharmonic will begin its fourth season. The participants of the academy will perform two chamber music programmes of their own choosing and will play alongside the Philharmonic Children's Choir during their Christmas concert.

## **Open Air at the Elbe**

In the summer of 2021, the Dresden Philharmonic will return as a guest to the Dresden Film Nights at the Elbe. John Storgårds will conduct "Peer Gynt", the incidental music to the dramatic poem of the same name by Henrik Ibsen. Franzobel, who was named Dresden's Writer in Residence for the year 2020, will write the according text.

### **Beginning of Pre-Sales:**

From Monday, 23rd of March 2020  
Fixed Seat Subscriptions

From Monday, 20th of April 2020  
Selection Subscriptions  
Single Tickets

From Monday, 4th of May 2020  
Tickets for „The Ring of the Nibelung“ in October 2021

### **Ticket Service in the Kulturpalast**

Schloßstr. 2 (Entrance via Altmarkt)  
01067 Dresden

tel: +49 (0) 351 | 4 866 866

fax: +49 (0) 351 | 4 866 353

[ticket@dresdnerphilharmonie.de](mailto:ticket@dresdnerphilharmonie.de)  
[dresdnerphilharmonie.de](http://dresdnerphilharmonie.de)

 **Sabine Knodt**

Auf Rheinberg 2  
50676 Köln

+49 (0)221 - 168 796 25  
[sabine.knodt@schimmer-pr.de](mailto:sabine.knodt@schimmer-pr.de)  
[www.schimmer-pr.de](http://www.schimmer-pr.de)