



SALZBURGER  
FESTSPIELE  
19. JULI – 31. AUGUST 2024

## New Concert Shell for the Haus für Mozart Constructed by the Salzburg Festival Workshops



The new concert shell at the Haus für Mozart © SF/Neumayr/Leo

(SF, 18 July 2024) The newly constructed concert shell has significantly improved the acoustic performance conditions at the Haus für Mozart. Designed and constructed in the Festival's own workshops, the concert room is a tailored construction consisting of two side walls, a back wall and a ceiling.

The concert shell enables musicians to hear each other better, reflecting sound and directing it into the auditorium in a clear, natural and undistorted manner. The construction will be used mainly for orchestral concerts with or without chorus.

“We are delighted that the new concert shell constructed by our own workshops enables us to significantly improve the acoustic conditions at the Haus für Mozart, which were already good to begin with,” says **Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser**.

In order to meet the acoustic, technical and aesthetic demands even better, the team surrounding the Salzburg Festival's Technical Director's office, including its director **Andreas Zechner** and the designated manager of the props and sets workshop **Sandrina Schwarz**, who was responsible for the project and its design, were determined to implement the construction of the concert shell to state-of-the-art standards. The project was then planned and prepared for approximately one month; within three further months, the entire wood and steel construction was built at the Salzburg Festival's workshops. All technical questions of construction and statics, as well as tasks ranging from the design of the walls with convex surfaces to the use of the right materials and the placement of a sufficient number of risers to

accommodate the individual needs of choral and orchestral concerts, were solved by in-house capabilities and competence. In order to accommodate orchestra and choruses in the rear rows, five risers measuring eleven metres in breadth and one metre in depth as well as a grandstand were constructed from wood.

For each of the 15 side and rear wall elements, veneers were assembled from ash heartwood and glued onto wooden boards. These veneered wooden boards were attached to a wooden base construction and glued together to form a sash measuring seven metres by one-and-a-half. In the course of the woodwork, the veneer was sampled in intense collaboration with the Austrian company Frischeis and cut from one single trunk of ash heartwood.

The sash was attached to a steel construction, then placed in a vertical position. These elements can be stored in a space-saving manner, and the construction also saves setup time. Overhead spots are set into the four-part ceiling. The ceiling canopies are hooked into the overstage machinery at a 15-degree angle.

In view of everyday use, safe and smooth handling of the wall and ceiling elements is equally important as their space-saving storage within the stage area and the time it takes to set up and strike the concert shell. These criteria were optimally met by the solution now implemented.

Photo link:

<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en/photos/new-concert-shell-for-the-haus-fuer-mozart-2>