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OPERNHAUS
ZÜRICH

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SINGING, SWEATING, STUMBLING, SHIVERING RECORDING BY THE ORCHESTRA LA SCINTILLA: THE FOUR SEASONS BY VIVALDI AND VERDI

In mid-May a new CD will be released by «Philharmonia Records», the Opernhaus Zürich's own label, featuring the «Four Seasons» by Antonio Vivaldi and the ballet music of the same name from Giuseppe Verdi's opera «Les Vêpres siciliennes». This CD marks the first time that the label has released recordings with the Opernhaus ensemble «Orchestra La Scintilla», which is dedicated to historically informed performance practice.

The seasons have been a recurring theme in art, literature, and music for centuries, and often serve as a metaphor for the transience of human life. Together with the Orchestra La Scintilla, Riccardo Minasi, the internationally renowned violinist, conductor, and permanent guest of the Opernhaus Zürich, has now recorded two very different interpretations of this theme. In addition to the four famous concertos by Antonio Vivaldi, Giuseppe Verdi's ballet music, which was written 125 years later, offers the ensemble the opportunity to present both the breadth of its repertoire and its considerable versatility. In contrast with Vivaldi's lovingly meticulous compositions, the large Romantic orchestration of Verdi's ballet music exudes a waltz-infused delight in dance and imperial splendor. Minasi demonstrates his own virtuosity as the featured soloist of Vivaldi's «Quattro stagioni» recording.

The recording from the Opernhaus Zürich will be available in stores worldwide starting on 15 May.

The latest episode of our in-house **audio podcast «Zwischenspiel»** is dedicated to this new release. Chief dramaturg Claus Spahn spoke with **solo oboist and «La Scintilla» member Philipp Mahrenholz** about the background of the production and Baroque violinist and conductor Riccardo Minasi. You can find the interview with Mahrenholz, conducted in German, on our website:

<https://www.opernhaus.ch/spielplan/zwischenspiel-ein-podcast-aus-dem-opernhaus-zuerich/folge-9/>

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of «La Scintilla», the Opernhaus invited conductor Riccardo Minasi and the ensemble's musicians to speak about their inspiring musical collaboration, their unique sound, and the modified construction of historical instruments.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkWNTvonVgc&feature=youtu.be>

Our **online program «Opernhaus@Home»** will feature a premiere on **Friday, 8 May**, when the never-before-seen recording of the **ballet production of «Romeo und Julia»** will be presented for the very first time. Inspired by Sergei Prokofiev's colorful and glowing music, Christian Spuck and the Ballett Zürich tell Shakespeare's timeless story, which brilliantly captures both the clash of love and hate, and the coexistence of tenderness and violence. Spuck's choreography has taken the stage not only in Zurich, but has also appeared in Tel Aviv, Bogotá, and Stuttgart. Michail Jurowski directs from the podium of the Philharmonia Zürich.

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You can find further information here: <https://www.opernhaus.ch/spielplan/streaming/romeo-und-julia/>