



SALZBURGER  
FESTSPIELE

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## Press Release of the 2025 Salzburg Festival Grigory Sokolov receives Ruby Festival Brooch



Festival President Kristina Hammer, Cecilia Bartoli, Grigory Sokolov, Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser, Executive Director Lukas Crepaz

(SF, 7 August 2025) "One of the great pianists of our times, whose incomparable interpretations have long made him one of the essential Festival artists," thus Artistic Director **Markus Hinterhäuser** lauded **Grigory Sokolov** in a speech one day before his solo recital at the Großes Festspielhaus, presenting the pianist with the Golden Festival Brooch with Rubies.

"It is part of the Sokolov phenomenon that one just stops thinking at once about the fabulous level of his manual, pianistic facility, accepting it as a given – instead, one simply listens to a musician delivering his interpretations," Walter Weidringer wrote in *Die Presse* about Sokolov's solo piano recital at last year's Salzburg Festival. Weidringer described his treatment of the written score: "What seems quite abstract on paper is transformed by this master into concrete music, as subjective as it is universally valid." And Reinhard J. Brembeck characterized Sokolov's 2020 Festival performance in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*: "It is also typical [for Sokolov] that he finds the appropriate tone for each composer... Sokolov the narrator is always clear, yet he keeps his composers' secrets."



- Interval -

**Johannes Brahms**

Four Ballads Op. 10

Two Rhapsodies Op. 79

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<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/fotoservice/grigory-sokolov>