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Zürich, November 3, 2020

## DECEMBER OPERA PREMIERE TO TAKE PLACE: VERDI'S «SIMON BOCCANEGRA» LIVE ON ARTE TV

A Switzerland-wide ban on events with more than 50 individuals has been in effect since October 29, 2020. This measure, which was decided upon by the Swiss Federal Council last week and is in effect for an «indefinite period of time», led to the immediate suspension of performance operations at the Opernhaus Zürich. The presentation of opera and ballet on a grand scale with international casts was simply no longer possible or financially viable.

We are all the more pleased to announce the premiere of Giuseppe Verdi's melodrama «**Simon Boccanegra**» broadcast live on **St. Nicholas Day, December 6, 2020, at 5:00 pm**. This production is being created on the rehearsal stage now, in compliance with all hygiene and distancing regulations. The premiere will be broadcast live on ARTE, the Franco-German TV channel, and will subsequently be available on demand at ARTE CONCERT, the channel's media library, as a part of ARTE's «Opera Season». This means our international audience can enjoy grand opera at home, despite the current situation. Should it be possible for us to resume operations in December, live performances will take place as scheduled.

The premiere will take place using the Opernhaus Zürich's unique performance model: The chorus and orchestra perform live from an external rehearsal room, and are streamed live to the Opernhaus. Works by Giuseppe Verdi form a cornerstone of the Opernhaus Zürich's repertoire, and the talented cast is led by **Christian Gerhaher**. He'll make another thrilling debut as Simon Boccanegra in his return to Opernhaus Zürich, following successful first outings as Alban Berg's Wozzeck and Heinz Holliger's Lenau. American soprano **Jennifer Rowley** makes her debut as Boccanegra's daughter Amelia Grimalde, and audience favorite bass **Christof Fischesser** likewise debuts in the role of Jacopo Fiesco, Boccanegra's rival.

This event marks the final new production at the Opernhaus Zürich led by the duo of **Fabio Luisi** in his function as General Music Director and **Andreas Homoki**. The story of powerful and power-hungry men, and the women that fall victim to their familial dramas, closes out eight successful years of cultivating Verdi's operatic repertoire.

[Please click here for more information.](#)