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**OPERNHAUS
ZÜRICH**

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Opernhaus Zürich and the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich launch their first joint concert series Rachmaninoff Cycle for the composer's 150th birthday

Composer, piano virtuoso, conductor, and operatic Kapellmeister Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff would have turned 150 on 1 April. The Opernhaus Zürich and the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich will celebrate the occasion by launching their first-ever joint concert series. The collaboration will stretch over the course of two seasons, and will take place in both houses.

The joint Rachmaninoff cycle will start at the Opernhaus on 12 February with the Piano Concerto No. 3 featuring Yefim Bronfman, and the vocal-symphonic work «Die Glocken». Performances of the Piano Concerto No. 2 with Yuja Wang follow at the Tonhalle on 29 and 30 March.

The initiative for this collaboration began with both principal conductors: Gianandrea Noseda and Paavo Järvi are longtime friends. When their paths crossed in Zurich, they quickly came up with the idea of bringing the two institutions together. A Rachmaninoff cycle was the obvious choice, as both value the works of this multi-faceted Russian musician, who composed and lived on Lake Lucerne for five years, after fleeing the October Revolution.

«We want to unite in bringing classical music to as many people as possible. What better occasion could there be than the birthday of a composer like Rachmaninoff – who even made his home in Switzerland?» — **Paavo Järvi, Music Director, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich**

«Making the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff the focus of a collaboration between the two most important orchestras in the city of Zurich will show that, by working together, we can present a major artistic achievement and bring people together in the name of music, beauty, and respect.»

— **Gianandrea Noseda, General Music Director, Opernhaus Zürich**

Gianandrea Noseda and Paavo Järvi will do more, however, than just perform works by the same composers. They'll swap orchestras. And they'll share a soloist: this November, the pianist and Tessin native Francesco Piemontesi will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concert No. 4 at the Opernhaus. For this first presentation, Paavo Järvi will lead the Philharmonia Zürich. Then, Piemontesi will perform the «Rhapsodie über ein Thema von Paganini» with the Tonhalle-Orchester under the musical direction of Gianandrea Noseda at the Tonhalle.

This cycle is a special event for both the Philharmonia Zürich and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich. They were one musical ensemble until they were separated in 1985. Now, they'll present the composers first three symphonies alongside the piano concertos.

Without a doubt, this is an exciting exchange that will make it possible for audiences to experience each orchestra's signature sound.

The first concerts in the series – at the Opernhaus on 12 February and at the Tonhalle Zürich on 29 and 30 March – are already sold out.

[You can find details and further information about the Rachmaninoff series presented by the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich and the Opernhaus Zürich here.](#)