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# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

Zürich, 7 December 2020

## PERFORMED LIVE, STREAMED LIVE, AND WATCHABLE AT HOME

Following yesterday's live and digital premiere of Verdi's «Simon Boccanegra», the Opernhaus Zürich will be accessible in both forms into the month of December. Starting this coming Saturday, 12 December, the opera will launch a series of concerts featuring large and small orchestras, star singers, and young artists. Thanks to the generous support of Zurich Versicherung, six concerts will take place over the course of eight days, each live on stage in front of 50 guests. All the performances can be streamed from home.

### ORCHESTRA CONCERTS WITH AUGUSTIN HADELICH AND MAHAN ESFAHANI

On two Saturdays, the in-house orchestra will once again be heard in the familiar surroundings of Sechseläutenplatz. The young, much-praised soloist and Grammy winner **Augustin Hadelich** will open the concert on **Saturday, 12 December, at 7 pm** with the famous **violin concerto by Johannes Brahms**. A musical rarity will be performed in the concert's second part: the **4th Symphony** of the Austrian composer **Franz Schmidt**. General Music Director **Fabio Luisi** has been passionately committed to Schmidt's work for years, and will interpret his Fourth Symphony while leading the Philharmonia Zürich.

The Orchestra La Scintilla, meanwhile, will dedicate an entire evening to the children of Johann Sebastian Bach. Of his 20 children, four sons became important composers. The influence of their father and their emancipation from his work are unmistakable and can be appreciated on **Saturday, 19 December at 7 pm**. **Mahan Esfahani** will be the evening's featured soloist, under the direction of **Riccardo Minasi**. The Iranian cembalist is one of the most unusual artists of his generation and his skills on the harpsichord are considered exceptional.

Both concerts can be enjoyed by 50 visitors in the opera house. So that nobody misses out, both performances will be streamed live at [www.opernhaus.ch](http://www.opernhaus.ch). The streams of the two concerts are available free of charge for eight days following each performance on the Opernhaus website.

## «CURTAIN CALL» LIVE AND DIGITAL:

### VOCAL CONCERTS OF GREAT ARTISTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OPERA STUDIO

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Opera Studio, the Opernhaus Zürich is presenting the «Curtain Call» series from **Tuesday, 15 December to Friday, 18 December, at 7 pm each** evening. Prominent singers will join the young talents of the International Opera Studio on an equal footing and together create a concert evening. During a three-day workshop, **Diana Damrau, Anna Bonitatibus, Thomas Hampson and Benjamin Bernheim** will work with the young singers on key works from the vocal repertoire, scenes from 18th and 19th century operas, and classic *Lieder* repertoire. The results will be presented live on stage to a small audience. The 50 spectators in attendance will have the unique opportunity to follow the concert from an unusual perspective.

Mezzo-soprano Anna Bonitatibus is at home in the baroque and bel canto repertoire. On 15 December, she will open the series with works by Rossini and Mozart, together with the young singers of the International Opera Studio. On 16 December, rising star Benjamin Bernheim and the young artists follow with arias and scenes from Verdi's «Rigoletto» and Massenet's «Manon» and «Werther». On 17 December, star soprano Diana Damrau gets in the mood for Christmas and joins the International Opera Studio to present songs by Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms. Last but not least, Thomas Hampson and the young singers will present scenes from Mozart's «Così fan tutte» and selected songs by Haydn, Beethoven, and Schubert on 18 December.

All concerts will be recorded with several cameras. In addition, a camera team will accompany all the artists during the workshops and observe the development of the musical program backstage. These impressions will be presented as short documentaries. **The «Curtain Call» concerts and documentaries will be digitally broadcast over Christmas and New Year via [www.opernhaus.ch](http://www.opernhaus.ch).**

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All concert recordings and documentaries are available free of charge on the Opernhaus website from the time of their broadcast until 17 January 2021.

**Further information and the programs can be found here:**

<https://www.opernhaus.ch/en/digital/corona-spielplan/>

«Curtain Call» and the orchestra concerts are presented by



**ZURICH**

The workshops are made possible through the support of the Friends of Zurich Opera.