



Press Release

## Approximately 35,000 visitors attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamburg International Music Festival

**Hamburg, 23 May 2016:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamburg International Music Festival came to an end this past weekend with an epic music programme dedicated to Johannes Brahms and performed by the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra with Principal Conductor Thomas Hengelbrock. More than four weeks of impressive concerts – all specially designed in celebration of the festival's motto »freedom« – took place from 21 April to 22 May. With approximately 35,000 visitors attending the 38 concerts, the visitor numbers remain at a similar level as the inaugural Hamburg International Music Festival in 2014.

Many artists were awarded standing ovations: among them, pianist **Maurizio Pollini** as well as conductor **Andris Nelsons** and his **Boston Symphony Orchestra** for their unforgettable interpretation of Mahler's Ninth Symphony. **Jamie Woon, Pantha du Prince** and **Nils Frahm**, the three artists of the late night series »Nightline«, also received extremely high praise from audiences.

The majority of the International Music Festival's concerts began with a short textual presentation: the »**Freiheitsstimmen**« or »Voices of Freedom«. A total of 28 people, who recently immigrated to Hamburg and were not able to experience freedom in their home countries, recorded their visions.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Hamburg International Music Festival** takes place from **27 April to 29 May 2018** with the new Elbphilharmonie Hamburg concert hall taking centre stage. From then on the festival returns annually, thus becoming a permanent part of Hamburg's end-of-season music programme.

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