



Press Release

Contract Extended: Cecilia Bartoli remains Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival through 2031



Festival President Kristina Hammer, Cecilia Bartoli (Artistic Director Salzburg Whitsun Festival), Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser, Executive Director Lukas Crepaz © SF / Marco Borrelli

(SF, 31 July 2025) The artistic directorship of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival remains in **Cecilia Bartoli's** hands. The contract extension was signed by her and the Salzburg Festival's Directorate tonight before the premiere of *Hotel Metamorphosis*.

„The fact that the Directorate of the Salzburg Festival has decided to entrust the leadership of the Whitsun Festival to me for another five years fills me with great joy – and yes, a little pride too. What we create on stage is more than artistic work: it is the result of passion, imagination, enthusiasm – and a good dose of humour, without which even the most earnest art cannot soar.

I consider it a great gift that the audience continues to follow my artistic ideas with such enthusiasm and an open heart – after almost 15 opera productions and more than 60 concerts, operas in concert, ballet performances, exhibitions and readings. It is anything but a matter of course, and at the same time, an infinite source of creative inspiration. Arriving

every year to push boundaries, question ideas and break new ground together with the wonderful Festival staff, a community has arisen which I unhesitatingly call a family. A Festival family where each member inspires, demands, sometimes endures with a roll of the eyes – but burns with a passion for the arts that allows them to give everything, always. My heartfelt thanks!”, says **Cecilia Bartoli**, Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival.

“Cecilia Bartoli and her conceptual farsightedness are a gift of good fortune for Salzburg. With her unfailing instinct for musical and dramaturgical quality, she has embodied the consistently extraordinary high artistic profile of the Whitsun Festival. We are delighted that she will continue to work side by side with us,” says Artistic Director **Markus Hinterhäuser on behalf of the Directorate** about the contract extension.

Since 2012, Cecilia Bartoli has been the Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival. Her contract has already been extended twice, in 2014 and 2020.

During this time, she conceived and was responsible for the following themes and staged productions:

2012 **Cleopatra**: *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* by George Frideric Handel

2013 **Sacrifice – Opfer – Victim**: *Norma* by Vincenzo Bellini

2014 **Rossinissimo**: *La Cenerentola* by Gioachino Rossini

2015 **Thus do I call upon all the gods**: *Iphigénie en Tauride* by Christoph Willibald Gluck

2016 **Romeo and Juliet**: *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein

2017 **Joy of Grief**: *Ariodante* by George Frideric Handel

2018 **1868 – Year of Ruptures**: *L'italiana in Algeri* by Gioachino Rossini

2019 **Voci celesti – Heavenly Voices**: *Alcina* by George Frideric Handel

2020 **La couleur du temps – The Colour of Time**: planned: *Don Pasquale* by Gaetano Donizetti – cancelled due to the pandemic

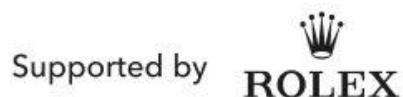
2021 **ROMA AETERNA**: *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* by George Frideric Handel

2022 **Sevilla**: *Il barbiere di Siviglia* by Gioachino Rossini

2023 **Les Passions de l'âme**: *Orfeo ed Euridice* by Christoph Willibald Gluck

2024 **Tutto Mozart**: *La Clemenza di Tito* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

2025 **Sounds of the Serenissima**: *Hotel Metamorphosis* with music by Antonio Vivaldi



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In all these endeavours, Rolex supports artistic excellence and the transmission of knowledge to future generations, who in turn pass on the world's cultural legacy. Among its Testimonees

in music are world-leading artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, Benjamin Bernheim, Gustavo Dudamel, Juan Diego Flórez, Jonas Kaufmann, Rolando Villazón, Sonya Yoncheva and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. In 2012, Rolex became Main Sponsor of the Salzburg Festival and Exclusive Sponsor of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival. Furthermore, since 2021 Rolex has supported the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award.