



## **PRESS INFORMATION**

# **THE ELBPHILHARMONIE EXPERIENCE - HAMBURG'S NEW LANDMARK THE STAR TOURIST ATTRACTION**

**On 11 January 2017, Hamburg opened its newest landmark, the Elbphilharmonie. In the flow of the Elbe and surrounded on three sides by water, the concert hall is a centre of attraction for visitors from all over the world. Designed by the Herzog & de Meuron architectural firm, the unique building houses three concert halls, top quality dining, The Westin Hamburg hotel and the Plaza, open to the public, which offers visitors an unparalleled panoramic view over the whole city. Whether as a mesmerising sight in itself, a spectacular view outwards, or a boundless musical experience - the Elbphilharmonie has already become the new top sightseeing attraction on every trip to Hamburg.**

### **A New Landmark – A New City Skyline**

Wind and waves, ships' horns and the cries from the gulls, port cranes and promenades along the shoreline - these form the backdrop to Hamburg's new landmark. Situated at the transition point between city and port, the Elbphilharmonie's spectacular architecture has redrawn the Hamburg skyline. As the gateway to Hamburg and the world, the building greets and bids farewell to all those who sail close by her on the waterway. Likewise, anyone travelling by aeroplane, train or car can hardly fail to spot the new concert hall - the tallest occupied building in the city is visible for miles around, with its white roof studded with 5,800 shimmering glass panes. The Elbphilharmonie's facade, which is composed of approximately 1,100 largely individually curved glass elements, reflects the sky and the surroundings, transforming the concert hall into a thrilling photographic subject regardless of the weather or time of day. The best way to view the building is to take a tour of the harbour, from the landing stages, the famous fish market, or the old landmark to the new: from the tower of the main church of St Michael, known locally as Michel.

### **An Architecture Rich in Contrasts – the Elbphilharmonie and its Environs**

With its architecture - a modern glass structure designed by Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron that resembles waves and is constructed on top of the former warehouse Kaispeicher A - the Elbphilharmonie stands not only for Hamburg's maritime character and its long history as a port city, but also for the fascinating contrasts that are an integral part of the metropolis. This is also the case in the direct vicinity of the concert hall: situated at the western point of Hamburg's HafenCity, Europe's largest inner-city urban development project, in direct proximity to the Speicherstadt warehouse district - a UNESCO World Heritage site - and the Kontorhaus business district with the Chilehaus, this is where the past and the future go hand in hand. The HafenCity in the heart of Hamburg is a completely new district, spread across more than 150 hectares of what was the former



harbour zone. It invites visitors to linger and enjoy the architecturally exceptional residential and office buildings and the spacious Magellan and Marco Polo Terraces directly on the water's edge. The historic Speicherstadt district, characterised by the waterways that flow through it, demonstrates inimitable flair with its wonderful brick facades, arched bridges and picturesque views. In the Speicherstadt, the largest connected warehouse complex in the world, the fascinating museums and exhibitions are just as much a part of the district as the exceptional leisure attractions, above all the Miniatur Wunderland model railway, which was recently voted Germany's most popular tourist attraction.

### **The Plaza – Hamburg's New Favourite Lookout**

The Plaza is the central meeting place for all visitors to the Elbphilharmonie and forms the link between the warehouse and the new structure. As a viewing platform that is accessible to the public whether or not visitors are there for a concert, the Plaza offers a vast panoramic view over the city and port from a height of 37 metres above the ground. Even getting to it is an experience: an approximately 80 metre long, slightly curved escalator transports visitors through the brick warehouse base. An external walkway leads visitors to the Plaza and around the entire circumference of the building - revealing Hamburg from above in all its diversity: the Elbe with its port atmosphere, the inner city with its hustle and bustle of a shopping metropolis, the Alster with its inviting green spaces, the gentrified villas and sailing boats, or vibrant, trendy neighbourhoods such as St. Pauli and the Schanzenviertel district.

### **A Boundless Musical Experience – Concerts to Delight the Ears of Everyone**

The heart of the Elbphilharmonie is the Grand Hall. The approximately 2,100 seats are arranged around a centrally located stage, a staging that is reminiscent of terraced vineyards. No member of the audience is seated more than 30 metres from the conductor. In order to achieve the optimum acoustics, the architects developed a special wall and roof structure together with internationally renowned acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota – the »White Skin«. 10,000 individually shaped gypsum fibre panels cut with millimetre precision ensure targeted sound distribution that reaches every corner. The upper part of the Elbphilharmonie building also houses the Recital Hall, which is the ideal venue for chamber music, for lieder recitals and solo recitals, as well as for more intimate jazz and world music concerts. In the former warehouse the Kaistudios harbour the music education area as well as the new »World of Instruments«. This is where children and adults can experiment with musical instruments from all over the world.

With over 300 concerts in the first six months of its opening alone the Elbphilharmonie offers a hugely varied and contrasting range of music. The broad musical spectrum includes orchestral concerts and operatic performances with the best orchestras in the world; piano, string quartet and lieder recitals; as well as world music, electronic and pop music. International stars have an impact on the musical heartbeat of the concert hall, as do the artists and ensembles within the city.



Diversity and the exciting interaction between tradition and the present day also characterise Hamburg's music scene. Notable composers such as Georg Philipp Telemann, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Johannes Brahms, Gustav Mahler and György Ligeti were either born in Hamburg or lived and worked here. Once upon a time the Beatles began their career in the clubs around the Reeperbahn. Nowadays, newcomer bands play in the same clubs - and in countless new ones. This is particularly visible at the end of September during the annual Reeperbahn Festival, which has become the largest club festival in Europe. With its club scene, unique in Germany, countless other festivals, musicals, the Hamburg State Opera and the Laeiszhalle, Hamburg offers in addition a top quality, varied musical landscape that finds its new crystallisation point in the Elbphilharmonie.

### **Life as a Guest at the Elbphilharmonie – Hotel and Dining**

The Westin Hamburg hotel, situated in the eastern part of the Elbphilharmonie, offers a spectacular view onto the Elbe, Speicherstadt and the Hafencity. The hotel has 244 rooms and suites, a 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> spa and fitness area, an in-house restaurant and a modern events zone with seven conference rooms. In the western point of the building the »Störtebeker Elbphilharmonie Hamburg« focuses on all things culinary, creating a modern interpretation of the Nordic way of life with its two different dining areas. Visitors can choose from light snacks on the Plaza to craft beer tasting sessions or a three-course early bird menu before a concert.

### **INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:**

#### **CONCERT TICKETS**

Information at [www.elbphilharmonie.com](http://www.elbphilharmonie.com).

Most concerts in the 2016/17 season are already sold out. You can register for the Elbphilharmonie newsletter – which provides information on the beginning of all pre-sale periods – at [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/newsletter](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/newsletter).

#### **VISITING THE PLAZA**

- Opening hours: Open daily from 09:00 to 00:00 (last entry: 23:30)
- **Tickets can be obtained for free** (subject to availability) from the ticket machines located in the Elbphilharmonie's Visitor Center at Kaiserkai 62 or in the main entrance area of the Elbphilharmonie.
- It is possible to **pre-book** tickets for events at least one day in advance both online and at the Elbphilharmonie's Visitor Center, subject to a booking fee of €2.00 per ticket. A maximum of six Plaza tickets can be purchased at any one time.
- **Tour groups** will be able to visit the Elbphilharmonie Plaza from 1 May 2017. Enquiries sent to [plaza@elbphilharmonie.de](mailto:plaza@elbphilharmonie.de) will be answered on a first come, first served basis.
- Further information is available at [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/plaza](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/plaza)



## **GUIDED CONCERT HALL TOURS**

### **FOR INDIVIDUALS**

- Daily tours in German, subject to availability
- English tours take place at weekends

### **FOR PRIVATE GROUPS**

Daily, subject to availability

- Suitable for up to 30 people
- Available in several languages

Further information and tickets available at [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/tours](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/tours)

### **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: <http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press>

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