

Press Information – Mozartfest Würzburg 2021



28 May – 27 June

100 years of Mozartfest Würzburg 2021

Germany's oldest Mozart festival celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2021. The centenary season opens on 28 May and continues through to 27 June 2021 under the patronage of the Bavarian Minister President Dr. Markus Söder. The 100 years of the Mozartfest will be celebrated in a multi-faceted programme, including all the Fest's milestones and turning points, but also reflecting present-day innovations. The history of Mozart's influence is examined from various perspectives and in a variety of event formats. As in the early days of the Mozartfest, the aim is to celebrate the polyphony of the arts: the visual arts, architecture, music, dance, literature.

The centenary programme

The 85 concerts and events planned at 30 venues range from world premieres to the *Nachtmusik* in the Hofgarten, from ambitious themed evenings to the *Jupiternacht* revelling in the swing of the Roaring Twenties.

The inaugural concert in the Kaisersaal will feature original instruments from Mozart's private collection, made available by the international Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation. The first opera that delighted the audience at the Mozartfest was Mozart's *Idomeneo* performed in 1931. It is now being developed exclusively for Würzburg by Christophe Rousset, Les Talens Lyriques and a top-notch ensemble of young voices. After making his debut in 2017, René Jacobs will be returning to the Mozartfest: almost 200 years to the very day after the premiere he will conduct the *Freischütz* by Carl Maria von Weber for the first time and thus start his tour through Europe with the Würzburg production.

Embracing the modern and communing with Mozart: the Mozartfest has commissioned three works to mark the centenary. Jüri Reinvere and Anno Schreier are each presenting Mozart-inspired compositions for orchestra, while the third commission has been given to the writer Ulla Hahn. She explores Mozart and artificial intelligence in her literary work. Thanks to the commitment of its partners, the Mozartfest is also able to stage further premieres: an orchestral work by the Lithuanian artist Justė Janulytė, two song compositions by Wilfried Hiller and six piano pieces by the British composer Michael Nyman.

Themes, series, projects

Mozart as an inspiration for visual artists:

IMAGINE MOZART | MOZART BILDER is the title of an exhibition at the Martin von Wagner Museum in cooperation with the University of Würzburg. From 15 May to 11 July 2021, some 60 renowned works of art by artists such as Chagall, Delacroix, Klee, Kokoschka, Schinkel and Slevogt will be on display. The exhibition gives viewers the opportunity to reflect upon the history of Mozart's influence

over the past 200 years from an art history perspective. The extensive support programme includes music-art dialogues on each Saturday of the festival, in which a selected art work is placed in a musical resonance space and elucidated.

Auf Mozarts Spuren (“*Tracing Mozart’s Footsteps*”) is the motto of a six-part concert series. The *artistes étoiles* of recent years have been dispatched to European cultural centres that held significance for Mozart: Paris and Prague, Milan and London, Vienna and Brussels. Afterwards they will return to Würzburg with their programmes, which will be performed in the Kaisersaal.

Creating an interdisciplinary image of Mozart, a German-American dance project featuring the St. Thomas Boys’ Quoir Leipzig and the Alabama Ballet will premiere a danced interpretation of Mozart’s *Requiem* featuring the choreography of Anna Vita.

In a special format of the MozartLabor, a series of lectures has been commissioned to explore the value and responsible handling of high culture: “How much Mozart do people need?” Eminent representatives from the academic, business, political and artistic communities present their views on Europe’s musical heritage. A concurrent scholarship programme gives young people the opportunity to gain hands-on aesthetic experience by attending concerts and exhibitions in the context of a critical discourse on our social value system.

Reading, hearing, watching and understanding Mozart

A new departure in the centenary year is the issue of various Mozartfest publications that deepen and complement the season’s focus on a century of celebrating Mozart. A facsimile, a book (already available) and a CD box, as well as the exhibition catalogue for IMAGINE MOZART I MOZART BILDER.

In a 24-page bilingual, annotated edition accompanied by an essay providing the historical framework, the Mozart researcher Prof. Dr. Ulrich Konrad publishes a facsimile of the “Würzburg Letter” written by Mozart on 28 September 1790 to his wife Constanze.

Weil jede Note zählt. Mozart interpretieren (“*Because every note counts. Interpreting Mozart*”) is the title of a 407-page work, published by Bärenreiter Verlag, which explores Mozart’s music in its sound and sheet music forms in essays and interviews with performers. The first 100 years of the Mozartfest are documented in a comprehensive chronicle featuring numerous illustrations (edited by Stephan Mösch).

Mozart: Imperial Hall Concerts – six CDs containing the first releases of concert recordings from the Kaisersaal of the Würzburg Residenz. Live recordings from the Bayerischer Rundfunk archives reveal how our understanding of Mozart’s music has changed since 1954. Key works, leading performers, seven decades of Mozartfest.

Mozart at close quarters

The *100 for 100* ideas competition invites all of Würzburg residents to contribute their own ideas to the anniversary. The *M Pop-up* is a temporary *Raum für Mozart* (“Room for Mozart”) in a city-centre retail location. Featuring open rehearsals, concerts and discussions, it allows artists to experiment and provides space for encounters, discovery and dialogue.

Full list of concerts and events: see the season brochure

The anniversary is financed in almost equal parts by the City of Würzburg, public grants, private third-party funding and its own income. The City of Würzburg, as the sponsor, has doubled its own regular funding share to around Euro 1.18 million (including project staffing and preparation costs incurred since 2018). The Kulturfonds Bayern (Bavarian Cultural Fund) will be supporting the anniversary with a generous sum. To mark the anniversary, the Federal Government is contributing a grant of Euro 300,000 for the first time. The total budget for 2021 is around Euro 4 million. Private third-party funding accounts for 20 % of the total budget: Sparkassen Finanzgruppe has been welcomed on board as a new partner of excellence and will provide comprehensive support for the Mozartfest in its centenary

year. The Krick publishing house and the Vogel Foundation will continue their premium partnership in 2021, while va-Q-tec AG is retaining its role as principal sponsor of the festival. For the centenary, the group of corporate sponsors has changed its status to that of an independent association: the association of young, local SME entrepreneurs, together with the Freundeskreis Mozartfest Würzburg e.V., bears witness to the Mozartfest's deep roots in Würzburg's urban society. The Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung (Bavarian Palace Administration), numerous individual sponsors and private foundations, in particular the Sparkassenstiftung für die Stadt Würzburg, are further important partners of the Mozartfest.

The radio, television and digital media partnerships remain broad-based and include Bayerischer Rundfunk, Deutschlandfunk, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Main-Post and nmz. A total of 16 concerts will feature in radio broadcasts and a video livestream. Bayerischer Rundfunk is producing a 45-minute TV documentary which will be shown at 8 p.m. on 21 June 2021 on BR television.

In what form it will be possible to stage the events is not yet clear, and the Mozartfest has modified its ticket sales system accordingly. Binding advance ticket orders will be accepted from 4 December 2020 (through submission of an order form, or online at www.mozartfest.de/kalender-tickets/kartenvorbestellung). The webshop is currently not available for ticket orders. It will not be possible to send out ticket confirmations and invoices until eight weeks before the start of the festival. The tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, using the best-seat principle. The Mozartfest ticket office at Würzburg Rathaus will open on 14 December 2020 to take phone calls and binding advance ticket orders, and answer in-person queries. It will also sell all Mozartfest publications from their date of release (currently: book and letter facsimile). Due to the current corona situation, please if possible contact the ticket office by phone if you would like to order tickets and obtain advice in person. Tickets cost between Euro 5 and Euro 185. Pupils, trainees and students receive a 50 % discount on regular tickets, and last-minute tickets at a standard price of Euro 12.

Press Contact

For the press we have a wide range of information about the Mozartfest Würzburg, our concerts, events and our artists. We will be happy to provide you with reproducible files and images for reporting on this in consultation with you.

Claudia Haevernick | Head of PR and Communications

claudia.haevernick@stadt.wuerzburg.de

Tel.: +49 931 – 37 3339

Katrin Link | PR and Communications

katrin.link@stadt.wuerzburg.de

Tel.: +49 931 – 37 2337

Mozartfest Würzburg
Rückermainstraße 2
97070 Würzburg
Germany

www.mozartfest.de



www.instagram.com/mozartfestwuerzburg



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