

## Press Release of the Salzburg Festival

### High French Cultural Honours for Festival President Helga Rabl-Stadler and Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser



(SF, 9 July 2021) At the French Ambassador's Residence in Vienna, the President of the Salzburg Festival, Helga Rabl-Stadler, was today awarded the title of "Commandeur des Arts et Lettres" and its Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser that of "Officier des Arts et Lettres" by the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Austria, Gilles Pecout.

Both honours decrees were signed by the French Minister of Culture Roselyne Bachelot in 2020. The official honours recognize the great contributions Helga Rabl-Stadler and Markus Hinterhäuser have made to French arts and culture.

"On behalf of the Republic of France, these two personalities – the Artistic Director and the President of the Salzburg Festival – are hereby distinguished. These honours are a reminder of the high esteem in which we hold Austria's artistic calling throughout the world, and how much we admire it. We are delighted at the extent to which the Festival in the 'heart of the heart of Europe', as Hugo von Hofmannsthal wrote in 1919, contributes to the French music scene and Franco-Austrian relations in the cultural field," said the Ambassador of the Republic of France to Austria, Gilles Pecout, in his speech.

As part of the ceremony, Dörte Lyssewski interpreted French chansons by Charles Aznavour together with Christoph Sietzen.



The ceremony at the Embassy was attended by prominent personalities from the sciences and arts, including Christian Kircher, Lukas Crepaz, Ingrid and Bo Skovhus, Thomas Angyan, Brigitta Pallauf, Wolfgang Schüssel, Sven Hartberger, Peter Marboe, Elisabeth and Karl Ludwig Vavrovsky, Norman Shetler, Geneviève Geffray and Helene van Damm.

“L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres“ (Order of Arts and Literature) is an order of merit for public personalities who are aware of their social responsibility and of great importance for the dialogue with France. Its titles were first awarded in 1959. Photos: SF/Alex Halada



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