

Press Release

The 2023/24 Opera and Concert Season of the Hamburg State Opera and the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra

Hamburg, March 6, 2023. **Georges Delnon, Artistic Director of the Hamburg State Opera, and Kent Nagano, Hamburg's General Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, presented the 2023/24 season and concert season in a press conference today.**

Five new productions and 29 works from the State Opera's rich repertoire, plus four productions at the opera stabile, the soloist series "THE ART OF..." and several other highlights constitute the 2023/24 season of the **Hamburg State Opera**. The season opens on September 16, 2023 with Modest P. Mussorgsky's **Boris Godunov**, directed by Frank Castorf and conducted by Kent Nagano. With the premiere of **Salome** on October 29, 2023, Dmitri Tcherniakov once again directs an opera by Richard Strauss, also conducted by Kent Nagano. The new production of the 2024 Italian Opera Weeks is the premiere of Giuseppe Verdi's **Il trovatore** on March 17, 2024, directed by Annilese Miskimmon. Adam Fischer returns to Dammtorstraße to conduct Mozart's **La clemenza di Tito** from April 28, 2024 onwards, a production directed by Lydia Steier. As part of the International Hamburg Music Festival, Olivier Messiaen's **Saint François d'Assise** will be performed three times at the Main Auditorium of the Elbphilharmonie, starting on June 2, 2024. Kent Nagano conducts; the performances will be staged by Thomas Jürgens, Julia Mottel and Georges Delnon.

Once again, the 2023/24 opera season will include role and house debuts by outstanding international opera stars. **Olga Peretyatko** makes her role debut as Norma in 2024. **Julia Lezhneva** will perform the role of Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* for the first time at the Hamburg State Opera. The countertenor **Kangmin Justin Kim** makes his house debut and on-stage role debut as Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. **Gregory Kunde** has appeared as Calaf in *Turandot*; to this he now adds his eagerly-awaited on-stage role debut as Peter Grimes in the eponymous opera by Benjamin Britten. **Jennifer Holloway** has two exciting role debuts at the State Opera: Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes* and Leonore in *Fidelio*. The 2024 Italian Opera Weeks bring together a multitude of great voices; the solo evenings **THE ART OF**, on the other hand, focus entirely on individual, exceptional figures from the opera world. In 2023/24, the vocalism of two singers of world rank form the focus of attention: **Sonya Yoncheva** performs shortly before Christmas 2023, accompanied by the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra. **Jakub Józef Orliński**, a shooting star of baroque

music, will make his first appearance at Dammtorstraße in the spring of 2024, accompanied by a baroque ensemble.

The 2023/24 concert season of the **Philharmonic State Orchestra** centres on the symphony and the development of symphonic genre throughout music history. Chief conductor **Kent Nagano** opens the season at the end of August with the **Philharmonic Academy**, comprising concerts at the Elbphilharmonie, the Laeiszhalle and on Rathausmarkt. For the first of the **Philharmonic Concerts** at the Elbphilharmonie, the Philharmonic State Orchestra performs Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* under the baton of **Kent Nagano**.

During the course of the season, three **Mahler** symphonies will be joined by symphonies by **Bruckner, Schubert, Beethoven, Haydn** and **Mozart, Sibelius** and **Shostakovich** – a broad, richly varied spectrum of symphonic material. These are combined with new and unfamiliar works of our own times – world premieres by **Helen Grime, Vladimir Tarnopolsky** and **Aziza Sadikova** – and memorable works such as **Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 "Babi Yar"**, **Bruckner's Symphony No. 5**, a testament to religious faith that has become fragmented and dangerously brittle, or the *Symphony No. 2* by Heinz Winbeck, full of musical desperation and accusation.

Guests on the conductor's concert podium include **Adam Fischer, Anja Bihlmaier, Dennis Russell Davies, François Leleux** and **Ingo Metzmacher** – collaborating with soloists such as **Elisabeth Leonskaja** (piano), **Mari Kodama** (piano), **Nils Mönkemeyer** (viola), **Edicson Ruiz** (double bass), **Konradin Seitzer** (principal concertmaster of the Philharmonic State Orchestra) and **Julia Lezhneva** (soprano).

A **Special Concert** on September 3, 2024 honours **Klaus-Michael Kühne**, a patron of the Orchestra and the Hamburg State Opera. The comprehensive season programme is complemented by eight **Chamber Music Concerts**, the traditional **New Year's Concert**, three **Themed Concerts** and the above-mentioned project **Saint François d'Assise**.

General ticket sales for **the 2023/24 season** begin on **Monday, May 15, 2023** at 10 am (for subscribers: on May 11, 2023, at 10 am). For Ballet Workshops, the "Nijinsky Gala" and concerts that are part of the 2024 Hamburg International Music Festival, special rules apply, to be announced at a later date. Orders for **subscriptions for the 2023/24 season** are accepted starting immediately – please use the simple and convenient order form on our website, www.staatsoper-hamburg.de.

The Hamburg State Opera's New Productions of the 2023/24 Season – an Overview:

"The 2023/24 season programme is ambitious, featuring five premieres and 29 repertoire works at the Main Auditorium. Intriguing productions and first-rate international casts are central to our concept. At the opera stabile, we are looking forward to new formats joining the traditional opera piccola and the Opera Studio production. Every opera programme is the result of years of considerations and planning, with the house's great collectives as its pillars: the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra and the Hamburg State Opera Chorus. The pandemic has left its marks on this programme too, with several elements newly arranged. This also explains why two very special, and also monumental, works bookend this season: Boris Godunov by Modest Mussorgsky and Saint François d'Assise by Oliver Messiaen. Both have been postponed for several years, but both may now be even more timely than they would have previously. The reality within which they are performed has changed. This is the tense panorama our opera programme for the new season unfolds in – on the one hand, the backdrop of socio-political upheaval in Tsarist Russia, and on the other, a highly spiritual work questioning the relationship between humankind and nature as a matter of principle," says **Georges Delnon**, Artistic Director of the Opera, about the 2023/24 season.

The Hamburg State Opera opens the ninth season of Georges Delnon's tenure on September 16, 2023 with Modest P. Mussorgsky's opera **Boris Godunov** in a new production by **Frank Castorf** and conducted by **Kent Nagano**. The title role is performed by **Alexander Tsymbalyuk**, Prince Shuysky by **Matthias Klink** and Pimen by **Vitalij Kowaljow**. It has now become a beloved tradition that the opening premiere is broadcast live (with a delay) onto a cinema screen on Jungfernstieg; this event is part of the Binnenalster Film Festival and takes place in cooperation with the Filmfest Hamburg, City Management Hamburg and the "Verein lebendiger Jungfernstieg". The District of Harburg will also broadcast the State Opera's premiere with a slight delay onto a screen on Rathausplatz in Harburg.

With the premiere of **Salome** on October 29, 2023, Dmitri Tcherniakov once again stages an opera by Richard Strauss in Hamburg. **Asmik Grigorian** takes on the title role; **Kyle Ketelsen** returns to Hamburg as Jochanaan; **John Daszak** sings the role of Herodes and **Violeta Urmana** that of Herodias. **Kent Nagano** conducts.

Every spring, the State Opera dedicates a focus to the birthplace of opera. The **2024 Italian Opera Weeks** open on March 16, 2024 with a performance of **Tosca**. This is followed by the new production: Giuseppe Verdi's **Il trovatore** premieres on March 17, 2024, directed by Annilese Miskimmon, conducted by Giampaolo Bisanti and Leonardo Sini

(in April). Together with four repertoire productions, this will be a special highlight of the season. Between March 16 and April 12, 2024, outstanding singers will be heard on 24 evenings at the State Opera: the Opera Weeks are a forum to reencounter familiar favourites and witness long-awaited debuts by stars such as **Guanqun Yu, Ailyn Pérez, Tuuli Takala, Ekaterina Gubanova, Anna Princeva, Ewa Plonka, Adriana González** as well as **Alexey Isaev, Gwyn Hughes Jones, Adam Smith, Franco Vassallo, Ioan Hotea, Christoph Pohl, Vittorio Grigolo, George Petean** and **Gregory Kunde**.

Adam Fischer returns to Dammtorstraße, conducting the premiere series of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, directed by **Lydia Steier** and starting on April 28, 2024. **Bernhard Richter** sings the role of Tito, **Michèle Losier** that of Sesto; **Kangmin Justin Kim** appears as Annio, **Katharina Konradi** as Sevilla, **Tara Erraught** as Vitellia and **David Minseok Kang** as Publio. The Hamburg State Opera thereby continues its series of new Mozart productions conducted by Adam Fischer. After *Don Giovanni* and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, this is the third new production under his baton.

As part of the 2024 International Hamburg Music Festival, the Hamburg State Opera, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra and HamburgMusik join forces to present three performances of Olivier Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise* at the Main Auditorium of the Elbphilharmonie, starting on June 2, 2024. Kent Nagano conducts; the performances will be staged by Thomas Jürgens, Julia Mottel and Georges Delnon. **Anna Prohaska** appears as L'Ange, **Johannes Martin Kränzle** as St. François and **Ioan Hotea** as Le Lépreux. *Saint François d'Assise* is the first new opera production of State Opera Hamburg to be presented at the Elbphilharmonie's Main Auditorium.

The productions of *Boris Godunov*, *Salome*, *Il trovatore*, *La clemenza di Tito* and *Saint François d'Assise* and the 2024 Italian Opera Weeks are generously sponsored by the **Foundation for the Support of the Hamburg State Opera**. The production *La clemenza di Tito* is also supported by **Twerenbold Reisen AG**. The production *Saint François d'Assise* is also supported by the **Commerzbank Hamburg**.

The 2023/24 Concert Season of the Philharmonic State Orchestra – an Overview:

"As we are all aware, we are living through one of history's turning points. As far as our concert planning and individual programmes go, we reaffirm the tradition of our symphonic concert music, confident that the musical works from which the traditions of our concert life have sprung contain 'values' essential to societies built on human dignity, freedom and the rule of law, and on the responsibility of each and every human being. The programme of our 2023/24 season is conscious of the insecurities of our present times, yet represents the ties that bind us to our musical and cultural heritage and its existential importance. It offers compositions that do not attempt to devise alternate realities, such as the classical works by Haydn or Mozart; in addition, it features symphonies that represent extremes, attempts to come to terms with the power of realities."

Kent Nagano, Chief Conductor of the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra

The large subscription series of the ten Philharmonic Concerts at the Elbphilharmonie (for which subscriptions and individual tickets are available) begins on September 24/25, 2023: the **First Philharmonic Concert** features Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, Anton Webern's *Im Sommerwind* and sacred vocal music from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance under the baton of **Kent Nagano** and the chorus **LauschWerk**, prepared by **Martin Steidler**. The **Second Philharmonic Concert**, also conducted by **Kent Nagano**, follows on October 8/9, 2023 and includes works by Ludwig van Beethoven, George Benjamin and a world premiere by Helen Grime.

Ingo Metzmacher returns to the Philharmonic State Orchestra on December 17/18, 2023, leading Charles Ives' *Central Park in the Dark* and Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 7*. The conductor **Anja Bihlmaier** takes the podium for the **Eighth Philharmonic Concert**, featuring Alma Maria Mahler's *Seven Songs*, György Ligeti's *Ramifications* and Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No. 1*; the soloist is mezzo-soprano **Kate Lindsey**.

Further Philharmonic Concerts are conducted by **François Leleux** (November 5/6, 2023), **Dennis Russell Davies** (January 14/15, 2024) and **Adam Fischer** (July 7/8, 2024) – in performances featuring soloists such as **Elisabeth Leonskaja** (piano), **Nils Mönkemeyer** (viola), **Edicson Ruiz** (double bass), **Konradin Seitzer** (principal concertmaster of the Philharmonic State Orchestra) and **Julia Lezhneva** (soprano).

Friends of **chamber music** may look forward to eight concerts: six chamber music concerts, which can also be booked as a subscription, as well as a special chamber music concert and a chamber music performance by members of the Orchestra Academy.

Even before the First Philharmonic concert, the Philharmonic State Orchestra gives numerous additional performances: as in past years, the season begins in late August with the **Academy Concerts**, this time at the Elbphilharmonie and the Laeiszhalle. They feature **Kent Nagano** and the **Philharmonic State Orchestra**, the **Orchestra of the Hamburg Academy of Music and Theatre** under the baton of **Ulrich Windfuhr** (in cooperation with the HfMT), the **Moses Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra** under the baton of **Clemens Malich** (in cooperation with "The Young ClassX") as well as chamber musicians of the Philharmonic State Orchestra. The traditional **Open Air Concert** with **Kent Nagano** takes place on September 2, 2023 on **Rathausmarkt**: **Mari Kodama** plays Ludwig von Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2*; this is flanked by Franz Schubert's *Great Symphony in C-major*. September 3, 2023 will see a **Special Concert** as part of the Philharmonic Academy at the Elbphilharmonie, with which the Orchestra thanks **Klaus-Michael Kühne** and his Kühne Foundation for their support of the Philharmonic State Orchestra, which takes the form of a major donation stretched over five seasons.

As in past years, the morning of **New Year's Eve** sees a concert celebrating the new year; February 2024 will feature three **Themed Concerts** in cooperation with the **Max Planck Society**, and in early June 2024, *Saint François d'Assise (Franciscan Scenes)* by Olivier Messiaen, a project of **Kent Nagano** and **Georges Delnon**, forms part of the **Hamburg International Music Festival**.

opera stabile 2023/24

At the opera stabile, the Hamburg State Opera presents a world premiere, a German premiere and two new productions.

Handel's Factory is the title of the world premiere of a musical theatre work featuring compositions by Johannes Harneit based on George Frideric Handel's works, and a text by Christoph Klimke, loosely based on Stefan Zweig's *Georg Friedrich Händels Auferstehung*. Gustav Peter Wöhler plays the role of Handel. Adriana Altaras directs; Johannes Harneit conducts. The world premiere takes place on November 4, 2023.

The Diary of Anne Frank by Grigori Frid is a mono-opera in two parts for soprano and chamber orchestra (1969) for teenagers aged 14 and up. David Bösch directs; Volker Krafft conducts. The premiere is scheduled for November 25, 2023.

In the opera piccola series, **Kannst du pfeifen, Johanna** by Gordon Kampe offers musical theatre for children aged 6 and up. The libretto was written by Dorothea Hartmann,

adapting the eponymous children's book by Ulf Stark. Maïke Schuster directs; Luiz de Godoy conducts. The premiere takes place on February 24, 2024.

The International Opera Studio of the Hamburg State Opera presents itself at the end of the season on July 5, 2024, performing ***Ciboulette***, a French operetta in three acts by Reynaldo Hahn (1923). Sascha-Alexander Todtner directs.

The partners of the International Opera Studio at the Hamburg State Opera are the **Foundation for the Support of the Hamburg State Opera**, the **Körber Foundation** as well as the **J.J. Ganzer Foundation**. The opera piccola has received support since the 2009/10 season from the Foundation for the Support of the Hamburg State Opera.

Jung – Music Education Offerings from the Hamburg State Opera and the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra

The **Jung musical theatre education department** of the Hamburg State Opera offers plenty of programmes in front of the stage, on stage and backstage – in the midst of the opera house, young people aged 0 to 35 can experience musical theatre and join the action. The education department makes music accessible, conveys the fascination of live music and makes space for the thoughts and creativity of the youngest audience members. The opera piccola series enables *Kannst du pfeifen, Johanna*, one of the most popular children's operas today, to finally be shown at the Hamburg State Opera. Revivals in the popular series for babies and children are *Schwuppdiwupp – getürmt und umgestupst!*, *Tut tut! Baby an Bord!*, *Auf in den Urwald!* and *Peter and the Wolf*. Innumerable pedagogical programmes before and after performances for families, school groups, teenagers, teachers and young adults round out the education offerings: how do stage, language, music, singing, movement and light combine to form living musical theatre?

The **Jung concert education department** also builds bridges between the Philharmonic State Orchestra and young people: from children in the music kindergarten to young adults attending concert rehearsals as part of the *Tester*innen* programme. Onstage and off, but also in the midst of the orchestra, young people gain insights into the fascinating world of music. The 2023/24 season includes the family and school concert *Wenn mein Mond deine Sonne wäre*: a story about the special relationship between grandchildren and grandparents. *Philharmoniker*innen in Schulen* takes musicians to classrooms, where students can experience music up close and personal. And *Tonangeber* offers an

opportunity to look really closely: families, friends or entire school classes discover music and numerous instruments, from the trills of piccolo flutes to the golden gleam of horns and the dark sound of double basses.

Starting immediately, our season brochures are available online:
www.staatsoper-hamburg.de, www.staatsorchester-hamburg.de

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