

SALZBURG WHITSUN FESTIVAL

6 to 9 June 2025

Cecilia Bartoli brings Venice to Salzburg

(27 March 2025) After Rome and Seville in the past years, Artistic Director **Cecilia Bartoli** continues her imaginary city trips as part of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival from 6 to 9 June 2025, focusing on the sounds of the lagoon city of **Venice**, its light and lightness, in her programme.



Cecilia Bartoli has chosen Antonio Vivaldi's music as the focus of the festival's new staged production. Photo: SF

HOTEL METAMORPHOSIS

World Premiere of an Opera Pasticcio with Music by Antonio Vivaldi

The 22 operas by Antonio Vivaldi that have come down to us were long forgotten, but enjoy immense popularity again today. Cecilia Bartoli initiated this remarkable 20th-century rediscovery. However, she has waited until now to tread the stage in a Vivaldi production, choosing a newly created evening of musical theatre she has assembled, together with conductor Gianluca Capuano and director Barrie Kosky, from Vivaldi's most beautiful arias, ensembles and choruses, in the manner of a baroque "pasticcio".

Baroque arias offer an exemplary view of a certain emotional state – joy, grief, love, rage – and therefore have always been strung together like pearls on a new string when a group of outstanding singers got together to prove their mettle by performing them. In Barrie Kosky's words, Ovid's *Metamorphoses* display "a panoply of human emotions". These varied stories are eminently suited for a pasticcio: the Hotel Metamorphosis is a place of encounter for famous characters of classical mythology.

Hotel Metamorphosis is the first collaboration between **Barrie Kosky, Gianluca Capuano** and **Cecilia Bartoli**. The cast also includes three outstanding Vivaldi performers, **Philippe Jaroussky, Lea Desandre** and **Varduhi Abrahamyan**, one of the great actresses of the German language, **Angela Winkler**, and the **orchestra Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco**, which has caused a sensation in Salzburg regularly during the past years, performing on historical instruments.



Cecilia Bartoli, Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival since 2012, has chosen the sounds of the lagoon city of Venice, its light and lightness, as the focus of her programme. Photo: SF

Speaking about the world premiere und the personal premiere it represents for her, **Cecilia Bartoli** says:

“In 1999, the release of my first Vivaldi album launched the worldwide, enthusiastic recognition of Antonio Vivaldi as a serious opera composer. For the first time, one could hear Vivaldi arias on a CD featuring only first recordings. Shortly thereafter, the label Opus 111 began its now-famous series of recordings of Vivaldi’s complete operas. Today, his oeuvre has found its place in the regular opera house repertoire. Almost 20 years after the first CD, my second Vivaldi album came out, so that I have recorded one of the most beautiful numbers from each of the operas that have come down to us. Since, however, I have never been able to perform a Vivaldi opera on stage so far, I had the idea of creating a pasticcio for Salzburg, a world premiere paying homage to all these masterworks at once! It will be sung and played by some of the best musicians active in this field today.”

Director Barrie Kosky describes the new production:



Barrie Kosky
© Jan Windszus Photography

"*Hotel Metamorphosis* tells five stories of love and desire from Ovid's poem *Metamorphoses* using vocal and instrumental music from Antonio Vivaldi. The stories are the visions and memories of Orpheus lamenting the loss of his beloved wife and his inability to live without her. The music of Vivaldi becomes the songs and melodies of Orpheus as he weaves mythology, ritual, nature and fantasy into a meditation on love and loss. The stories of Pygmalion, Arachne, Myrrha, Narcissus and Echo and Orpheus and Eurydice are sung, acted and danced by an extraordinary ensemble of singers, actors, dancers and musicians."

Conductor Gianluca Capuano: "Rarely has a composer been identified to such a degree with a city as Vivaldi with Venice. In Vivaldi's music, we hear the sounds of *La Serenissima*, we enjoy the light pouring through the *calli* and onto the surface of the canals. As if in an endless interplay of change and reflection, the light makes the Venetian palaces glow, they are mirrored in the ubiquitous water, and the water itself reflects its lights onto the visitor, who loses himself in an unreal, almost otherworldly atmosphere.

Come hear the great Venetian's greatest arias, delve into this glowing sound with us: Venice awaits you in Salzburg!"



Gianluca Capuano © Gianandrea Uggetti

***Hotel Metamorphosis* is a pasticcio for our times.**



Set design for *Hotel Metamorphosis* © Michael Levine

With this production, Cecilia Bartoli returns once again to an artist to whose reassessment as an opera composer she made a significant contribution as early as 1999, when her legendary *Vivaldi Album* appeared.

In addition, Cecilia Bartoli pays homage to one of the great ballet institutions of the 20th century: John Neumeier and the Hamburg Ballet.

DEATH IN VENICE


John Neumeier's free adaptation of Thomas Mann's novella *Tod in Venedig* was created for the dancers of the Hamburg Ballet. Neumeier calls his ballet "a love story about life". His interpretation focuses on the figure of the master choreographer Gustav von Aschenbach. **David Fray** performs the piano part.

John Neumeier shared 50 years of symbiotic collaboration with the Hamburg Ballet, which even bore his name for a time. During this period, the company performed six times in Venice; at the Teatro La Fenice, of course, but also in the Piazza San Marco. John Neumeier is reviving the ballet *Death in Venice* in Salzburg, as part of an extensive retrospective marking the end of his artistic directorship. Neumeier draws on music by Bach and Wagner to build the bridges between eras and art forms that are so characteristic of his work.



Photos of *Death in Venice* © Kiran West



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In all these endeavours, Rolex supports artistic excellence and the transmission of knowledge to future generations, who in turn pass on the world's cultural legacy. Among its Testimonees in music are world-leading artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, Benjamin Bernheim, Gustavo Dudamel, Juan Diego Flórez, Jonas Kaufmann, Rolando Villazón, Sonya Yoncheva and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. In 2012, Rolex became Main Sponsor of the Salzburg Festival and Exclusive Sponsor of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival. Furthermore, since 2021 Rolex has supported the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award.

Ticket Sales

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

The Salzburg Festival's Ticket Office has moved due to construction work on the new Festival Centre. Until its completion, the Ticket Office can be found at this address:

Monday to Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wiener-Philharmoniker-Gasse 3
5020 Salzburg
Tel. +43 662 8045 500
info@salzburgfestival.at

Press Tickets

Please direct your inquiries to presse.karten@salzburgfestival.at.

SALZBURG WHITSUN FESTIVAL 2025

HOTEL METAMORPHOSIS

A Pasticcio with music by Antonio Vivaldi in two acts

Texts by Ovid in Hermann Heiser's German translation

Version by Barrie Kosky and Olaf A. Schmitt

New Production

Haus für Mozart

6 and 8 June 2025 as well as 31 July, 5, 10, 13 and 15 August 2025

Cecilia Bartoli Arachne / Eurydice

Varduhi Abrahamyan Minerva / Nutrice

Lea Desandre Echo / Statua / Myrrha

Philippe Jaroussky Narcissus / Pygmalion

Angela Winkler Orpheus

Il Canto di Orfeo

Jacopo Facchini Chorusmaster

Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco

Gianluca Capuano Conductor

Barrie Kosky Director and Concept

Otto Pichler Choreography

Michael Levine Sets

Klaus Bruns Costumes

Franck Evin Lighting

rocafilm Video

Olaf A. Schmitt Concept and Dramaturgy

DEATH IN VENICE

A Dance of Death by John Neumeier

based on the novella by Thomas Mann
with music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)
and Richard Wagner (1813 - 1883)

A guest performance by the Hamburg Ballet Großes Festspielhaus

7 June

John Neumeier Choreography and Staging
Peter Schmidt Sets
John Neumeier, Peter Schmidt Costumes
David Fray Piano
Hamburg Ballet

LA TRAVIATA

Opera in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave
based on the novel *La Dame aux camélias* (1848) by Alexandre Dumas fils.

Concert Performance Großes Festspielhaus

8 June

Nadine Sierra Violetta Valéry
Piotr Beczala Alfredo Germont
Luca Salsi Giorgio Germont
Štěpánka Pučálková Flora Bervoix
Alejandro Del Angel Gastone
Milan Siljanov Baron Douphol
Andrew Moore Marquis d'Obigny
Francesco Milanese Doctor Grenvil

Massimo Zanetti Conductor
Chœur de l'Opéra de Monte-Carlo
Stefano Visconti Chorusmaster
Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg

VESPRO DELLA BEATA VERGINE

Sacred Concert

Bruno Mantovani
Venezianischer Morgen for a-cappella chorus

Claudio Monteverdi

Vespro della Beata Vergine

Mozarteum Foundation – Main Auditorium

7 June

Gianluca Capuano Conductor

Il Canto di Orfeo

Jacopo Facchini Chorusmaster

Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco

....SOFFERTE ONDE SERENE...

Matinee

Works by Liszt, Wagner, Berg, Sciarrino, Nono

Mozarteum Foundation – Main Auditorium

9 June

Performers:

Markus Hinterhäuser Piano

Matthias Goerne Baritone

ROSSINI IN VENICE

Opera Gala

*Arias and Ensembles from Tancredi, Semiramide,
Otello, Maometto II und L'Italiana in Algeri*

9 June

Mélissa Petit Soprano

Cecilia Bartoli Mezzo-Soprano

Sergey Romanovsky Tenor

Ildebrando D'Arcangelo Bass-Baritone

Gianluca Capuano Conductor

Chœur de l'Opéra de Monte-Carlo

Stefano Visconti Chorusmaster

Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco

Members of the Würth Philharmonic

Felsenreitschule