



Cecilia Bartoli © Fabrice Demessence

Salzburg Whitsun Festival
May 17 – 20, 2024
Artistic Director: Cecilia Bartoli
“Tutto Mozart”

(SF, 10 November 2023) At Whitsun 2024, **Cecilia Bartoli, the Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival**, presents a homage to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s oeuvre under the motto “Tutto Mozart”. **She describes this year’s programme as follows:**

“To think about the amount of marvellous music Mozart created in an unbelievably short space of time reduces us to awe and humble silence. He created a universe, a world of its own which gives us endless pleasure. It may surprise you that since taking on the position of artistic director at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival in 2012, I have never focussed on Mozart here. So I thought ‘wenn schon, denn schon’ (‘If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well’), and decided to dedicate four exceptional days to my favourite composer, with humour and Mozartkugeln included. Because more than anything, I would like to transmit the joy of singing, performing and listening to Mozart’s music.

Last year, I turned back to *La clemenza di Tito* and realized that I had forgotten how magnificent this stunningly beautiful and unjustly neglected opera is. This insight got me so excited that I decided to perform in a staged production of *La clemenza di Tito* for the first time.

So here we are: in 2024, **Robert Carsen** creates a new production of *La clemenza di Tito* at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, where you can witness my stage debut as Sesto, together with

some wonderful Mozart singers and **Les Musiciens du Prince — Monaco** on period instruments, all led by conductor **Gianluca Capuano**.

Around this programmatic nucleus we have created other performances dedicated to the sheer joy of Mozart's music. For me as an Italian, and a person who ardently loves theatre, the symbiotic Mozart-Da Ponte relationship — where the words melt into a perfect unity with the music — is truly one of the most fantastic artistic collaborations in opera history. A frolicsome Da Ponte gala staged by Davide Livermore contains substantial scenes and arias from *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*.

A more formal concert contains sacred music, in which Mozart demonstrates a deep earnestness that we rarely find in his comedies. The fantastic choral parts will be sung by the vocal ensemble Il Canto di Orfeo.

A completely different world of Mozart is contained in his piano music. I am delighted that my great friend **András Schiff** will take us through this important part of Mozart's universe. Daniil Trifonov, on the other hand, will play the majestic C major Piano Concerto K. 503 for us, and I am looking forward to finally welcoming this wonderful pianist to the Whitsun Festival as a soloist. He will be accompanied by a highly respected chamber orchestra, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, with their chief conductor **Paavo Järvi**. Two of Mozart's major symphonies will complete the programme for their first visit to the Whitsun Festival.

To outline the world of Mozart in four days is ambitious but impossible really. However, it is a start, and a homage. Because in spite of his permanent presence in Salzburg, you never get tired of Mozart's music. You can return to it endlessly, as long as it is always treated with love and care.”

THE PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

LA CLEMENZA DI TITO

Composed shortly after *Die Zauberflöte* in 1791, but premiered a few weeks earlier, ***La clemenza di Tito*** remains fascinating for the way in which Mozart breaks free from the constraints of *opera seria* to write music of rare poignancy.

TRIFONOV & JÄRVI – Symphony in D major K. 297 – “Paris” · Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in C major K. 503 · Symphony in C major K. 551 – “Jupiter”

After winning prizes at the Chopin, Rubinstein and Tchaikovsky Competitions in 2010 and 2011, Daniil Trifonov has developed a spectacular career on the world's leading stages. Alongside his highly personal interpretations of the great Russian composers and the works of Chopin, he has also made his mark as a sensitive Mozartian. We are therefore very excited that Trifonov — now the same age as the mature Mozart — will be representing the genre of the **instrumental concert** on our programme. The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and Paavo Järvi, who round out the programme with **two symphonies**, are making their first appearance at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival.

UNE FOLLE JOURNÉE – A staged opera pasticcio featuring ensembles and arias from *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*

Mozart's legendary humour is usually imbued with a dash of philosophy and a pinch of melancholy. In a Figaro-esque evening specially created for Salzburg, we will embrace this Mozartian spirit by placing the inspired collaboration between the Salzburg-born composer and Lorenzo Da Ponte centre stage. Voice types as we know them today had not yet emerged when *Le nozze di Figaro* was written, and the fact that roles such as the Countess, Susanna, Cherubino, Marcellina and Barbarina were all sung by sopranos will be playfully explored in this concert. Unfazed by vocal boundaries, our first-class Mozart ensemble will switch from one role to another with ease and relish, sometimes even within a single scene.

MASS IN C MINOR K. 427


A historically informed performance on Whitsunday will feature the **Mass in C minor**, which Mozart composed in Vienna but intended to be premiered in the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter in Salzburg. This concert, dedicated to Mozart's sacred works, is given by the Baroque orchestra Les Musiciens du Prince — Monaco, the vocal ensemble Il Canto di Orfeo, and their chief conductor Gianluca Capuano.

RECITAL ANDRÁS SCHIFF – Sonatas and Works for Solo Piano

For **András Schiff**, Mozart was “perhaps the greatest genius of all time, a heaven-sent gift to humankind”. Few musicians living today bring such authority to this body of work. Committing to a detailed programme a year before the concert, however, is a practice that András Schiff finds too restrictive: “You wouldn't decide that far ahead what to have for dinner either...!” Lately he has opted for a more spontaneous approach, and will announce his programme from the stage.

50 YEARS OF DOMINGO IN SALZBURG – Opera Gala with Arias and Duets by Rossini, Bizet, Massenet, Verdi and Selected Zarzuelas

Mozart may not have played a central role in **Plácido Domingo's** repertory, but despite all their differences, the two are connected by their tireless creativity and boundless vitality. And of course, by Salzburg: an important place for both musicians, and the site of many great artistic achievements. Plácido Domingo has been performing in Salzburg for 50 years and takes to the stage this time as part of a gala featuring numerous Operalia prize winners, a vocal competition founded by Domingo some thirty years ago to promote young operatic talent. The Munich Radio Orchestra performs under the baton of Marco Armiliato.

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For more than half a century, Rolex has partnered some of the world's most talented artists and leading cultural institutions to help perpetuate artistic heritage. Through the Rolex Perpetual Arts Initiative, a broad portfolio of arts that extends through music, architecture, cinema and the Rolex mentoring programme, the brand confirms its long-term commitment to global culture. In all of these endeavours, Rolex supports artistic excellence and is helping to pass knowledge to future generations, making a lasting contribution to culture worldwide. Among its Testimonees in music are world-leading artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, Benjamin Bernheim, Gustavo Dudamel, Juan Diego Flórez, Jonas Kaufmann, Rolando Villazón and Sonya Yoncheva. In 2012, Rolex became Main Sponsor of the Salzburg Festival and Exclusive Sponsor of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival. This double partnership allows the Salzburg Whitsun Festival to present an annual new opera production that is then revived during the summer programme. Furthermore, since 2021 Rolex has supported the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award.

Cecilia Bartoli at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival

Since 2012 Cecilia Bartoli has been the artistic director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival; she has extended her contract through 2026.

In 2012 the theme was **Cleopatra** – Cecilia Bartoli sang the role of the Queen of Egypt in Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*.



The motto of the 2013 Whitsun Festival was **Sacrifice – Opfer – Victim**. The staged new production of Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma* was honoured with the International Opera Award for best new production in London in 2014.



2014 saw a veritable Rossini celebration – the motto **Rossinissimo** says it all, and Cecilia Bartoli sang the leading role in the new production of *La Cenerentola*.



Thus will I call upon the gods was the theme of the 2015 Whitsun Festival. Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* received standing ovations from the audience after each performance.



In 2016, the story of **Romeo and Juliet** ran through the programme of the Whitsun Festival like a red thread, with a new production of *West Side Story* as the pivotal work.



Joy of Grief – under this Scottish-inspired motto, George Frideric Handel's *Ariodante* was performed in 2017. Cecilia Bartoli in the trouser role of Ariodante was transformed from a knight in armour into a woman over the course of the opera's three acts.



2018 saw the 150th anniversary of Gioachino Rossini's death. The 2018 Salzburg Whitsun Festival was dedicated to his memory, choosing the motto **1868 – Year of Ruptures**. Cecilia Bartoli took on the role of Isabella in the musical comedy *L'italiana in Algeri*.



2019 was dedicated to **Voci celesti – Heavenly Voices**, and George Frideric Handel's *Alcina* was the focus of attention at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, exploring the memory of great castrato voices of the past.



The title of the 2020 Salzburg Whitsun Festival was **La couleur du temps – The Colour of Time**, and its programme was designed to explore the life of Pauline Viardot-Garcia, a singer, musical ambassador of Europe, an excellent pianist and composer. Gaetano Donizetti's opera buffa *Don Pasquale* would have featured Cecilia Bartoli in the role of Norina. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 Salzburg Whitsun Festival had to be cancelled.

In 2021 Cecilia Bartoli took the visitors of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival on a journey through her hometown of Rome, entitled **ROMA ÆTERNA**. George Frideric Handel's oratorio *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* was directed by Robert Carsen; Cecilia Bartoli played the role of the seductive Piacere.



In 2022 the musical journey took Whitsun audiences to the Andalusian **Seville**. Gioachino Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* was directed by Rolando Villazón, with Cecilia Bartoli in the role of Rosina.



In 2023, the **Orpheus Myth** was the focus of attention; Cecilia Bartoli sang the role of Orfeo in Christoph Willibald Gluck's rarely-performed Parma version of *Orfeo ed Euridice*, directed by Christoph Loy.



Online Sales

Starting on 10 November 2023, subscriptions will be available for direct online booking. Individual tickets go on sale online on 23 January 2024. (Payment via credit card.)

<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en/>

Subscriptions

When booking at least one performance of the new production *La clemenza di Tito*, the orchestra concert, the Mozart-Da Ponte Opera Gala, the evening *50 Years of Plácido Domingo in Salzburg* and at least one of the following events: Sacred Concert or Matinee, you will receive a 15% discount. This subscription is available in the Price Categories 1 through 5.