



## PRESS INFORMATION

# ELBPHILHARMONIE & LAEISZHALLE SEASON 2016/17

**The grand opening of the Elbphilharmonie was the unrivalled highlight of Hamburg's 2016/17 concert season. The inaugural concerts performed by the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester and conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock on 11 and 12 January 2017 formed the prelude to an intense programme that demonstrates the new concert hall's musical aptitude over a period of five months. The target audience is all music lovers and classical enthusiasts near and far, as well as people who have stumbled upon this new entrance to the world of music through their interest in Hamburg's new architectural landmark. The Elbphilharmonie is a »concert hall for everyone«, not simply thanks to the fact that the Plaza is open to the public, but primarily by means of the structure, quality and accessibility of the concert programme. On 6 September 2016, the season began with a guest performance in the Laeiszhalle by the Lucerne Festival Academy's orchestra and now runs simultaneously in both concert halls, following the Elbphilharmonie's opening in January 2017.**

The programme is an interaction between the key institutions of Hamburg's music scene – the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester and Ensemble Resonanz as resident orchestra and ensemble of the Elbphilharmonie respectively, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, the Symphoniker Hamburg 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 ELBPHILHARMONIE 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 Orchester'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 Orchester, 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.

### **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 Orchester, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra relocates its Philharmonic Concerts to the Elbphilharmonie. The Symphoniker Hamburg continues to operate an attractive concert programme as resident orchestra of the Laeiszhalle. 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. 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 ensembles 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 pipe 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 »Klassik der Welt« (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 »Just 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 »Funkelkonzerte« (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 Publikumsorchester (Audience Orchestra), Familienorchester (Family Orchestra), Kreativorchester (Creative Orchestra) and Gamelan Ensemble give dedicated amateurs the opportunity to learn music in a group regularly and under professional supervision. The Familienorchester and Publikumsorchester 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 Singing« (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, Montblanc and SAP as Principal Sponsors represent are small part of these. The opening festival is made possible by support from the Kühne-Stiftung.

### **Elbphilharmonie Goes Deichtorhallen**

For the occasion of the Elbphilharmonie opening ceremony, the Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron and HamburgMusik gGmbH – with support from the cultural department of the city of Hamburg – is preparing a large-scale exhibition under the preliminary title »Elbphilharmonie Revisited« which, from 10 February to 1 May, will be open in the hall and will feature contemporary art. Participating artists include Baltic Raw Org, Monica Bonvicini, Peter Buggenhout, Jean-Marc Bustamante, Candida Höfer, Sarah Morris and Tomás Saraceno.

### **INFORMATION AND TICKETS: [www.elbphilharmonie.com](http://www.elbphilharmonie.com)**

Most concerts in the 2016/17 season are already sold out.

The new programme for the 2017/18 season will be presented in May 2017.

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).



## **ELBPILHARMONIE TICKET PRE-SALE LOCATIONS**

### **Elbphilharmonie Ticket Shop**

Located on the ground floor of the Elbphilharmonie  
Platz der Deutschen Einheit 1

20457 Hamburg

Mon–Sun 11:00–20:00

Tel.: +49 40 357 666 66 (Mon–Sat 10:00–18:00)

### **Brahms Kontor Ticket Shop**

Located across from the Laeiszhalle

Johannes-Brahms-Platz 1

20355 Hamburg

Mon–Fri 11:00–18:00

Sat 11:00–16:00

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