



## PRESS RELEASE

# ELBPILHARMONIE & LAEISZHALLE SEASON 2016/17

The grand opening of the **Elbphilharmonie** is the unrivalled highlight of Hamburg's 2016/17 concert season. The inaugural concerts performed by the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock on 11 and 12 January 2017 form the prelude to an intense programme that demonstrates the new concert hall's musical aptitude over a period of five months. The target audience comprises music lovers and classical music connoisseurs from far and wide, and people who have awakened their curiosity of music through interest in Hamburg's new architectural landmark. Elbphilharmonie aims to be a **»Concert Hall for Everyone«**: the publicly accessible Plaza opens on 4 November 2016 already and the Elbphilharmonie's concert programme appeals to all due to its carefully structured design, quality and accessibility. **The season begins on 6 September 2016** with a guest performance by the **Lucerne Festival Academy in the Laeiszhalle**, continues there for four months and from 11 January 2017, runs parallel in both concert halls.

The programme is an interaction between the key institutions of Hamburg's music scene – the **NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra** and **Ensemble Resonanz** as resident orchestra and ensemble of the Elbphilharmonie respectively, the **Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra**, the **Hamburg Symphony Orchestra** as resident orchestra of the Laeiszhalle, the **Konzertdirektion Dr. Goette**, the **Kammermusikfreunde**, as well as the **Elbphilharmonie and Laeiszhalle's** own concerts and events.

## Festivals

The structural framework of the concert season consists of a tight sequence of nine festivals, whose programmes are anchored in the reality of societal life by means of their musical, aesthetic, historical and political motivations.

The three-week **ELBPILHARMONIE OPENING** festival gives a taster of the complete Elbphilharmonie programme and is followed by four festivals geographically focused on Syria, New York, the transatlantic area between Europe, Africa, the US and South America, and Iceland: **SALĀM SYRIA** (16-18 Mar 2017), **NEW YORK STORIES** (30 Mar-4 Apr 2017), **TRANSATLANTIC** (12-17 Apr 2017) and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra's **INTO ICELAND** (9-11 Feb 2017). Even **MAXIMAL MINIMAL** (11-13 May 2017) is, after closer inspection, a tribute to the New World: after all, in the US in the 1960s, composers were experimenting with a new, complex music that was interlinked in mathematics and trance.

Two festivals now well-established in Hamburg return for another run: **GREATEST HITS** (17-20 Nov 2016), the contemporary music festival at Kampnagel, and **LUX AETERNA** (9-28 Feb 2017), the festival of spiritual music. The festival for young musical talent, **RISING STARS** (30 Jan-4 Feb 2017), presented in cooperation with the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO), will be continued as well.



The characteristic feature of all Elbphilharmonie festivals: they are curated with open ears that are free of limitations. Genre boundaries play no role here, therefore, symphonic and jazz music, songs passed down through generations, large-scale operatic works, traditional music and the abstract pleasures of modernity are all inseparable. **Meaningful heterogeneity** is the guiding principle of each respective programme.

### »Concerts for Hamburg«

Proof of productive cooperation between the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and its resident orchestra can be found in the **»Concerts For Hamburg«**, which the **NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra**, under the baton of its Principal Conductor **Thomas Hengelbrock** and Principal Guest Conductor **Krzysztof Urbanski**, traverses in two stages (31 Jan-19 Feb and 21-25 Jun 2017). The special features: the concerts last about an hour, tickets are particularly low in price, the traditional concert dress code is completely ignored and despite the informality and bargain, the concerts retain those few things that should not be compromised: the quality of the music and the artists. Living up to its name, the **»Concerts for Hamburg«** will have a large amount of tickets available: about 60,000 tickets, on sale from 4 October 2016.

### Orchestras from Hamburg and Beyond

The indispensable - a rich symphonic programme - is once again in abundance in season 2016/17. In addition to the **NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra**, the **Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra** relocates its Philharmonic Concerts to the Elbphilharmonie. The **Hamburg Symphony Orchestra** continues to operate an attractive concert programme as resident orchestra of the Laeishalle. The **Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen's** concert cycle extends itself in the future to fill both Hamburg concert halls. Furthermore, 14 world famous orchestras hailing from Europe and the US travel to Hamburg to perform in the upcoming season. The **top ensembles from Chicago, London, Milan, Vienna, Berlin, Dresden, Prague, New York, Rotterdam and Munich** make their debut in the Elbphilharmonie with almost exclusively their principal conductors. Three of the orchestras (Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic) arrive with two prepared concerts each; the **Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar** from Caracas, with its charismatic Principal Conductor **Gustavo Dudamel**, is in Hamburg to help celebrate his **¡VIVA BEETHOVEN!** residency in the spring (19-23 Mar 2017) by performing all nine Beethoven symphonies in five evenings.

### World Premieres, Composers in Residence, Contemporary Music

A concert hall with such a visionary, while at the same time historically aware, modern architecture as the Elbphilharmonie calls for music that is an expression and reflection of our present time. Therefore, there will be numerous world and German premieres of works for important contemporary composers in the inaugural season. Commissioned works by the Elbphilharmonie include compositions by **Wolfgang Rihm, Georg Friedrich Haas, Jörg Widmann, Matthias Pintscher, Younghi Pagh-Paan, Mark Andre** and **Esa-Pekka Salonen**. Other premieres are by **Peter Ruzicka, Olga Neuwirth, Oscar Strasnoy, Vito Žuraj** and more. **Matthias Pintscher**, as an equally successful composer and conductor, is the focus of a **»Multiverse«** in both functions the whole season. A portrait series with six concerts in the



Elbphilharmonie is dedicated to the multitasking **Jörg Widmann**. The series »**State of the Art**« offers contemporary music a new stage in the Elbphilharmonie.

## Magnificent Voices, Many Voices

Lovers of magnificent voices can experience a cast of world-renowned singers in the opening concerts on 11 and 12 January with **Anja Harteros, Wiebke Lehmkuhl, Philippe Jaroussky, Jonas Kaufmann** and **Bryn Terfel**. **Cecilia Bartoli** comes to the Elbphilharmonie with »**La Cenerentola**« (13 Feb 2017), **Ian Bostridge** can be heard in a staged production of Benjamin Britten's »**Curlew River**« (28 Feb 2017) and in the role as **Ariodante** in Handel's opera of the same name is **Joyce DiDonato**. From Haydn's »**Creation**« and Arnold Schoenberg's »**Moses and Aron**« (28 Jan 2017) and »**Gurre-Lieder**« (18-19 Jun 2017) to Gustav Mahler's **Eighth Symphony**: many equally great works for large ensembles and vocalists resound. Evenings dedicated to arias bring **Diana Damrau, Simone Kermes, Philippe Jaroussky** and **Thomas Hampson** to Hamburg; lieder recitals with **Pyotr Becala, Georg Nigl, Jonas Kaufmann** and other singers are also on offer.

## Pianists

Piano music has a prominent place in the next season's programme. In addition to the recitals and piano concert performances of nearly two dozen top pianists in the Elbphilharmonie and the Laeiszhalle, including **Mitsuko Uchida, Jan Lisiecki, Daniil Trifonov, Martha Argerich, Lang Lang, Pierre-Laurent Aimard** and **Murray Perahia**, a new dramaturgical piano-related series called »**Pianomania**« is brought into existence: **Cédric Tiberghien** (20 Apr 2017), **Kirill Gerstein** (27 Apr 2017), **Alexander Krichel** (5 May 2017) and **Boris Giltburg** (15 May 2017) devote four evenings to etudes, that love-hate subgenre of the piano repertoire.

## Chamber Music

Hamburg's chamber music series remain primarily located in the Laeiszhalle Recital Hall in 2016/17. A new international »String Quartets« cycle starts in the Elbphilharmonie, featuring the **Quatuor Ebène**, the **Belcea Quartet**, the **Hagen Quartet** and **Apollon Musagète**. High-profile duos with the likes of **Jörg Widmann & Mitsuko Uchida** and **Nikolaj Znaider & Piotr Anderszewski** are lined up. In the finale of the »**Long Night of Chamber Music**«, even small ensemble can be heard in the Elbphilharmonie Grand Hall. And »**Blind Date**« invites audiences to attend special concerts in the Recital Hall, each with its own exciting musical programme that will be revealed at the last minute! The bar is open and a free drink included in the ticket price.

## The Organ

The Elbphilharmonie's organ, built by the renowned German firm Johannes Klais Orgelbau, will be inaugurated in a big solo concert as part of the opening festival by titular organist **Iveta Apkalna** (27 Jan 2017). Even the music of the organ concerts follows Elbphilharmonie's aforementioned programmatic commitment to contemporaneity. In one concert, for example,



**Olivier Latry**, one of the titular organists of Nôtre-Dame de Paris, presents music from the 20th and 21st century only (21 Feb 2017). The Hamburg organ society admits the new instrument into its circle on 17 June as part of the **»Long Night of Organ«**.

## **Jazz, World Music, World Classical Music, Pop**

**John Zorn, Brad Mehldau, Branford Marsalis, Chick Corea, Mariza, Tomatito, Anoushkar Shankar** and **The Gloaming**: these are some of the big names in jazz and world music that are essential components to the Elbphilharmonie programme, just like **Einstürzende Neubauten, Paolo Conte** and **Anohni**. The latter has developed a new project with the New York ensemble **yMusic** for the Elbphilharmonie. Some of these concerts are the building blocks of themed festivals like **NEW YORK STORIES, TRANSLATLANTIC** or the **ELBPHILHARMONIE OPENING**. The umbrella genres world and jazz music make a point of their importance with their own individual series **»Elbphilharmonie World«** and **»Elbphilharmonie Jazz«** respectively. The Laeiszhalle remains faithful to the series **»Jazz Piano«** with jazz greats like **Uri Caine, Jason Moran, Pablo Held** and **Anke Helfrich**. Additionally, concerts in the new series **»World Classical Music«** bring audiences closer to the centuries-old traditional music of non-European cultures.

## **Special Productions**

Four events go far beyond the purely musical: **Brian Eno**, British musician and legendary producer, transforms the Kaistudios into a sound laboratory with his installation **»The Ship«**, parallel to the Plaza-opening in early November 2016. The world-famous choreographer **Sasha Waltz**, her dance company and musical guests take over the foyer spaces of the Elbphilharmonie for a few nights shortly before the grand opening in January. The Catalan musical theatre professionals **La Fura dels Baus** - always up for an over-the-top surprise - take on Haydn's **»Creation«** (5-6 Jun 2017) and the US actor **John Malkovich**, who was previously in Hamburg to present two of his incomparable music theatre imagination pieces, joins **Michael Sturminger** and **Martin Haselböck** again to stage their brand-new production **»Call Me God«** (8-10 Mar 2017), commissioned by the Elbphilharmonie.

## **Education**

**Music education** is an essential element of the Elbphilharmonie programme. The heart of Elbphilharmonie's education programme is the **»World of Instruments«**: previously at home in the basement of the Laeiszhalle and known as **»Klingende Museum«**, the new **»World of Instruments«** awaits a bright future in the Elbphilharmonie. Children and young people of all ages are invited to the Kaistudios to get to know music and musical instruments for the first time - even those rarely used in symphony orchestras, from the alpenhorn to the laptop! The concert programme for schools and kindergartens are especially comprehensive and accurate in content according to recommendations by teacher training institutes and the school board. It is the declared intention of the Hamburg Senate that every Hamburg schoolchild should have visited the Elbphilharmonie at least once during his/her school career. Moreover, there is a diverse range of education projects on offer, specifically tailored to audiences of all ages and education levels. The new **»Twinkle Concerts«** for children have been designed for assorted target age groups and are named after the clothes sizes S to XXL.



For the first time in Germany, **four interactive orchestras** and ensembles are established under one roof. The **Audience Orchestra, Family Orchestra, Creative Ensemble** and **Gamelan Ensemble** give dedicated amateurs the opportunity to learn music in a group regularly and under professional supervision. The Family Orchestra and Audience Orchestra will present the results of their rehearsals in public concerts in the Elbphilharmonie Recital and Grand Halls at the end of the season on 25 June and 2 July 2017 respectively. Another event celebrating community music-making is the **»Long Night of Song«** (1 Jul 2017), which takes place in all halls and foyer spaces of the Elbphilharmonie.

The opening season is made possible by the generous support of numerous sponsors, supporters and patrons. The **BMW Group** and **Montblanc** as Principal Sponsors represent a small part of these.

**Subscriptions for season 2016/17** can be booked from Monday, 11 April 2016; **individual concert tickets** from 20 June 2016.

Tickets at [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en), ticket hotline: +49 40 357 666 66

**Registration for 1,000 randomly drawn tickets** for both Elbphilharmonie opening concerts on 11 and 12 January 2017 **starts on 9 May 2017**. On the same day, a section detailing all formalities relating to the draw will be published on the website [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en).

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