



Semperoper
Dresden

Semperoper Dresden: Statement of the Managing Director, Peter Theiler

PRESS RELEASE

Dresden, 27 January 2020. The Semperoper Dresden expressly disapproves of the decision by Semper Opernball e.V. and its Chairman, Hans-Joachim Frey, who has overall artistic responsibility for SemperOperaball, to honour the Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi with the Order of St. George.

Peter Theiler, Managing Director of the Semperoper Dresden, points out that the Semperoper is wholly excluded from the artistic and programmatic planning of the organisers of SemperOperaball, which is in fact an independent institution. The latest decisions of Semper Opernball e.V., which have provoked such public controversy, have also been viewed with great concern by all Semperoper employees. As a leading cultural institution, the Semperoper has always been a strong proponent of freedom, tolerance and human rights.

Managing Director Peter Theiler is already in talks with the Chairman of the Semper Opernball e.V., Hans-Joachim Frey. These discussions will certainly continue after this year's event, also involving political decision-makers on cultural matters of the Free State of Saxony.

Semperoper Dresden

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