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OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

Press release, 23 March 2022

THE OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH AND THE 22/23 SEASON

Zurich, 23 March 2022. At a press conference today, Intendant Andreas Homoki, General Music Director Gianandrea Noseda, Opera Director Annette Weber, and outgoing Ballet Director Christian Spuck presented an overview of the upcoming 2022/23 season at the Opernhaus Zürich

Seventeen new productions will be mounted on the main stage next season. Wagner's «Ring des Nibelungen» is featured with two premieres. The Opernhaus will offer forgotten works, rarely played pieces, extraordinary casting, and big names in works that span the Baroque, bel canto, verismo, French opera, contemporary opera, and operetta. The opera division will see ten premieres and world premieres, the ballet will present three new productions, and the season will bring new concert performances, a premiere in Winterthur, a Zurich premiere, and a variety of revivals.

The 2022/23 season is characterized by collaborations with institutions in the city of Zurich. The Opernhaus Zürich will embark on a Rachmaninoff cycle with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, an homage to Wolfgang Rihm with the Zürcher Kammerorchester, and a collaboration with a school in Zurich that is unique in Switzerland, in which dance will form an integral part of the curriculum. The 2022/23 season starts off with a grand opening, and will mark halftime with a costume ball, before closing out with the traditional «oper für alle» live broadcast.

OPERA PREMIERES //

The «Ring» continues +++ New «Turandot» with Piotr Beczała, Sondra Radvanovsky, and Rosa Feola +++ Modern music with George Benjamin and Wolfgang Rihm +++ Baroque music with «Eliogabalo» +++ «Barkouf» operetta +++ Gounod with Julie Fuchs and Benjamin Bernheim

The upcoming season will continue work on Wagner's tetralogy, with new productions of **«Die Walküre» and «Siegfried»** as **Andreas Homoki and Gianandrea Noseda** continue forging their Ring interpretation. The two middle operas promise encounters with Brünnhilde and Siegfried, two of the central characters of the Ring. The pair will be played in our Zurich production by **Camilla Nylund and Klaus Florian Vogt**. Both are singing the roles for the first time.

In May 2023 the Swiss premiere of **«Lessons in Love and Violence»** by English composer **George Benjamin** brings one of today's leading composers to Zurich for the first time. Directing for the stage in his debut in Zurich is Russian drama and opera director **Evgeny Titov**. Israeli conductor **Ilan Volkov**, an expert in contemporary scores, takes the conductor's podium,

OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

and the highly touted soprano **Jeanine De Bique** also makes her first appearance at the Opernhaus Zürich. And in November 2022 the Opernhaus presents the opera «**Jakob Lenz**» at the ZKO-Haus as part of a joint homage to **Wolfgang Rihm** with the Zürcher Kammerorchester.

The Opernhaus Zürich will continue to cultivate programmatic themes in the 2022/23 season, including its focus on Baroque repertoire. December 2022 sees **Francesco Cavalli's «Eliogabalo»**, a rarely performed opera, in a production by **Calixto Bieito**. **Yuriy Mylenko** will make his debut at the Opernhaus Zürich singing the title role. The Orchestra La Scintilla is led by **Dmitry Sinkovsky**. Another questionable leader is the focus of Friedrich Handel's opera «**Serse**» (**Xerxes**), which bows at the Theater Winterthur starting in May 2023.

Fans of big voices have their pick of new productions during the 2022/23 season, which promise especially radiant couples.

The season comes to a thrilling close in June 2023 with Puccini's «**Turandot**», which brings the best of the best to our stage in Zurich: American soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** as Turandot and **Piotr Beczala** as Calaf, making a return to the Opernhaus Zürich for another role debut, alongside Italian soprano **Rosa Feola** as Liù. Stage director **Sebastian Baumgarten** and German conductor **Marc Albrecht** take on the challenge of translating the Chinese exoticism and pomp of the set, which are integral to the opera, into a contemporary form.

Charles Gounod's opera «**Roméo et Juliette**» occupies a firm place in 19th century French repertoire, due in part no doubt to its attractive vocal roles. Starting in April 2023, **Julie Fuchs and Benjamin Bernheim** bow as the tragic dream couple. Both started their careers at the Opernhaus Zürich and now rank among the biggest names in the international opera scene. American director **Ted Huffman** returns to take on the staged production of this opera.

The Opernhaus continues its series of concert performances with another French opera. In Léo Delibes' «**Lakmé**», Coloratura soprano **Sabine Devieille** is sure to thrill Zurich audiences. At her side is **Edgardo Rocha** as Gérald.

Latvian soprano **Inga Kalna** will take on the challenge of portraying Elisabetta I in our new production of «**Roberto Devereux**» in February 2023. Tenor **Stephen Costello** will bow as Roberto Devereux. And French mezzo-soprano **Stéphanie d'Oustrac** returns to Zurich to sing Duchess Sara. Following up on his productions of «Anna Bolena» and «Maria Stuarda», American director **David Alden** returns with «Roberto Devereux», completing the Opernhaus Zürich's Donizetti trilogy. As with the first two operas, bel canto specialist **Enrique Mazzola** will conduct from the podium of the Philharmonia.

The operetta world gets another Swiss premiere next season. The lost opéra comique «**Barkouf**» was rediscovered only few years ago in an archive in France belonging to the Jacques Offenbach's descendants. Initial performances in Strasbourg saw it praised as one of his best. Appearing as Maïma is American **Brenda Rae**, a familiar face to Zurich audiences. The production for this Offenbach discovery lies in the hands of German director, actor, and multi-talent **Max Hopp**.

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OPERA REVIVALS //

WITH Jonas Kaufmann, Bryn Terfel, Sondra Radvanovski, Cecilia Bartoli, Anja Harteros, Saimir Pirgu, Javier Camarena

Our numerous revivals also promise today's most prominent voices. The star-studded line-up for the revival of Robert Carsen's «Tosca» in December 2022 is the biggest, featuring **Jonas Kaufmann, Bryn Terfel, and Sondra Radvanovsky** as the three characters caught up in Puccini's fatal love triangle. General Music Director **Gianandrea Nosedà** will conduct. **Anja Harteros**, one of the most sought-after Verdi interpreters of our time, returns to Zurich as Leonora in «Il trovatore». Her partner on stage is **Stefano La Colla**, who recently sang Manrico at the Staatsoper Berlin to great acclaim. **Cecilia Bartoli** returns with one of her signature roles when she bows as Rossini's Cinderella in the revival of «La Cenerentola» in March 2023. Gianandrea Nosedà presents his Russian repertoire skills with the revival of Barrie Kosky's interpretation of Tchaikovsky's «Jewgeni Onegin». **Anita Hartig, Igor Golovatenko and Benjamin Bernheim** will make up the cast. And Verdi's «Nabucco» promises thorny family conflict with **Lucio Gallo and Anna Pirozzi**.

The revival of Gounod's most successful opera, «Faust», sees tenor **Saimir Pirgu** in the title role. The revival of Bizet's «Les Pêcheurs de perles» brings back internationally celebrated Mexican tenor **Javier Camarena** as Nadir.

THE BALLETT ZÜRICH //

Christian Spuck's final season +++ New Ballet Director Cathy Marston's first new production

The 2022/23 season will be an artistic caesura for the Ballett Zürich: Ballet Director Christian Spuck is entering his final season. His successor, Cathy Marston, will present her first new premiere. The four premieres and four revivals will showcase a total of 14 works, including five world premieres.

Three generations of choreographers and three distinct artistic styles will be united for «**On the Move**», which is set to premiere in January. **After eleven years as Ballet Director, Christian Spuck bids farewell with a final choreography**, presented on this program. **Louis Stiens** returns to Zurich with a new piece set to music by Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy. And with **Hans van Manen's** «On the Move», the Ballett Zürich adds another masterpiece by this Dutch choreographer to its repertoire.

In April, **Cathy Marston** will present one of her most successful pieces to Zurich audiences. «**The Cellist**» was debuted by the Royal Ballet in London in 2020. It was inspired by the biography of cellist Jacqueline du Pré. The season will open in September with Spanish choreographer **Marcos Morau's** «**Nachtträume**», marking his debut with the Ballett Zürich.

OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

The Junior Ballett presents **«Horizonte»** at the Theater Winterthur in October, marking their first collaboration with Vittoria Girelli, Shaked Heller, and Samantha Lynch. All three are still active as dancers, but have been successfully pursuing choreography for several years.

Christian Spuck's productions of **«Nussknacker und Mausekönig»**, **«Anna Karenina»**, and **«Monteverdi»** also return. Choreographies by Crystal Pite and Marco Goecke come together for **«Angels' Atlas»**.

CONCERTS AND SONG RECITALS //

Collaborations with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and the Zürcher Kammerorchester on Rachmaninoff and Rihm

The 2022/23 season brings together Zurich's two great orchestras, the **Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and the Philharmonia Zürich**. The two orchestra heads and long-time friends **Paavo Järvi and Gianandrea Nosedà** team up for a **Rachmaninoff cycle to mark the composer's 150th birthday**. In a collaboration planned to take place over the course of two seasons, Nosedà and Järvi will swap podiums and orchestras. At the focus of this collaboration are Rachmaninoff's monumental piano concerti. The soloists in this cycle include internationally acclaimed stars such as **Yuja Wang and Yefim Bronfman**.

On the occasion of **Wolfgang Rihm's 70th birthday**, the **Opernhaus Zürich and the Zürcher Kammerorchester** will present a joint homage to this German composer, who's known as a charismatic thinker about music. At the center of a series of events in November and December is a new production of Wolfgang Rihm's chamber opera **«Jakob Lenz»** at the ZKO-Haus. This series of homages to Rihm continues in the Tonhalle Zürich with the Zürcher Kammerorchester under the baton of its Music Director **Daniel Hope**, at the Opernhaus Zürich with General Music Director **Gianandrea Nosedà and soprano Mojca Erdmann**. The Opernhaus' own New Music ensemble **«Opera Nova»** and the composer himself will also take part.

The works of Johannes Brahms also take a central role for the Philharmonia Zürich under Gianandrea Nosedà. Philharmonic Concerts will present soloists the likes of **Lars Vogt, Nils Mönkemeyer, and Robert Pickup**. **Simone Young** appears at the orchestra's podium with works by Strauss and Mahler. The Orchestra La Scintilla continues its exploration of the 19th century with its new Artistic Director **Riccardo Minasi**.

OPERNHAUS JUNG AND EXTRAS //

Long-term school cooperation «Die Schule tanzt» +++ World premiere of a children's opera

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In addition to year-long workshops, courses, and school-break programs offered by the opera and ballet, as well as music theater on the Studiobühne for children, the Opernhaus will present the world premiere of the fairy-tale opera **«Alice im Wunderland»** in November 2022. Written by **Pierangelo Valtinoni**, the opera is suitable for children seven years and older.

The Opernhaus Zürich embarks on **a long-term project with a school in Zürich-Oerlikon**, in which dance will become a regular, mandatory part of the curriculum for the upper grade levels. Entitled **«Die Schule tanzt», the cooperation is the only one of its kind in Switzerland**. The project will run for four years, during which the young people learn about different styles and works, experiment with different forms of physical expression, and work with professional choreographers to prepare their own public performance.

The Opernhaus will celebrate the new season on 10 September with a grand traditional opening. The Opernhaus presents a grand «Bal masqué à l'opéra» on 11 March 2023, and the season will come to a close with «oper für alle». The Opernhaus Zürich will present Donizetti's «Don Pasquale» with Julie Fuchs and Johannes Martin Kränzle live on the Sechseläutenplatz on 17 June.

SERVICE

Subscription sales may begin immediately. Advanced ticket sales for individual tickets start on 25 June 2022 at the Opernhaus Billettkasse, online at www.opernhaus.ch or via e-mail: tickets@opernhaus.ch.

Wir danken unseren Partnern

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