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OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH CANCELS PLANNED PROGRAM THROUGH THE END OF THE 2019/20 SEASON +++ HOPE FOR A REPLACEMENT PLAN IN JUNE/JULY

In its decision on 29 April 2020, the Swiss Federal Council extended the ban on events for more than 1,000 people through 31 August 2020, in an effort to contain the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. As a result, the Opernhaus Zürich must unfortunately cancel its planned program through the end of the 2019/20 season to a close. All tickets that have been purchased for events through 12 July 2020 will be cancelled and refunded. Customers will be contacted directly for this purpose.

Intendant Andreas Homoki: "The plans we had for the coming months will not be possible in the current situation. During performances with a large orchestra, full choir, or with the dancers of the Ballett Zürich, hygiene and social distancing rules cannot be observed. On behalf of all the artists and staff of the Opernhaus, I can say that these cancellations hurt us very much. Our streaming offer "Opernhaus@Home" has been used by over 100,000 spectators. As much as this delights us, we passionately believe that our art can only reveal its full power in a live experience. That is why we are not giving up hope of resuming operations before the summer break with a modified program of smaller formats tailored to federal requirements. When the Federal Council publishes its guidelines for events with fewer than 1'000 visitors on 27 May, we will be set to announce our new schedule. Let's keep our fingers crossed!"

A possible resumption of rehearsal operations starting in June for performances scheduled to take place in September, managed in compliance with hygiene and distancing regulations, is also being thoroughly reviewed at this time. To this end, trade associations are developing a plan to mitigate risk that would be applicable throughout Switzerland. This plan will also take into account the need to guarantee audience safety.

Advance ticket sales for next season's performances are suspended until it is clear what effect both this safety concept and political guidelines will have on the number of audience members and the seating plan. Subscription sales will begin at the beginning of June.

We will continue to accompany audiences with «Zwischenspiel», our podcast series, and with «Opernhaus@Home: Your Online Streaming». This coming weekend, from Friday 1 May at 6pm to Sunday 3 May at midnight, another classic will be available as a free streaming offer. Michael Volle made his debut in the title role of Verdi's grand choral opera «Nabucco» in June 2019. Opernhaus Zürich Intendant Andreas Homoki was at the helm of this interpretation of the story

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of the Babylonian king Nabucco's madness and the rivalry between his two daughters. Anna Smirnova is Abigaille, the power-hungry king's daughter. Veronica Simeoni is her half-sister Fenena, who falls madly in love with Ismaele (Benjamin Bernheim), risking her kingdom and her own life. Georg Zeppenfeld appears as Zaccaria, the leader and high priest of the enslaved Hebrews. Fabio Luisi conducts the Philharmonia Zürich.

This recording of «Nabucco» is a production by Accentus Music in co-production with NHK and SWR, in cooperation with Arte and Opernhaus Zürich. Further information, as well as the complete program, can be found at: www.opernhaus.ch/streaming