



THE BERLIN PHILHARMONIC RETURNS TO SALZBURG

The Salzburg Easter Festival will once again have a permanent resident orchestra from 2026: the Berlin Philharmonic. Herbert von Karajan founded the Easter Festival together with this orchestra in 1967 and now the orchestra is returning to the tradition-rich festival on the Salzach.

"Exciting years lie ahead – until 2025 we want to welcome a different top orchestra to the Easter Festival every year," says Nikolaus Bachler, who has taken over as Artistic Director of the Salzburg Easter Festival in 2022. "However, I am very pleased that we have succeeded in tying the founding orchestra to this very special festival again – because the Berlin Philharmonic and Salzburg have a shared history of more than 45 years, which will blossom anew with principal conductor Kirill Petrenko from 2026."

"I would like to congratulate those responsible for the Salzburg Easter Festival, especially Artistic Director Nikolaus Bachler, on signing the Berliner Philharmoniker under Kirill Petrenko from the 2026 season, says Wilfried Haslauer, Governor of the State of Salzburg. "As one of the most important ensembles in the world with its distinctive profile, the orchestra shaped the Easter Festival for 46 years. The return to Salzburg is a continuation of a remarkable artistic and cultural success story and makes me extremely happy."

Programme details will be announced in spring 2025.



SALZBURG EASTER FESTIVAL 2023

The 2023 Easter Festival opens on 1 April 2023 with Festival conductor Andris Nelsons and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Richard Wagner's »Tannhäuser« will be performed for the first time in the history of the Festival. In a production by Romeo Castellucci, three soloists are making their role debuts: Elīna Garanča (Venus), Marlis Petersen (Elisabeth) and Jonas Kaufmann (Tannhäuser). The Orchestral and Choral Concerts, also conducted by Andris Nelsons, and feature music spanning four centuries, from Johann Sebastian Bach and Robert Schumann to Anton Bruckner, Johannes Brahms, Thierry Escaich and Sofia Gubaidulina. The soloists here are Julia Kleiter, Gautier Capuçon and Christian Gerhaher.

For the first time, Nikolaus Bachler is opening up the festival to other genres: »Träume« (Dreams), a creation by choreographer Emanuel Gat inspired by Richard Wagner's »Wesendonck Lieder«, will be premiered, and electronic beats will meet the masterpieces of the Leipzig composer in »Westbam meets Wagner«.

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