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Press information

Festival KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen
6.6. - 1.7. and 19 - 28.9.2014

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Fascinating relationships: the fifth KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen

Under the motto “Verhältnisse” [relationships/circumstances], the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen will present a cross-genre programme spanning a bridge between the Baroque era and contemporary artistic forms from 6 June to 1 July and 19 to 28 September 2014.

For the fifth consecutive year, a highly varied programme under the artistic direction of Dr. Elisabeth Schweeger featuring internationally renowned ensembles, composers and artists will take place within the historic buildings and the Großer Garten in Herrenhausen.

Elisabeth Schweeger comments on the motto of the festival: “Relationships can be either good or bad, secure or precarious. We would like to encourage you to join us on an exploration of our so highly varied relationships – both from our European past and also in our global present – occasionally dazzling, but certainly always discursive.”

Prof. Martin Roth, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, will open the festival during the Whitsun weekend. His festive opening speech will be followed by a performance of the Requiem by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in an arrangement by the South African composer Richard van Schoor. Artistic director is Christof Nel and the staging concept has been developed by Thomas Goerge. The Tölzer Knabenchor will be joined by the countertenors Valer Sabadus and Terry Wey undertaking the female solo vocal roles and the performance is conducted by Michael Hofstetter.

Further programme highlights include a concert by Igor Levit & friends featuring works by Shostakovich, a film concert with Buster Keaton’s silent movie “The General” (1926) combined with Terry Riley’s “In C” (1964) played by the Ensemble S and the Neue Ensemble and the promenade concert “Walk-Through Symphony” performed by the Niedersächsisches Staatsorchester.

The programme is augmented by international guests, for example the events performed by the theatre network mitos21: actors and directors from nine theatres in seven different countries explore the opportunities of Europe and its future on the basis of “David’s formidable speech on Europe”. The French production “Le Crocodile Trompeur” presents a version of Henry Purcell’s opera “Dido and Aeneas” relocated to the contemporary era and incorporating elements of jazz.

2014 is a special year for Hanover. The head of the cultural department in the city of Hanover Marlis Drevermann comments: “The KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen in 2014 will be referencing the 300th anniversary of the personal union marking the beginning of the reign of the royal house of Hanover in England. For this reason, two of the music theatre projects co-produced by the KunstFestSpiele will additionally be taking place in September in the former royal summer residence in Herrenhausen, both in cooperation with the Lower Saxony music festival “Niedersächsische Musiktage”.

Franz Schubert’s “Winterreise” will be presented as a new sensual experience on 19 September: the internationally renowned artist William Kentridge has created a Schubertian video landscape incorporating animation, montage and collage as a poetic counterpoint to the musical interpretation of this masterpiece by his partners the baritone Matthias Goerne and the pianist Markus Hinterhäuser.

We will experience the continuation of the successful collaboration with the Volkswagen foundation in two different formats: the forum for current events and the Herrenhausen discussion.

As in previous years, the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen will also present art in the garden: in June, the sound installation “RainDance” created by the US-American composer and performance artist Paul DeMarinis constructed in the space between the Gallery and the Orangery will be accessible to the general public. Peter Ablinger lends a voice to self-playing pianos in the Gallery: the sound installation “Portrait of my Parents” will be exhibited for several days including during the event Night of Museums in Hanover.

The Academy of Play provides schoolchildren with the opportunity of working alongside established artists; this year, participants will be able to choose from a selection of six workshops. For the first time, this will also involve a close collaboration with partners from Herrenhausen including the Wilhelm Busch – Deutsches Museum für Karikatur und Zeichenkunst, the Volkswagen foundation, the Herrenhausen Gardens and students of the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape at the Leibniz University of Hanover.

The artistic director Elisabeth Schweeger and Marlis Drevermann – head of the department of culture and education in the federal capital city Hanover – will present the programme to the press on 21 March.

Advance booking begins at all CTS-/ Eventim booking offices and at the advance booking office at the Künstlerhaus in Hanover. All information including press and photographic material relating to individual events can be viewed on the web site www.kunstfestspiele.de

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