

PRESS RELEASE

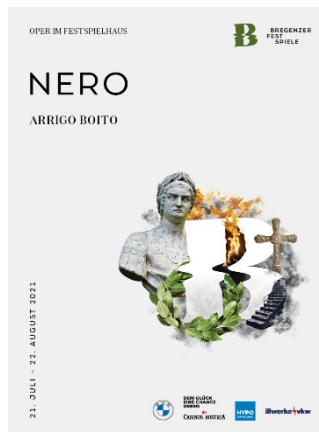
Prague, 15 June 2021

PRAGUE PHILHARMONIC CHOIR AGAIN AT SUMMER FESTIVALS

After a year-long break, the Prague Philharmonic Choir will be returning to summer festivals abroad. This year it will appear at **St. Gallen**, Switzerland, in the premiere of a new production of Franz Schmidt's opera **Notre Dame**. The choirmaster **Lukáš Kozubík**, who has worked with the ensemble since the spring of 2020, has prepared the singers for the performance. Part of the romantic opera, loosely based on Victor Hugo's novel *Notre-Dame de Paris*, was first presented to acclaim in concert in Vienna by the Wiener Philharmoniker. Ten years later, the complete piece triumphed at its premiere at the Hofoper.



In 2019, the Prague Philharmonic Choir celebrated the 10th anniversary of its participation in the opera festival in Bregenz, Austria, with a performance on the lake stage of Giuseppe Verdi's **Rigoletto** along with the Wiener Philharmoniker. The show, which has received several coveted accolades, including the Venice TV Award, will come back after a year's break.



Besides singing in *Rigoletto*, the choir is scheduled to appear in a new production of Arrigo Boito's opera **Nerone**, to be staged at the Festspielhaus Bregenz. Featuring the Mexican tenor **Rafael Rojas** in the title role, it will be directed by **Olivier Tambosi**, with whom the choir collaborated in 2016 on the production of *Hamlet*, with the Czech soloist Pavel Černoch portraying the lead role.

The Prague Philharmonic Choir has been choir-in-residence of the renowned **Bregenz Festspiele** since 2010. Along with the Wiener Philharmoniker, it has performed at the festival in productions of *Aida*, *Andrea Chénier*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Turandot* and *Carmen*, as well as at independent concerts. The choir has also appeared in world premieres of the operas *The Passenger*, by the Polish composer Mieczysław Weinberg; *Miss Fortune*, by Britain's Judith Weir; *Solaris*, by Germany's Detlev Glanert; and *The Merchant of Venice*, by Poland's André Tchaikowsky. The latter production won the International Opera Award 2014 in the World Premiere category.

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