

## **The era of success continues: Rolando Villazón has been appointed artistic director of the International Mozarteum Foundation for five more years**

Our journey through the world of Mozart is continuing, its success assured by the appointment of Rolando Villazón as artistic director of the International Mozarteum Foundation for a further five years. Villazón has been responsible for running the Mozart Week Festival since 2019, taking over as overall artistic director of the International Mozarteum Foundation in the summer of 2021. “We are delighted that Rolando Villazón will be continuing to guide the Mozart Week Festival and the whole of the Foundation’s musical programme along its present successful course,” says the Foundation’s president, Johannes Honsig-Erlenburg. “Under his aegis the Mozart Week Festival has extended its appeal and consolidated its reputation as the world’s most important Mozart festival. After its activities had to be suspended during the years of the pandemic, there is now a new spirit of optimism as the result not only of the official opening of our new foyer building but also because with his ideas on programming Rolando Villazón will guarantee an ideal sense of musical continuity.”

Rolando Villazón will run both the Mozart Week Festival and the Mozarteum’s concert programme until 2028. “I am glad that I can continue to develop my ideas for the Mozarteum Foundation,” says Villazón, looking forward to the years ahead. “During the pandemic there was a lot that we were unable to do and only now can we make up for some of these losses. My team and I are eager for action and are full of ideas on ways of throwing fresh and exciting light on Mozart’s vibrant musical cosmos.”

### **Looking forward to 2022/23 and beyond**

The **Mozart+Fest** festival that will be taking place between 20 and 23 October not only marks the start of the new concert season. With its roster of eminent artists, this four-day event also signals a milestone in the 140-year history of the Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation. The new foyer is to be officially opened after a building programme lasting two years. At the same time the first stage of the renovations on the Great Hall have been completed. Among the famous artists and orchestras that have been invited to celebrate its opening are Anne-Sophie Mutter, Leif Ove Andsnes with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, L’Arpeggiata under the direction of Christina Pluhar, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe with François Leleux and Lisa Batiashvili, members of the Vienna Philharmonic and the horn player Sarah Willis with the Orquesta del Lyceum de La Habana.

### **Concert season**

“The idea of launching the new concert season with an opening weekend in October is one that I should like to retain in the future,” says Rolando Villazón. Otherwise, popular concert formats will continue to be a part of the season’s programme. These include the *Sofa Concerts*, the *After Work* series, *Music and Words* and *Classic Pure*. Contemporary music, too, has a regular place in the programme. The traditional performance of Mozart’s Requiem in December, marking the anniversary of Mozart’s death, will be accompanied by works from our own time. In June a whole weekend will be devoted to new music under the motto *In Dialogue*.

### **Mozart Week Festival**

The next Mozart Week Festival will take place between 26 January and 5 February 2023. Tickets went on sale at the end of May. Visitors have been booking later and a little more circumspectly than in the past. “The booking situation for the 2023 Mozart Week Festival is

one with which we are basically satisfied despite the tense situation at present,” says CEO Rainer Heneis. “Bookings are within our expectations. One can detect a slight reserve on the part of the public, but this was entirely to be expected in the light of the experiences of the last few years and the current situation. Above all, our regular visitors are finally returning to Salzburg. We can see that people are booking six concerts rather than ten, for example. And visitors from abroad are planning to spend less time with us. Many want longer reservations or to be placed on the waiting list and to decide on additional concerts at the last minute.” What is gratifying is that the Mozart Week Festival’s audiences are again coming from the same countries as before the pandemic. Most of them are from (Central) Europe, but loyal visitors and tour groups have already booked or expressed an interest from abroad – most notably the United States, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand and Japan.

Rolando Villazón’s fifth Mozart Week Festival in January–February 2023 will celebrate Mozart as a child prodigy and as a master musician. On the programme are some sixty events, including a semi-staged performance of *Don Giovanni*, orchestral concerts, chamber music, puppet shows, interviews and much more besides. For the first festival of the year, Salzburg will be the travel destination of some of the world’s finest Mozartians, including the Vienna Philharmonic, Daniel Barenboim, Martha Argerich, Elena Bashkistrova, Ivor Bolton, Renaud Capuçon, Marianne Crebassa, Magdalena Kožená, Sir András Schiff and his Capella Andrea Barca, Andrés Orozco-Estrada with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Daniel Ottensamer, Jordi Savall, Emmanuel Tjeknavorian and Mitsuko Uchida with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

With the 2024 Mozart Week Festival, visitors will note a number of changes. Until now the Festival’s creed has been “Unadulterated Mozart”, with a different motto for each Festival. Initially it was Mozart’s choral works that were central to the Festival programme followed by the music for winds or strings. “Starting in 2024, I intend to harness Mozart together with other composers who are either linked to him chronologically or who have a thematic connection to him,” Villazón explains. In 2024, for example, the second composer will be Antonio Salieri. After *Thamos, König in Ägypten* in 2019 and *Messiah* in 2020, there will be at least two more major productions in Salzburg by 2028. The Festival will also continue its cultural partnership with the Salzburg Marionette Theatre, the OVAL and the Landestheater Salzburg.

### Further renovation work on the Great Hall

Renovation work on the Great Hall will resume in the spring of 2023. Starting at Easter we plan to restore the shell of the room, while by July the walls and gildings will have been restored to their original state from 1914 on the basis of historical models. We are planning to rebuild the balcony area between May and July 2024. The carpet will be replaced by parquet flooring, the balcony balustrade provided with a new cover and the partition walls in the boxes and the curtains will be replaced. This work will in turn be followed by an overhaul of the Propter Homines organ.



from left: Rainer Heneis (General Manager Mozarteum Foundation), Rolando Villazón (artistic director) and Foundation’s president Johannes Honsig-Erlenburg  
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## Biography of Rolando Villazón

Rolando Villazón has made a name for himself as one of today's most popular artists, a status that he owes not only to his thrilling appearances on the world's most prestigious stages but also to his unique versatility. In addition to his stage career, he is also active as a director, writer, radio and television personality and artistic director of concerts and Mozart Week of the Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation. He was born in Mexico City in 1972 and initially studied music at his country's National Conservatory before joining the young artists' programmes at the opera houses in Pittsburgh and San Francisco. Internationally, he first came to prominence in 1999 when he won multiple prizes at that year's Operalia Competition and within months had made several successful debuts at some of the world's leading opera houses, performances that cemented his status as an extraordinarily talented artist. Since then he has appeared in every major opera house. Rolando Villazón made his directorial debut in Lyons in 2011 and since then has directed productions at the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf and the Vienna Volksoper. Since 2007 he has recorded exclusively for Deutsche Grammophon, selling more than two million records and winning numerous awards. France – the country where he has chosen to live – has appointed him a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He is also an ambassador for Red Noses Clowndoctors International and a member of the Collège de Pataphysique in Paris. To date he has published three novels: *Malabares* (2013, also available in French as *Jongleries*), *Lebenskünstler* (2017) and *Amadeus auf dem Fahrrad* (2020). In 2017 he was named Mozart Ambassador of the Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation. He has been intendant of the Mozart Week Festival since 2019 and will continue to run the world's most important Mozart Festival until 2028. In July 2021, Rolando Villazón was appointed artistic director of the Mozarteum Foundation, thus assuming overall responsibility for the ongoing concert operations and all artistic activities of the Mozarteum Foundation in addition to the Mozart Week.

## The International Mozarteum Foundation

For more than two and a half centuries Wolfgang Amadé Mozart has fascinated people all over the world through his music and his personality. The Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation is the world's leading institution aimed at preserving and disseminating this priceless cultural legacy. It also seeks to make the world aware of Mozart's manifold facets by opening up access to his music and to introduce his life and personality to everyone, regardless of their age.

A non-profit-making organization, the Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation engages with the figure of Mozart as both man and artist and to this end has established initiatives in three key areas, organizing concerts, running Mozart museums and pursuing research, in that way building a bridge between the preservation of a tradition and the promotion of contemporary culture. Its aim is to open up different perspectives and encourage new ideas in our engagement with the composer. The Mozart Week Festival was established in 1956 with the goal of celebrating Mozart's birthday each January.

The Society of the Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation was established as the International Mozarteum Foundation in 1880 by the townspeople of Salzburg, although its origins date back to the Cathedral Music Society and Mozarteum that was set up in 1841. Mozart's widow Constanze and their two sons Carl Thomas and Franz Xaver Wolfgang donated much of their estate to the Society. As a result, the Mozarteum Foundation owns the world's largest collection of original letters, portraits and instruments once in the possession of the Mozart family.