



## **PRESS INFORMATION**

# **EXPERIENCE THE ELBPILHARMONIE GRAND OPENING – EVEN WITHOUT A CONCERT TICKET**

**Hamburg, 30 December 2016: The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg is opening on 11 and 12 January 2017. In addition to numerous guests from the world of culture and politics, 1,000 winners of an international ticket draw are expected to attend. Those who aren't sitting in the concert hall can follow the event live on TV, radio or online. People in and around the port will be able to enjoy the Grand Opening in the form of a spectacular light show on the outside facade of the Elbphilharmonie. The city's excitement will also be evident from 1 January when a colourful »Count-Town« begins on buildings, in public spaces and on the western facade of the new concert hall.**

The Elbphilharmonie, whose architecture has caused a sensation internationally, will be officially opened on 11 and 12 January, bringing people unforgettable musical experiences. The Grand Hall, an extraordinary new sound space with sophisticated design and acoustics, and the more intimate Recital Hall, will be inaugurated by their respective resident orchestras.

### **Ceremonial act sets the mood for the opening concerts**

The Grand Opening begins with a ceremonial act in the Grand Hall at 18:30 on 11 January. Following an address given by Hamburg's First Mayor Olaf Scholz, those present will also hear from German President Joachim Gauck, architect Jacques Herzog and the Elbphilharmonie's General and Artistic Director Christoph Lieben-Seutter. »Zum Raum wird hier die Zeit« (Here Time Becomes Space) is the title of the concert programme with which the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester under the guidance of its Principal Conductor Thomas Hengelbrock will subsequently inaugurate the hall. The programme details are set to remain under wraps until 11 January, but this much has been revealed: guests can expect a musical journey from the Renaissance to the present day; besides music from Praetorius, Liebermann, Beethoven and Wagner, a new work by Wolfgang Rihm will also be premiered. The concert will be repeated on 12 January. This day will also see the opening of the Recital Hall beforehand by Ensemble Resonanz. On this occasion, a new work specially written by Austrian composer Georg Friedrich Haas for the ensemble and the new hall will be premiered. Both opening days are followed by a high-quality opening festival lasting three weeks and ending with a grand Family Day on 29 January.

### **Unique light spectacle for everyone**

On both opening days the Elbphilharmonie will also put on a special show for people outside the building. The historical Kaispeicher warehouse, the glass facade and the Plaza will all become a



screen for a spectacular show of light and colour during the opening concert. The music played in the Grand Hall will be transformed into colours and shapes and projected onto the building in real time. The imposing light show will be visible from the south and west. The music accompanying the visual spectacle can be heard via NDR's live radio stream. As part of the NDR Fernsehen's live broadcast, the light show can also be seen online and on TV. In addition, barge operators are offering their own trips complete with music broadcast. »The big light spectacle to mark the Grand Opening will showcase the best side of the Elbphilharmonie and its unique architecture in an unforgettable manner,« says Michael Otremba, managing director of Hamburg Marketing GmbH. »The combination of sound and vision has fascinated people for centuries. This is even reflected in our use of language – just think of terms such as >tone colour< and >colour tone<. The light spectacle allows music to be experienced visually and thus establishes precisely this connection – we want the whole world to see this image. Above all else, however, we wish to use the show to bring the joy of this unique building to those who cannot be there in person on the evening itself.«

#### **Be there live: broadcasts on TV, radio and online**

The Grand Opening of the Elbphilharmonie can also be followed at home. NDR Fernsehen will begin broadcasting the ceremonial act live at 6:30 p.m., followed by the opening concert at 20:15. The show will be presented by Barbara Schöneberger. On the radio, NDR Kultur will broadcast reports, documentaries and artist portraits throughout the day. At 18:00 a six-hour live broadcast will commence, featuring both the ceremonial act and the concert. There are several ways of following the highlights of the day online. NDR will be broadcasting a continuous live stream of the Grand Opening on its website [www.ndr.de](http://www.ndr.de), among other things. ARTE will be streaming the opening event at [www.concert.arte.tv/de](http://www.concert.arte.tv/de) from 18:30. There is also a 360-degree live stream at [youtube.de/elbphilharmoniehh](http://youtube.de/elbphilharmoniehh).

#### **Music in sight: Hamburg launches the countdown to the Grand Opening**

A colourful »Count-Town« from 1 January will demonstrate just how much Hamburg is looking forward to the Grand Opening of the Elbphilharmonie. In cooperation with numerous partners throughout the city, including City Management, the airport, St. Michael's Church and many more besides, buildings, advertising spaces and public areas will be illuminated by a different colour every day, decorated by posters or bedecked with flags with the motto »Musik in Sicht« (Music in Sight). One such area is Jungfernstieg, where colourful flags will very soon be heralding the forthcoming Grand Opening. And the Elbphilharmonie is also getting involved itself: beginning in the New Year, a laser projection on the building's western facade will count down the days and seconds to the first concert. It sends a clear signal: it won't be long until music for everybody will be played in the city's new landmark.

#### **Tickets for the Elbphilharmonie**

The concerts in the Elbphilharmonie for this season are already sold out. If tickets are available for events, they will be listed at [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/tickets-available](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/tickets-available). The



Elbphilharmonie newsletter provides information on the dates when all new advance ticket sales begin. Register at [www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/newsletter](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/newsletter).

**Press Contact:**

Tom R. Schulz, Elena Wätjen and Julia Mahns

Public Relations

Phone: +49 40 357 666 -258 / -249 / -245

[presse@elbphilharmonie.de](mailto:presse@elbphilharmonie.de)

[www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press)