

Press Release of the 2021 Salzburg Festival

Effects of the Coronavirus Crisis on the 2021 Salzburg Festival

(SF, 8 July 2021) Current travel restrictions resp. quarantine rules pose grave challenges for the Salzburg Festival for the second season running. While the Festival is managing to get all its artists to Salzburg under special rules applicable in Austria, current quarantine regulations in Great Britain governing the return of artists have already led to two cancellations, requiring changes of casts.

The Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna and the Wiener Singverein will take the place of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) and the CBSO Chorus

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the CBSO Chorus have been forced to cancel their participation in the opening concert of this year's *Ouverture spirituelle* on Sunday, 18 July, due to mandatory quarantine upon their return. To our delight, within an extremely short period of time the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra has contacted its members throughout Europe, assembling 91 musicians from 18 countries for the project. In order to muster the large forces required by the main work of the evening, Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna immediately agreed to cooperate with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, enabling 13 orchestra members to participate in this project, a lynchpin of the Festival's centenary. The Festival would like to thank these two long-standing partners for their extraordinary effort in making this possible. Special thanks are also due to the Wiener Singverein. Despite the vacation season, it immediately assured us of its support. Thanks to many members of the Wiener Singverein cancelling or postponing their vacations, the chorus will perform with more than 100 of its members. After her orchestra from Birmingham cancelled, the conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla immediately agreed to work with the Festival on finding a new cast and will conduct the concert. For this, the Festival is profoundly grateful to the winner of its 2012 Young Conductors Award.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra gave the world premiere of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* at the rebuilt Cathedral in Coventry in 1962. The Festival therefore deeply regrets that the CBSO is unable to travel to Salzburg. However, the fact that musicians from all over Europe will perform this work instead sends a strong message, very much in keeping with the founding idea of the Salzburg Festival as a European peace project.

The new constellation has occasioned a minor change of programme: instead of *Friede auf Erden* by Arnold Schoenberg, the choral cantata *Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich* by Felix Mendelssohn will be performed before the *War Requiem*.

Ensemble Cinquecento replaces The Tallis Scholars

Like the CBSO, the vocal ensemble The Tallis Scholars was also forced to cancel its appearance at the Salzburg Festival due to the current quarantine rules upon return to Great Britain. Thankfully, the vocal ensemble Cinquecento, which specializes in renaissance works,

has agreed to perform instead. Featuring five singers from five different European countries, Cinquecento takes its name from the Italian term for the 16th century. The pan-European structure of the ensemble (whose members are from Austria, Belgium, Germany, England and Switzerland) creates a link with choirs of the imperial chapels in the 16th century, whose choristers were recruited on vocal merit from the leading musical institutions of Europe. Founded in Vienna in October 2004, Cinquecento quickly established itself as one of Europe's leading vocal formations. Terry Wey, the ensemble's countertenor, was a fellow of the Salzburg Festival's Young Singers Project in 2009.

The ensemble Cinquecento will keep part of The Tallis Scholars' programme, performing Josquin Deprez' *Missa L'homme armé super voces musicales* and complementing it with further settings of *L'homme armé*, Gregorian chant and further works by Josquin Deprez, whose death 500 years ago is commemorated this year.

Song Recital by Asmik Grigorian and Markus Hinterhäuser postponed to the 2022 Festival

Planned for 9 August 2021, the song recital by Asmik Grigorian and Markus Hinterhäuser cannot go forward as planned. The circumstances governing the past months, with travel restrictions, lockdowns and project postponements, have not allowed the two artists to prepare this recital as they would dearly have wished to. We are happy to announce that this song recital will take place next year.

There will be no substitute performance at the Haus für Mozart on 9 August 2021. Of course ticket buyers will receive a refund for tickets already purchased. Customers will be informed about the procedure soon.

Programmes and Casts of the Altered Concerts:

Opening of the *Ouverture spirituelle: War Requiem*

Sunday, 18 July, 7 pm, Felsenreitschule

Programme:

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich – Prayer based on Martin Luther's words

Choral Cantata for Mixed Chorus and Orchestra BWV A 11

Completed on 10 February 1831

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

War Requiem for Soloists, Choruses and Orchestra Op. 66

Latin text from the *Missa pro defunctis*, poems by Wilfred Owen

First performed on 30 May 1962 at Coventry Cathedral

Cast:

Elena Stikhina Soprano

Allan Clayton Tenor

Florian Boesch Baritone

Salzburger Festspiele und Theater Kinderchor
Wolfgang Götz Chorusmaster
Wiener Singverein
Johannes Prinz Chorusmaster
Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla Conductor

This concert will be recorded by ORF Radio and broadcast on the Ö1 station on 6 August at 7:30 pm.

Ouverture spirituelle: L'homme armé

Monday, 19 July, 8:30 pm, Kollegienkirche

Programme:

Anonymous
„L'homme armé“

Josquin Desprez (ca 1450/55-1521)
Missa L'homme armé super voces musicales à 4
Anonymous (Gregorian chant)
Aeterna Christi munera
Hymn in praise of the Apostles and Martyrs and their Martyrdom

Josquin Desprez
Stabat Mater dolorosa à 5

George Crumb (* 1929)
Black Angels - Thirteen Images from the Dark Land
for electric string quartet

Robert Morton (ca. 1430-1479)
Il sera pour vous conbatu / L'homme armé à 3

Josquin Desprez
Inviolata, integra et casta es Maria à 5

Anonymous (Gregorian chant)
Da pacem Domine
Antiphon from the 9th century

Josquin Desprez
Nymphes des bois - La déploration sur la mort d'Ockeghem
(Lament for Ockeghem's Death) / Requiem aeternam à 5

Cast:

Cinquecento
Terry Wey Countertenor · **Achim Schulz** Tenor altus · **Tore Tom Denys** Tenor
Tim Scott Whiteley Baritone · **Ulfried Staber** Bass

Meta4

Antti Tikkanen Violin · **Minna Pensola** Violin
Atte Kilpeläinen Viola · **Tomas Djupsjöbacka** Cello

Kind regards,

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