

**SALZBURG WHITSUN FESTIVAL**  
**Artistic Director: Cecilia Bartoli**

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# **Press Conference**

## **Salzburg Whitsun Festival 2018**

02 June 2017, 10:30 am  
SalzburgKulisse

*The Directorate of the Salzburg Festival*

Helga Rabl-Stadler      Markus Hinterhäuser

## **Salzburg Whitsun Festival 2018**

**1868 – Year of Ruptures**

**18 to 21 May 2017**



Dondorf luxury playing cards "The Four Continents", designed ca. 1870, Frankfurt, 1880–1906. Image courtesy of The International Playing Card Society



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### 1868 – Year of Ruptures

2018 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gioachino Rossini's death. The 2018 Salzburg Whitsun Festival is dedicated to his memory.

“This is the special quality of Cecilia Bartoli, our imaginative Artistic Director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival: taking the Rossini memorial as a point of departure, she evokes the many turning points of the year 1868,” says **Markus Hinterhäuser**, Artistic Director of the Salzburg Festival.



Cecilia Bartoli © Decca/ Simon Fowler

In order to assemble the events, Cecilia Bartoli used the year 1868, the year of Rossini's death, as orientation. Her programme is to open a different perspective on the composer, showing what the world looked like at the end of his life, which terminated amidst a turning point in the musical world.

The centrepiece of the Whitsun Festival is the staged production, Rossini's opera ***L'italiana in Algeri***, first performed on 22 May 1813 – the very day that Richard Wagner was born. In this musical comedy, Cecilia Bartoli sings the role of Isabella: “She is a sharp-witted and feisty woman who tells the men around her what's what,” the mezzo-soprano says. In comic fashion, the opera recounts the mad tale of two foreign cultures that collide and overwhelm each other with strange rituals. The opera is directed by the duo Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier, already familiar to Whitsun Festival audiences from their productions of Bellini's *Norma* and Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*. The opera is conducted by Jean-Christophe Spinosi, at the helm of Ensemble Matheus. Alongside Bartoli, the cast includes Peter Kálmán, Edgardo Rocha, Alessandro Corbelli, José Coca Loza, Rebeca Olvera and Rosa Bove.

While Rossini's life was nearing its end, another composer – originally German, but French by choice – was at the height of his fame in Paris. In 1868 Jacques Offenbach's opera ***Périscholle*** was first performed. In 2018 this scintillating score will be revived in concert by Marc Minkowski and his Musiciens du Louvre. The cast features Aude Extrémo, Benjamin Bernheim, Laurent Alvaro and Lea Desandre, among others.

Whitsun Saturday also features a **sacred matinee** – Anton Bruckner's motet *Pange lingua* of 1868 and Johannes Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* of 1869 will be conducted by Jérémie



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Rhorer. Genia Kühmeier and Andrè Schuen join the Bavarian Radio Chorus as soloists. At Cecilia Bartoli's special request, the piano part will be played by Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Markus Hinterhäuser.

The musical turning point between eras can be traced not only in opera, but also in the development of the solo concerto and in symphonic music. The **orchestra concert** offers Rossini's Overture to *Semiramide*, his *melodramma tragico*, Edvard Grieg's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in A minor and Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 in G minor. András Schiff plays the solo part; the Staatskapelle Berlin is conducted by Daniel Barenboim.

Javier Camarena's **aria recital** is both an homage to the Spanish tenor and vocal pedagogue Manuel del Pópulo Vicente Rodríguez García (1775-1832) and to Rossini. The role of Count Almaviva seems to have been tailored to Camarena himself. And García was reputed to reach the high C even in his chest voice. The recital features arias from *Ricciardo e Zoraide*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *El poeta calculista*. Gianluca Capuano conducts Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco.

The **soloist concert** with Maxim Vengerov on Whitsun Monday again takes us back to the year 1868, when Max Bruch completed his virtuoso Violin Concerto No. 1, a romantic showpiece par excellence. It is paired with Camille Saint-Saëns' *Rondo capriccioso* and *Havanaise* as well as Tchaikovsky's Serenade in C major for String Orchestra. The Camerata Salzburg performs together with Maxim Vengerov.

The 2018 Salzburg Whitsun Festival ends with a **gala concert** on Monday evening. Cecilia Bartoli, Rolando Villazón and Jonas Kaufmann sing with the Staatskapelle Berlin under the baton of Daniel Barenboim. While composing *Lohengrin*, Richard Wagner claimed, he had been haunted by melodies from Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*, leaving him in "great torment" and blocking all original musical thought. He added that only by humming Beethoven's Ninth to himself had he been able to liberate himself, restoring his creative power. – "It is music one must hear a number of times," Gioachino Rossini acknowledged after attending a performance of Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, "but I won't be going again..." The two geniuses may have traded barbs – yet their only meeting, in Paris in 1860, turned out to be a friendly, thoughtful, even merry exchange. Musically, the two presumably never got closer than the practically through-composed Act III of *Otello*, parts of which will be performed at the gala concert. Wagner is represented by excerpts from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Tristan und Isolde*.

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## SALZBURG WHITSUN FESTIVAL 2018

### Friday, 18 May

7 pm | Haus für Mozart

#### Opera

Gioachino Rossini *L'Italiana in Algeri*

Jean-Christophe Spinosi · Moshe Leiser / Patrice Caurier · Cecilia Bartoli · Peter Kálmán · Edgardo Rocha · Alessandro Corbelli · José Coca Loza · Rebeca Olvera et al.  
Ensemble Matheus · Philharmonia Chor Wien

### Saturday, 19 May

11 am | Stiftung Mozarteum - Großer Saal

#### Sacred Matinee

Anton Bruckner · Johannes Brahms  
Jérémie Rhorer · Genia Kühmeier · André Schuen · Pierre-Laurent Aimard · Markus Hinterhäuser · Bavarian Radio Chorus

7 pm | Haus für Mozart

#### Opera in Concert

Jacques Offenbach *La Périochole*

Marc Minkowski · Aude Extrémo · Benjamin Bernheim · Laurent Alvaro · Lea Desandre et al.  
Les Musiciens du Louvre — Grenoble · Le Choeur de l'Opéra National de Bordeaux

### Sunday, 20 May

11 am | Großes Festspielhaus

#### Orchestra Concert

Gioachino Rossini · Edvard Grieg · Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Daniel Barenboim · Andrés Schiff · Staatskapelle Berlin

3 pm | Stiftung Mozarteum - Großer Saal

#### Aria Recital

An Homage to Manuel García

Gioachino Rossini · Manuel García

Javier Camarena · Gianluca Capuano · Les Musiciens du Prince - Monaco

7 pm | Haus für Mozart

#### Opera

Gioachino Rossini *L'Italiana in Algeri*

### Monday, 21 May

11 am | Stiftung Mozarteum - Großer Saal

#### Soloist's Concert

Max Bruch · Camille Saint-Saëns · Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Maxim Vengerov · Camerata Salzburg

6 pm | Großes Festspielhaus

#### Gala Concert

Gioachino Rossini · Richard Wagner



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Daniel Barenboim · Cecilia Bartoli · Rolando Villazón · Jonas Kaufmann · Staatskapelle Berlin

### Service

Photographs can be found on our website at:

<http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/fotoservice>



Daniel Barenboim  
© Peter Adamik



Jean-Christophe Spinosi  
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Patrice Caurier (l.) and Moshe Leiser  
© k.A.



Jonas Kaufmann  
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Genia Kühmeier  
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Rebeca Olvera  
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## TICKET SALES

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We kindly request that you send your orders, using our order form, to the following address:  
SALZBURG FESTIVAL

Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz 11 · 5020 Salzburg · Austria

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**Subscription orders** are processed **with priority** in the order in which they are received.  
**Single ticket orders** are processed from **16 October 2017** (subject to availability). Please do not send any payment until you have received an invoice. Payment may be made by bank transfer or credit card; details of our bank account are enclosed.

### Online Sales

Starting on 06 June 2017, you will be able to book your subscription directly online. Individual tickets can be purchased directly online, starting on 16 October 2017 (payment via credit card).

[www.salzburgfestival.at/whitsun](http://www.salzburgfestival.at/whitsun)

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### Direct Sales

Subscriptions: from 06. June 2017 onwards

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Ticket counters at the Festival Shop, Hofstallgasse 1

Opening hours: until 30 June 2017 and starting 23 March until

17 May 2018: Mon — Fri 9:30 am—3 pm · from 01 to 20 July 2017:

Mon—Sat 9:30 am—5 pm · during the Festival (Whitsun and

Summer): daily 9:30 am—6:30 pm · from October 2017 to March 2018:

direct sales via the ticket office.

The evening box offices at the performance venues open 1 hour before the performance

Press Office of the Salzburg Festival

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