# “The Stage of the World”: Salzburg cultural highlights in anniversary year 2020

# Salzburg celebrates “100 Years Salzburg Festival”

*The Salzburg Festival is the world’s most important celebration of opera, music and theater. In summer 2020, it will mark its 100th birthday with brilliant productions and an extensive array of festivities. These will already get underway in spring with the state exhibition “Great World Theatre” at the Salzburg Museum and will culminate in truly extraordinary moments during the summer months. That said, this city of music and the festival doesn’t only celebrate the fine arts in summertime: From January through December, roughly 4500 different events stand on the program.*

Salzburg is a cultural and musical metropolis beyond compare: This festival city in the heart of Europe and on the edge of the Alps is a **cosmopolitan mecca of the fine arts**. It was the love of the prince-archbishops for music and theatre that provided fertile ground for the city’s growth towards international musical significance, a status that continues uninterrupted to this very day. It was in Salzburg that the first opera north of the Alps was staged. The music performed at the Salzburg court was renowned and bore comparison with the very best in Europe, while today a cavalcade of performers – including some of the greatest stars of their respective genres – are proud to take the spotlight here in Salzburg.

100 Years “Salzburg Festival” – Salzburg celebrates a big anniversary!

100 Years of the Salzburg Festival

“The entire city is a stage” – this is how the founders of the Salzburg Festival – Max Reinhardt, Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Richard Strauss – formulated their intentions 100 years ago. Their wishes came true: In the meantime, the Salzburg Festival has become one of the most important festivals for the performing arts worldwide.

In honor of its 100th birthday, the Salzburg Festival will celebrate with 222 performances in 44 days at 15 different venues. The operatic highlights will include, in addition to Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” and “The Magic Flute”, Strauss’s “Electra” and Mussorgsky’s “Boris Godunov”, a number of successful productions from Mozart Week (“The Messiah”, 2020), the Easter Festival (“Tosca”, 2018 with Anna Netrebko in the role of Floria Tosca) and the Whitsun Festival (“Don Pasquale”, 2020 with Cecilia Bartoli in the lead role). For the first time, this program will span many of the top-quality musical events that make Salzburg a year-round festival destination.

As for stage plays, “Jedermann” will once again be the focus of attention – including a big “Jedermann Day” on 22 August 2020, on which tribute will be paid to a piece whose first performance on 22 August 1920 marked the birth of the Salzburg Festival. There will also be an extraordinary “Jedermann” reading at the Felsenreitschule, a celebratory performance on Cathedral Square and even a banquet with a gigantic “Jedermann” table extending through the streets and plazas of the Festival District.

The concert program comprises 91 events with a thematic focus on Ludwig van Beethoven, who would have celebrated his 250th birthday in 2020. Ouverture Spirituelle, which has been scheduled during the opening week of the festival since 2012, will be entitled “Pax” – Peace – in 2020, clear reference to the original intention of the festival’s founders to host a project for peace.

Some 242,000 tickets will be available for purchase online beginning on 27 March 2020 (advance orders until 7 January 2020).

Salzburg Festival | 18 July to 30 August 2020 | [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

State exhibition “Great World Theatre – 100 Years Salzburg Festival”

With the state exhibition “Great World Theatre – 100 Years Salzburg Festival”, the Salzburg Museum dedicates itself to the most famous festival worldwide, its history, its development, and its prospects for the future. The exhibition is laid out like a “stage play”, divided into four areas: While Chapter 1 “Great Cinema” takes a cinematic approach to the Salzburg Festival, Chapter 2 entitled “The Archive” is the heart of the exhibition: The magnificent Max Gandolph Library is transformed symbolically into a walkable encyclopedia that recounts 100 years of festival history by means of photos, publications, audio samples, objects from a vast costume treasure trove and much more. In the “Dialogue” of Chapter 3, various perspectives from institutions as well as artists provide a collective account and examination of the Salzburg Festival as a “complete work of art”. Chapter 4 “On Stage” turns the Art Hall into a stage for the duration of the exhibition, above all during Festival Summer 2020, a stage upon which people with close ties to the Salzburg Festival are given a voice.

Salzburg Museum | 25 April through 31 October 2020 | [www.salzburgmuseum.at](http://www.salzburgmuseum.at)

Music exhibition “Music everywhere!” – prologue to the state exhibition

The music exhibition “Music everywhere!” at DomQuartier Salzburg sees itself as a prologue to the state exhibition “Great World Theatre – 100 Years Salzburg Festival”. The DomQuartier, which encompasses the palatial halls of the Residenz along with the cathedral area, is a historically significant venue for the performance of spiritual and secular music, simultaneously the cradle of Salzburg’s musical tradition. Within the framework of an exhibition consisting of texts, pictures, stagings, multimedia presentations and musical examples, visitors are able to experience an exclusive journey of discovery through 200 years of Salzburg’s musical history. The musicians whom visitors will literally encounter at original locations within the Alte Residenz and the cathedral, and whose achievements have had a sustained impact on Salzburg, include W. A. Mozart, Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, Georg Muffat, Antonio Caldara and Michael Haydn.

DomQuartier | 28 June 2020 until 7 March 2021 | [www.domquartier.at](http://www.domquartier.at)

2020 Highlights in the Festival City

Mozart Week hosted by Mozarteum Foundation Salzburg

Mozart Week is the world’s most important Mozart festival: It opens the 2020 musical calendar from 23 January until 2 February, and does so quite furiously. In his second year as artistic director, star tenor Rolando Villazón invites visitors to discover the Mozart cosmos. Program highlights include Mozart’s friendships on the one hand, and his compositions for woodwind and brass on the other. Around 50 events, including stage projects, orchestral concerts, chamber music and dance will cast light on various aspects of the theme with the help of outstanding artists, ensembles and orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, Daniel Barenboim, Sir András Schiff, Mitsuko Uchida and Mojca Erdmann. Celebrated theatre figure Robert Wilson will present a magnificent stage production of **The Messiah** *(*K 572), a Mozart adaptation of Handel’s oratorio interpreted by Les Musiciens du Louvre under the direction of Marc Minkowski.

Mozart Week | 23 January through 2 February 2020 | [www.mozarteum.at](http://www.mozarteum.at)

Salzburg Easter Festival 2020

Founded by star conductor Herbert von Karajan in 1967, the exquisite Easter Festival spans 10 days, during which it presents one opera as well as several concerts. In 2013, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden took over the reins as the festival orchestra in residence from the Berlin Philharmonic, under the musical direction of Christian Thielemann. 2020 will see a performance of Verdi’s **Don Carlo** in a special four-act version, directed by Vera Nemirova. The cast for the opera will be quite magnificent, including Anja Harteros as Elisabetta, Yusif Eyvazov as Don Carlo and Ildar Abdrazakov as Filippo II. In addition, a premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina’s commissioned work **The Ire of God** will be on the program**.** The 2020 Herbert von Karajan Prize will be awarded to extraordinary violinist Janine Jansen, who will perform Beethoven’s violin concerto.

**Salzburg Easter Festival | 24 March through 13 April 2020 |** [**www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at**](http://www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at)

Salzburg Whitsun Festival 2020

Festival director Cecilia Bartoli casts the spotlight of Salzburg Whitsun Festival 2020 on French opera singer, pianist and composer Pauline Viardot-García (1821 – 1910), with the festival entitled **The Color of Time**. Pauline Viardot-García stands symbolically for numerous women who, in the course of the 19th century, were able to shape musical history as prima donnas and muses. At the center of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival is Gaetano Donizetti’s opera buffa **Don Pasquale** in a new production by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier. Cecilia Bartoli will assume the role of Norina, which was sung in the mid-19th century by Pauline Viardot. The program also comprises concerts, a matinee of *lieder* and Hector Berlioz’s balletic opera **Orphée**: Pauline Viardot-García was the first female Orphée in France, standing on the stage in that role on 138 separate occasions. In Salzburg, that role will be performed by French opera singer Marianne Crebassa.

Salzburger Whitsun Festival | 25 May through 1 June 2020 | [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

Other 2020 highlights in the year of music and culture

ASPEKTE SALZBURG 2020

The Aspekte Salzburg Festival for contemporary music was founded in 1977 and is dedicated to the works of Austrian as well as international composers of the 20th and 21st century. Well-established and famous far beyond Austria’s borders, every two years this festival offers audiences the opportunity to expose themselves to the “music of our time”, while simultaneously time getting to know young composers and performers, both domestic and foreign. **Aspekte Salzburg | 25 through 29 March 2020 |** [**www.aspekte-salzburg.com**](http://www.aspekte-salzburg.com)

Sommerszene Festival 2020

With the founding of Szene Salzburg in the late 1960s, an exciting counterpoint to the Salzburg Festival was created with a focus on contemporary dance. In the meantime, Sommerszene has gained an excellent international reputation. Highly acclaimed, it successfully draws a cavalcade of international dancers and performers to Salzburg’s stages. The program is supplemented by theater, music, film as well as the visual arts.

Sommerszene Festival | 15 through 27 June 2020 | www.szene-salzburg.net

Salzburger Kulturtage 2020

For the better part of 50 years now, Salzburger Kulturtage has been one of the high points of the cultural calendar in the city of Mozart. Above all, its program is committed to delivering musical diversity: Local and international artists and musicians representative of various styles stand on the program, as do new and familiar sounds along with a broad offering for children and young people.

Salzburger Kulturtage | 9 through 22 October 2020 | [www.kulturvereinigung.com](http://www.kulturvereinigung.com)

Jazz & The City

Annually at the end of October, “Jazz & The City” brings the Salzburg historic district to life with the sounds of jazz, World & electronic music. Around 70 concerts on five days and 30 stages scattered throughout Salzburg give the city of Mozart an extraordinary boost of variety. Admission to the concerts is free.

Jazz & The City | 14 to 18 October 2020 | [www.salzburgjazz.com](http://www.salzburg-altstadt.com)

DIALOGE – festival for music

Dialoge was born at the Mozarteum Foundation on the occasion of Mozart Year 2006. Under the auspices of this festival, audiences can experience contemporary artists from the disciplines of music, dance, literature, the visual arts and film. The primary target group is a public that is open both to new as well as classical music. The interdisciplinary nature of the Dialoge program intends to pry apart the traditional concert protocol and develop new, strong audio scenarios.

Dialoge | 20 through 29 November 2020 | [www.mozarteum.at/dialoge](http://www.mozarteum.at/dialoge)

Salzburg Advent Singing

Around 200 people front- and backstage at the Grosses Festspielhaus participate annually in the world-famous Salzburg Advent Singing. This traditional heritage event first took place in 1946, since when it has become a role model for countless similar Advent celebrations throughout the Alpine region. During Advent, some 36,000 visitors from more than 40 different countries open themselves to the enchantment of these productions, reconceived every year, though always focused on the birth of Christ and the miracle of Christmas.

Salzburger Advent Singing | 27 November to 13 December 2020 |

[www.salzburgeradventsingen.at](http://www.salzburgeradventsingen.at)

Winterfest 2020

Winterfest is one of the most important festivals for contemporary circus performance and will be celebrating its 20 year anniversary in 2020. It is held annually in the Salzburg Volksgarten from the end of November until the beginning of January. This multi-week festival has dedicated itself to a form of artistry that spans the entire bandwidth, from dance and acrobatics, to theatre, puppet theatre and the visual arts. Year after year, some of the most acclaimed circus companies from France, Canada, Great Britain and Switzerland can be seen in Salzburg. Coupled with delectable culinary offerings, this truly is an experience for all the senses. The program is published in mid-October.

Winterfest | November 2020 through January 2021 | [www.winterfest.at](http://www.winterfest.at)

**Further Information:**

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