



## PRESS INFORMATION

### Thomas Hengelbrock

Thomas Hengelbrock is Principal Conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, the founder and director of the Balthasar Neumann Ensembles and Chef associé of the Orchestre de Paris. He ranks among the foremost opera and concert conductors of our time. His repertoire ranges from the music of the 17th century to contemporary works, and covers all genres.

In January 2017 Hengelbrock conducted the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester at the inaugural concerts of the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg's new concert hall. Recent highlights include guest performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris; a tour of Asia with concerts in Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Osaka and Tokyo; and the opening of the »Prague Spring« Festival. His internationally celebrated work with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester has also been documented in CD recordings and television productions. CD recordings so far include the works of Mendelssohn, Schumann, Dvořak, Schubert and Mahler.

Alongside concerts at the Paris Philharmonie, 2016/17 will also see Hengelbrock make guest appearances in Vienna, Prague and Dresden with the Orchestre de Paris. He will conduct the Balthasar Neumann Ensembles on three tours this season, as well as taking up guest conducting engagements with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic. He will also conduct the Cuban-European Youth Academy in Havana.

Even in his time as artistic director of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen (1995–1998), director of the Feldkirch Festival (2000–2006) and musical director of the Vienna Volksoper (2000–2003), Hengelbrock implemented a number of extraordinary stage projects that crossed genre boundaries. He regularly causes a sensation with his Balthasar Neumann Ensembles, such as in 2013, with a series of concert performances of Wagner's »Parsifal« recreating the sound world of the composer's time. Working with actors such as Johanna Wokalek, Klaus Maria Brandauer and Graham Valentine, he has repeatedly devised programmes fusing music, theatre and literature that have been enthusiastically received by their audiences.

Hengelbrock's artistic development was shaped by periods spent as an assistant to Antal Doráti, Witold Lutosławski and Mauricio Kagel, all three of whom brought him into contact with contemporary music early in his career. Alongside his deep commitment to the music of the 19th and 20th centuries, he has dedicated his work to historically informed performance practice. His work in Nikolaus Harnoncourt's ensemble Concentus musicus provided him with considerable inspiration. Hengelbrock played a significant role in firmly establishing the use of period instruments in German concert life.



It was in this context that he founded the Balthasar Neumann Choir in 1991 and the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble in 1995. Both ensembles rank among the most successful of their kind worldwide.

Thomas Hengelbrock enjoys an outstanding reputation as a guest conductor both nationally and internationally: his engagements have led him to conduct renowned orchestras such as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Vienna and Munich Philharmonics, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and many more. He is a regular guest at the Opéra de Paris, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, the Dortmund Konzerthaus and the Teatro Real in Madrid. He collaborates closely with singers such as Plácido Domingo, Cecilia Bartoli, Anna Netrebko and Christian Gerhaher. In addition, in 2011 he made his Bayreuth Festival debut, conducting Wagner's »Tannhäuser«.

In recognition of his great commitment to music communication, Thomas Hengelbrock was awarded the Herbert von Karajan Music Prize in 2016.

**Further Information on the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg:**

Information and tickets: [www.elbphilharmonie.com](http://www.elbphilharmonie.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/elbphilharmonie.hamburg](https://www.facebook.com/elbphilharmonie.hamburg)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/elbphilharmonie](https://www.twitter.com/elbphilharmonie)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/elbphilharmonie](https://www.instagram.com/elbphilharmonie)

Online newsroom including current images for media use: [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press).

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