

## **Contract extension of the Salzburg Festival President**

13 October 2020

At the beginning of its meeting today, the Supervisory Board of the Salzburg Festival extended Helga Rabl-Stadler's contract as President of the Festival by one year, terminating on 31 December 2021.

Helga Rabl-Stadler had applied for a three-year extension in 2016, after Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser convinced her in lengthy conversations that they should devise and implement the Festival's centenary in 2020 together. She stated that she still considers this her obligation. Because of the pandemic, the centenary celebrations and programming have been extended through two seasons, in order to present all the performances which had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2021. Rabl-Stadler was therefore asked by the Board and her two colleagues, Markus Hinterhäuser and Lukas Crepaz, to apply for an extension of her contract through 31 Dec. 2021.

"We are delighted that Helga Rabl-Stadler will continue to support us in her role as Festival President throughout the extended anniversary programme in 2021. Especially in difficult times such as the current, her great experience is invaluable," says **Hans Scharfetter**, a Member of the State Parliament who is currently the chairman of the Festival's Supervisory Board.

"All the members of the Festival's Supervisory Board welcome the personal decision of the Festival's President," says **Landeshauptmann Wilfried Haslauer**, adding that: "Helga Rabl-Stadler is the living embodiment of the Salzburg Festival, a global brand. Her indefatigable work has shaped the unique identity of the Festival and the City for 25 years."

**Helga Rabl-Stadler** commented: "With my application, I remain true to my goal of supporting the implementation of the centenary programme. I will take advantage of the coming months to strengthen the Festival's financial foundation and to ensure that Markus Hinterhäuser has the resources he needs for his demanding programmes."

This extension is the seventh one of her contract, which first came into effect on 26 Jan. 1995.