

SALZBURG WHITSUN FESTIVAL 3 - 6 June 2022

Artistic Director: Cecilia Bartoli



Final Press Release of the 2022 Salzburg Whitsun Festival

(SF, 6 June 2022) The 2022 Salzburg Whitsun Festival ended with an overwhelming audience response, having taken place for the first time since 2019 with unrestricted seating capacities and 98 percent of seats occupied. The eleventh Festival under the artistic leadership of **Cecilia Bartoli** took the audience on a journey to Seville, a place that has long symbolized yearning and inspiration for her.

“In response to the legitimate question whether we are even allowed to laugh in times of war and crises, I would paraphrase Victor Borge: humour can help reduce the distance between people to a minimum. Thus, may our Whitsun Festival with this new production of Rossini’s *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, which is designed to make us all laugh, contribute to people turning towards one another, maybe even risking a smile,” said the Artistic Director **Cecilia Bartoli** of this year’s Salzburg Whitsun Festival.

“The enthusiasm of our visitors and our excellent ticket sales demonstrate the immense significance attached to culture and the arts within our society – now more than ever. The joy and emotions of audience and artists were palpable in every performance, reflecting the essential necessity of sharing immediate stage experiences,” Festival President **Kristina Hammer** said.

“With her unflinching instinct for thematic concepts and her clear artistic handwriting, Cecilia Bartoli has once again managed to spin a clearly discernible red thread running through the Whitsun programme, consummately combining stylistic diversity and the utmost artistic quality. The magic of the ‘Bartoli Festival’, and the many wonderful and inspiring moments we were therefore able to experience over the past days, fill us with enormous gratitude,” Artistic Director **Markus Hinterhäuser** summarized the festival.

“We are delighted that the Whitsun Festival was finally able to take place again without major restrictions and at full capacity. Audience demand over the Whitsun weekend and the prospect of welcoming back our international audience in greater numbers than previously make us look forward to the summer with particular anticipation,” said Executive Director **Lukas Crepaz**.

More than 10.400 guests attended the 2022 Salzburg Whitsun Festival. The highest numbers of visitors came from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Great Britain and the US representing the highest percentage among 41 nations in total.

The press office accredited 63 journalists representing media from 12 different countries.

The Festival opened with the acclaimed new production of Gioachino Rossini’s *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, directed by Rolando Villazón in his Festival directing debut. He merged film scenes inspired by Woody Allen’s *The Purple Rose of Cairo* with the opera’s action, so that the fast-paced, witty staging was underpinned by video projections authentically recreated by rocafilm.

The accuracy of every single punchline was reflected in the audience's frenetic applause. Cecilia Bartoli as Rosina, Edgardo Rocha as Conte d'Almaviva, Nicola Alaimo (Figaro), Ildebrando D'Arcangelo (Basilio) and Alessandro Corbelli (Bartolo) were outstanding soloists. Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco and the Philharmonia Choir under the baton of Gianluca Capuano received their well-deserved share of the enthusiastic ovations.

Javier Perianes offered a pianistic highlight, performing a matinée programme featuring excerpts from Isaac Albéniz' four-volume anthology *Iberia*, from Manuel de Falla's suite *El amor brujo* and Enrique Granados' cycle *Goyescas*. The Iberian palette of sound colours inspired the audience to grateful ovations.

“La torre del oro”, Seville's architectural landmark, was the symbolic inspiration of the programme presented by Christina Pluhar and her ensemble L'Arpeggiata, building bridges between the Old and the New Worlds on Saturday evening. From ground-breaking innovations of the 16th century to 20th-century compositions rooted in tradition, the exceptional concert offered a rich array of sounds.

Flamenco is often hailed as “the soul of Andalusia”. Maria Pagés is one of the great personalities on today's flamenco scene, a master of all the classical and innovative variations on this genre. Together with alternating ensembles, she offered an impressive, passionate overview of different stylistic variants of consummate dance aesthetics.

The sacred concert on Whitsun Monday was dedicated to Cristóbal de Morales, one of the most important masters of the Spanish renaissance, and his famous student Francisco Guerrero. The vocal ensemble La Capella Reial de Catalunya and the instrumentalists of Hespèrion XXI also proved themselves masters of their art, offering a performance under Jordi Savall's leadership that revealed even the most minute contrapuntal details with compelling transparency.

Closing this year's Whitsun Festival, the gala concert “Carmencita & Friends” promises further vocal highlights. High-carat vocalists such as Cecilia Bartoli, Piotr Beczala, Rolando Villazón, Plácido Domingo, Nicola Alaimo, Ildebrando D'Arcangelo and John Osborn pay musical homage to the city of Seville. The orchestra Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco, members of the Würth Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Choir from Vienna join their journey to Andalusia, conducted by Gianluca Capuano. Maria Pagés contributes choreographic colour.

The **film series *Reflexión***, presented in cooperation with DAS KINO, found an enthusiastic audience of cineastes.

This summer, the staged production of ***Il barbiere di Siviglia*** will be revived: the premiere is scheduled for **4 August 2022**, with additional performances on 8, 11, 14 and 16 August at the Haus für Mozart. All performances are already sold out.

Rolex has been a main sponsor of the Salzburg Festival and the exclusive sponsor of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival since 2012. Thanks to this double partnership, which has been extended through 2027, the Whitsun Festival has been able to present a new opera production every year, which is then revived during the summer programme of the Salzburg Festival. In addition, Rolex has supported the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award since 2021.

Photographs are available at: <https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/presse/fotoservice>

Kind regards,

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