



Osterfestspiele *Salzburg*  
Salzburg *Easter Festival*

26

Berliner Philharmoniker  
Kirill Petrenko

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## 26

Salzburg Easter Festival 2026:  
Start of a new »RING DES NIBELUNGEN«  
with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Kirill Petrenko

Salzburg, 2 April 2025

The Salzburg Easter Festival will open a new chapter from 2026: with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the founding orchestra will return to the Salzach.

For the first five years of the residency, Artistic Director Nikolaus Bachler and Kirill Petrenko, Chief Conductor of the top Berlin orchestra since 2019, will present new productions of two works: Richard Wagner's tetralogy »Der Ring des Nibelungen« and Arnold Schoenberg's only grand opera »Moses und Aron«. The new »Ring« will be staged by Russian director Kirill Serebrennikov, with Christian Gerhaher making his role debut as Wotan. Kirill Petrenko will also conduct Gustav Mahler's monumental 8th Symphony, while the other concerts will feature violinist Janine Jansen and conductors Daniel Harding and Tugan Sokhiev, among others.

A press conference with Kirill Petrenko, Nikolaus Bachler, Andrea Zietzschmann and members of the Berliner Philharmoniker's Executive Board will take place in Salzburg at the beginning of September 2025.

# RICHARD WAGNER: DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN – DAS RHEINGOLD

Musical Direction Kirill Petrenko

Production Kirill Serebrennikov

When Herbert von Karajan founded the Easter Festival in 1967, he imagined Salzburg as the only place where the Berliner Philharmoniker could be heard in the opera pit. He chose Richard Wagner's tetralogy as the first opera work and staged the first »Ring« in the history of the festival himself. Instead of »Die Walküre«, with which the festival opened in 1967, the new »Ring« will start in 2026 with »Das Rheingold« in accordance with the chronology of the cycle.

Kirill Petrenko conducted his first tetralogy from 2001 to 2004 at the Meiningen Theatre, followed by the »Ring« in Frank Castorf's production at the Bayreuth Festival in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The »Ring« was last conducted by Kirill Petrenko in Munich 2018, when he was General Music Director at the Bayerische Staatsoper.

Kirill Serebrennikov, »perhaps the most musical and at the same time one of the most imaginative, original and uncompromising opera interpreters of our time« (Nikolaus Bachler), has been secured as director. The Russian-born director has already staged works by Richard Wagner twice in his career: »Parsifal« at the Vienna State Opera in 2021 and »Lohengrin« at the Opéra National de Paris in 2023. Kirill Serebrennikov and his team have set themselves the goal of transforming the »Ring des Nibelungen« into a mystery of myth-making that unites artists from different cultures. »I aspire some sort of world theatre, on which the images, inspired by folk art from Africa, Asia and America, form new beliefs; remains of technogenic heritage become nothing but abandoned sanctuary,«, says Serebrennikov. »The linearity of past and future breaks down into pieces of mosaic for Wagner's music to bind them at once again and let them speak about the foregone future that awaits us.«

The German baritone Christian Gerhaher, most recently acclaimed at the Salzburg Easter Festival as Wolfram von Eschenbach in »Tannhäuser« in 2023 and as an interpreter of Brahms songs in 2024, makes his role debut as Wotan. In keeping with Kirill Serebrennikov's basic idea, the cast is made up of singers from all over the world and embodies a young generation of Wagner voices: Brenton Ryan as Loge, Leigh Melrose as Alberich, Catriona Morison as Fricka, Sarah Brady as Freia and Jasmin White as Erda.

There is one important difference to previous »Ring« productions in Salzburg: in 2028, the cycle will be interrupted by a performance of Arnold Schoenberg's »Moses and Aron«. In addition to the connection with tradition, the aim is also to look resolutely to the future - with an opera that has never before been on the programme at the Salzburg Easter Festival and is of timeless modernity. Both works are undoubtedly central to the work of their composers, and they are united both by their status as a Gesamtkunstwerk and by the revolutionary nature of their musical means. They describe social concepts for a world whose spiritual foundations have been shattered or which perish in the course of the plot. This exciting combination means that the production of the »Ring« will extend over not just four, but five Easter festivals.

# CONCERTS

## CHORAL CONCERT I: HAYDN

Conductor **Daniel Harding**

Soprano **Hanna-Elisabeth Müller** Tenor **Andrew Staples** Bass **Konstantin Kimmel**

The Bavarian Radio Chorus

Berliner Philharmoniker

The first Choral Concert features Joseph Haydn's oratorio »Die Schöpfung«, a work of the century about the creation of the world out of chaos. Daniel Harding, Chief Conductor of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, has been closely associated with the Berliner Philharmoniker artistically for almost 30 years since his debut as a 21-year-old.

## CHORAL CONCERT II: MAHLER

Soprano **Jacquelyn Wagner / Golda Schultz / Liv Redpath** Alt **Beth Taylor / Fleur Barron**

Tenor **Benjamin Bruns** Baritone **Gihoon Kim** Bass **Le Bu**

Rundfunkchor Berlin, Bachchor Salzburg, Salzburger Festspiele Theater und Kinderchor

Berliner Philharmoniker

The 2026 Easter Festival programme offers two Choral Concerts: In the second, Kirill Petrenko performs Gustav Mahler's monumental Eighth Symphony, also known as the »Symphony of a Thousand«, for the first time with the Berliner Philharmoniker. With eight soloists, three choirs and a huge orchestra, Mahler goes beyond anything that has gone before. After 15 years, the Berliner Philharmoniker are bringing this spectacular work back to the stage, first in the Philharmonie Berlin and then at the Easter Festival under the direction of Kirill Petrenko.

## ORCHESTRAL CONCERT: BRAHMS-BRUCH / BERLIOZ

Conductor **Tugan Sokhiev**

Violin **Noah Bendix-Balgley** Violoncello **Bruno Delepelaire** (Brahms)

Violin **Janine Jansen** (Bruch)

Berliner Philharmoniker

Hector Berlioz' »Symphonie fantastique« is the centrepiece of the two concerts with Tugan Sokhiev. The first programme features the double concerto by Johannes Brahms, with the solo parts performed by two members of the Berliner Philharmoniker, first concertmaster Noah Bendix-Balgley and first principal cellist Bruno Delepelaire.

On the second date, violinist Janine Jansen, known for her subtle interpretations and laureate of the Herbert von Karajan Award of the Salzburg Easter Festival, will perform Max Bruch's Violin Concerto. Tugan Sokhiev has been a regular musical partner of the Berliner Philharmoniker since 2010.

# CHAMBER CONCERTS / LATE NIGHT CONCERTS

Another musical tradition returns to the Easter Festival: the rich chamber music programme with members of the Berliner Philharmoniker. The programme is all about contrasts and controversies. The Chamber Concerts show the different concepts with which composers competed against each other, be it in the juxtaposition of Mozart and Salieri, Brahms and Bruckner or Shostakovich and Schoenberg. In addition to the regular Chamber Concerts, the ensembles also organise two late-night formats. The concerts take place in the Great Hall and the Solitär of the Mozarteum as well as in the Szene Salzburg. This realises the orchestra's goal of being present not only in the festival district, but also in other locations in the city.

## SPECIAL CONCERT BE PHIL

Conductor **Tugan Sokhiev**

Members of the Berliner Philharmoniker

Be Phil Orchestra Salzburg Easter Festival 2026

For the Berliner Philharmoniker, its education programme is a matter close to its heart. The orchestra is now inviting amateur musicians from Austria and neighbouring countries to apply to take part in a very special project: The Be Phil Orchestra Salzburg Easter Festival 2026. Under the motto »Be yourself - Be music - Be Phil«, the Berliner Philharmoniker are looking for around 100 amateur musicians from Austria, Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Germany, Switzerland and Slovakia.

The conductor is Tugan Sokhiev, who will also lead the rehearsals in Salzburg from 29 March together with members of the Berliner Philharmoniker. The final concert will take place on 2 April 2026 in the Großes Festspielhaus. The programme will include Antonín Dvořák's Eighth Symphony and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Sinfonia concertante for four wind instruments and orchestra with members of the Berliner Philharmoniker in the solo parts.

Applications can be made via videos, which can be uploaded to the Berliner Philharmoniker website from 6 May 2025.

Information on the application procedure can be found at: [berliner-philharmoniker.de/bephil](https://berliner-philharmoniker.de/bephil)

We are still looking for local hosts to accommodate the members of the Be Phil Orchestra in Salzburg. Find out more at the link above.

# DANCE: PLANET [WANDERER]

Choreography **Damien Jalet**

Scenography **Kohei Nawa**

## Austrian Premiere

He is one of the most sought-after choreographers in the dance world and is bringing one of his works to Salzburg for the first time: together with the Japanese visual artist Kohei Nawa, Damien Jalet explored the fragile relationship between humans and the earth and created a monumental installation of bodies with »Planet [wanderer]«. Inspired by the etymology of the word »planet« from the Greek (»planaomai« means »to wander«), they form a universe in which the imagination knows no bounds. In doing so, they shift the boundaries between dance and visual art and create sculptures in motion or sculptural dance.

The German-Belgian choreographer and dancer Damien Jalet is internationally revered for his monumental choreographies, such as »Chiroptera« (2023), which was performed on the façade of the Opéra Garnier in Paris with the participation of 153 dancers. He has also created choreographies for Madonna (tours »Madame X« and »Celebration«) and the films »Suspiria« by Luca Guadagnino, »Anima« by Paul Thomas Anderson and »Emilia Pérez« by Jacques Audiard.

## RING CIRCLE

### The New Partner Programme of the Salzburg Easter Festival

Members of the new Ring Circle receive exclusive insights into the directorial work surrounding the creation of the new production of Richard Wagner's »Der Ring des Nibelungen«, meet artists during the rehearsal process and experience first-hand how a new production is created. In addition, Ring Circle members enjoy preferential treatment when booking tickets and are guaranteed access to the best seats every year. Depending on membership, members are entitled to between two and six tickets per performance. More information at [osterfestspiele.at/ring-circle](https://osterfestspiele.at/ring-circle)

## TICKET PRICES

The ticket prices of the Easter Festival have not been increased for more than ten years. The price adjustments for 2026 are limited to the top two categories of the opera performances. From category III onwards, prices remain unchanged.

Ticket prices for concerts have even been reduced thanks to the new Premium Partner Visit Qatar. Overall, there will be around 30 % more tickets at or below EUR 100.

## DISCOUNTS

Subscription to go: »A Trio for you« – back in the programme in 2026: a subscription at a special price, available exclusively at the ticket office in Wiener-Philharmoniker-Gasse 3. This special cycle with 30% reduced prices includes:

Choral Concert I HAYDN (4 April)

Orchestral Concert BRUCH / BERLIOZ (5 April)

»Das Rheingold« (6 April)

in three categories. A maximum of two subscriptions per person, while stocks last.

»A Trio for You« is available from 1 October 2025, advance booking is not possible.

A maximum of two subscriptions per person can be purchased, the number is limited.

#### U27

From 3 November 2025 (10:00 am), there will be an exclusive contingent of discounted tickets for everyone under 27 years of age in cooperation with the Ticket Gretchen app.

#### Patrons of the Easter Festival:

-10 % on Chamber Concerts & Late Night Concerts

#### S-Pass. The Salzburg

Youth Card:

-10 % on Orchestral Concert, Choral Concert I, BE PHIL Special Concert

#### Ö1 Club members:

-10 % on Orchestral Concert, Choral Concert I and BE PHIL Special Concert

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