The Wiener Konzerthaus

The Wiener Konzerthaus is one of Europe's leading concert halls. lt has enjoyed an unparalleled reputation since its establishment in the early twentieth century. lts renown is based on three achievements: a lively engagement with tradition, a courageous programme aimed to attract new audiences and a willingness to be open for new developments. lt is the Konzerthaus mission to engage as many people as possible into an enduring relationship with excellent music.

The Wiener Konzerthaus opened its doors in close proximity to the historically eminent Ringstraße boulevard in 1913. The Konzerthaus building, after a construction period of only two years, was one of the Habsburg monarchy's most modern grand edifices. lt was erected by the renowned theatre architects Ferdinand Fellner and Hermann Gottlieb Helmer together with Ludwig Baumann, setting a new standard with its architecture, visitor-friendly layout and structural engineering. The Wiener Konzerthaus is an architectural rarity. lt combines elements of late historicism, Secessionism and Art Nouveau to form an ensemble of unique character.

The four concert halls in the Wiener Konzerthaus can be used simultaneously for parallel performances or in tandem for single events. The grand Großer Saal provides room for more than 1800 visitors. lt boasts Austria's largest playable organ, which is also the largest concert hall organ in continental Europe: the Rieger organ. The Mozart Saal seats approximately 700 persons and has internationally outstanding acoustics that are particularly suited to chamber music. Thanks to its large windows, the Schubert Saal with its 300 seats is flooded by glorious daylight during the daytime - a particular feature of the popular lunchtime concerts. The Berio Saal was added in the year 2000; it features modern design and flexible seating.

The historic Konzerthaus building is maintained and run by a private charitable membership organisation, the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft. lt programmes 560 of the 900 events each season, thereby being responsible for the majority of the concerts staged. More than half a million people attend the Wiener Konzerthaus each year.

The Wiener Konzerthaus has 59 subscription series on offer: this extensive as well as multifaceted programme covers the entire range of the classical repertoire with orchestra and choir performances, chamber music, piano and vocal recitals as well as providing events for children and young adults in addition to series dedicated to jazz, pop, world music, literature and film. The Konzerthaus stages are regularly graced by world stars of the classical music scene (including Lang Lang, Hilary Hahn and Jonas Kaufmann), by international celebrities in popular music (e.g. Zaz) and world music (including Mariza, Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club and Goran Bregovic) as well as by Jazz greats like Diana Krall, Herbie Hancock and Dee Dee Bridgewater.

WIENER KONZERTHAUS

There is great popular demand for the refined programme on offer: more than 31,100 subscriptions are purchased each year. The Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft currently has about 10,000 members who support the Konzerthaus in its mission. It is a particularly welcome development that the number of youth members has risen in recent times: more than 600 of the Wiener Konzerthaus members are now under 27 years of age.

Only 12.1 % of the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft's total income is supplied by public funding. By comparison, concert halls of a similar size across Europe receive on average 45.82% of their total income from public means. The share of public funding for the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft is therefore far below that of other European concert halls.

Matthias Naske has been the director of the Wiener Konzerthaus since July 2013. Prior to his appointment in Vienna, he had been the director general of the Philharmonie Luxembourg and before that had directed Jeunesse Musicale Austria.

Partnerships

Beyond its engagement in staging events, the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft also acts as the patron of several independent associations. These include the Wiener Konzerthaus' own choir Wiener Singakademie – the oldest choir in Vienna –, as well as Superar, a charity which provides musical training free of charge to children and young adults who have limited access to cultural education.

A particularly valuable partnership links the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft with the Wiener Symphoniker orchestra in an intensive collaboration that has already spanned over a century.

«Wien Modern» is a central partner for contemporary music. This festival was established upon an initiative by Claudio Abbado in 1988 and takes place every year in the autumn; it is an important forum for contemporary music.

Music Education

An extensive educational programme supplements and frames the staged productions at the Wiener Konzerthaus. There are more than 500 events on offer catering to children, young adults and adults. The Wiener Konzerthaus has always aimed to bring as many people as possible closer to music, not least by way of this wide-ranging programme. Audiences from all walks of life are invited to explore the spectrum of musical expression, let themselves be surprised by new insights and cast an inquisitive glance at the world of music.

Festivals

Several thematic highlights in the creative programme are given particular emphasis in the form of festivals:

«Gemischter Satz»

«Gemischter Satz» is a speciality of Viennese viniculture: it is a wine that is blended from different grape varieties which have all been grown in the same vineyard. Each May, the festival «Gemischter Satz» provides an artistic analogy to this custom in the form of a special blend not of grape varieties but of music, literature and the fine arts presented by fabulous artists, not least the keen experimentalists Musicbanda Franui. The experience is rounded off with a tasting of exquisite wines from the Viennese vineyards for the audience.

«Resonanzen»

«Resonanzen» – resonance – is a festival of early music that has been hosted by the Wiener Konzerthaus since 1993. In January of each year, internationally renowned ensembles and performers come together for ten concerts which are given a different overall theme each season and cover the full range of musical expression from solo recitals to operatic concerts.

«Bridges»

«Bridges» represents the notion of building bridges in twenty-first century Europe. These should connect the nations of this continent as much as the different musical cultures that have established themselves in the cities and peripheries of this part of the world for centuries. This short festival for contemporary music brings international ensembles to Vienna in order to perform new classical music of Austrian origin.