

Press release

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Rheingau Music Festival 2020

The 33rd “A summer full of music” – from 20 June to 5 September 2020

Oestrich-Winkel, 23 January 2020 – At a press conference in Oestrich-Winkel, the Artistic Director of the Rheingau Music Festival, Michael Herrmann, unveiled the programme for the 33rd season. Lisa Ballhorn and Timo Buckow (both from the programme planning team for the Rheingau Music Festival), Marsilius von Ingelheim (Managing Director of Rheingau Musik Festival Konzert GmbH), Dr. jur. Heinz-Georg Sundermann (Managing Director of LOTTO Hessen) and Claus Wisser (Chairman of Rheingau Musik Festival e.V.) were also on the platform.

The 33rd Rheingau Music Festival will take place from **20 June to 5 September 2020**, and is themed around the concept of “**freedom**”. As the **Artist in Residence**, **Lisa Batiashvili** will be showcasing all her talent in four concerts featuring music ranging from Bach to Arvo Pärt. The soprano **Julia Lezhneva** will be appearing in five events as the **Focus Performer**, with music from Bach to Rachmaninoff. **Gabriela Montero** is this year’s **Composer & Artist in Residence**. In three events, she will be performing some of her own compositions, together with works by composers ranging from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Alfred Schnittke. As the **Focus Jazz Performer**, **Wolfgang Haffner** will be showcasing the entire gamut of his musical flair in four events, supported by virtuosos like Michael Wollny, Max Mutzke and Thomas Quasthoff. This year the Rheingau Music Festival will also be spotlighting the **250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven’s birth**, celebrating the great composer with numerous concerts and events.

“Freedom”

The Rheingau Music Festival will be conceptually extrapolating this quintessential idea of our times on an artistic level: the programme includes free musical forms like fantasias, variations and improvisations, plus new arrangements and transcriptions of existing works, complemented by performers who embrace the freedom to rethink music, transmute it into a different art-form, and create something entirely new from existing works. The Rheingau Music Festival will be hosting performers and ensembles who illuminate the idea of “freedom” in highly disparate ways. They transcend musical horizons, and thus contribute towards a vibrantly fruitful dialogue. The principal performers, **Lisa Batiashvili**, **Julia Lezhneva**, **Gabriela Montero** and **Wolfgang Haffner**, took inspiration in their projects from the theme of this year’s festival. Beethoven embraced the concept of freedom in both his personal life and his creative vision. The audience is invited to embark upon a voyage of discovery in this cosmos.

250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven’s birth

Beethoven is acknowledged as a revolutionary and visionary, exceptionally receptive not only to the musical ideas of his time. His radical artistry has inspired the world of music right up to the present day: during his lifetime, he was a cosmopolitan, and in his music he still is

today. The utopias of freedom and fraternity he so passionately advocated are still of major topical relevance. Beethoven was born in Bonn in 1770, and spent the greater part of his life in Vienna. In 2020, the whole world is celebrating the 250th anniversary of his birth, a fitting occasion to re-appraise Beethoven's personality, *oeuvre*, and legacy. His compositional creativity constitutes a pre-eminent core of the Rheingau's festival summer. Front-ranking international ensembles will be interpreting the path-breaking symphonies. **Jan Lisiecki** and the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** will be performing Beethoven's five piano concerti. The programme features the **Missa solennis**, conducted by **Kent Nagano**, the **Mass in C Major**, sung by the **Dresden Chamber Choir**, and his **Violin Concerto**, played by **Anne-Sophie Mutter**. In addition, top-ranking performers and ensembles will showcase the *lieder*, sonatas, piano trios and string quartets. In several projects, Beethoven's works will be analysed, altered, scrutinated for their topicality and meaningfulness, put into different contexts, and transmuted into different art forms.

137 concerts will be performed **at 33 venues** in the Rheingau and neighbouring regions. The principal venues are Eberbach Monastery, Johannisberg Palace, Vollrads Palace, and the Wiesbaden Assembly Rooms. These are complemented by numerous churches and wineries. The parish church of St. Martinus in Hattersheim will be revisited as a concert venue and the Music Auditorium of the Hessian State Parliament in Wiesbaden has been added to the list of concert locations.

121,200 admission tickets are available **for 137 concerts**. The total costs of the Festival add up to 8 million euro. Long-standing sponsors and concert patrons, the subscriptions from the members of the Supporters' Association and a state subsidy amounting to 25,000 euro secure the financing of the Rheingau Music Festival.

Once again **LOTTO Hessen is the principal sponsor** of the Rheingau Music Festival. As **co-sponsors**, the sparkling wine producer Fürst von Metternich Sektkellerei and the State Bank of Hesse-Thuringia (Helaba) in conjunction with the Hesse-Thuringia Savings Bank Cultural Foundation are supporting the Rheingau Music Festival. The **premium project partners** involved are the Brass Group, Commerz Real AG, the Deutsche Börse Group, Deutsche Leasing AG with its subsidiary DAL, Deutsche Telekom AG, the insurer R+V Versicherung, and UBS Deutschland AG. The **official automobile partner** is ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland GmbH. Lufthansa is the Festival's **official airline partner**. The festival's **media partners** are the broadcasters Hessischer Rundfunk, Deutschlandradio and Deutsche Welle.

Press photos can be downloaded under this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c0fdpda2khd5h9o/AADGOYal806JGtDv7CCeP2J-a?dl=0>

Ticket orders and programme information:

Kartenvorverkauf TRM-Tickets für Rhein-Main GmbH & Co. KG

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