



Semperoper Dresden: Cancellation of the »Ring« cycles planned for 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Extended closure of the Semperoper affects all events to the end of February 2021

Dresden, 10 December 2021: In view of the rising number of coronavirus infections, the Saxon Minister of Culture, Barbara Klepsch, has decided – in agreement with the State Theatres and Museums – to extend the closure of Saxony’s cultural institutions until 28 February 2021 at the earliest. Aimed at combating the ongoing pandemic, this decision affects all events scheduled for the 2020/21 season including the premieres of the Semperoper, Semperoper Ballett and Semper Zwei as well as the »Ring« cycles planned for January and February 2021.

In accordance with the decision, no events will take place in the Semperoper up to and including 28 February 2021. The new productions »Weiße Rose«, »Pinocchio« and »Blues Brothers« as well as the premieres of »Guillaume Tell/William Tell« and »Peer Gynt«, which were cancelled in spring 2020 due to the pandemic, will now be programmed in future seasons. Similarly, the cycles of »Der Ring des Nibelungen« under the baton of Christian Thielemann planned for January and February next year will no longer be performed in 2021. Meanwhile, the Semperoper’s management team are working non-stop to ensure that the premieres scheduled for March 2021 as well as the first performance of Vera Nemirova’s new staging of »Don Carlo«, which was cancelled last season, will go ahead should matters improve after February 2021. Currently, it is planned to replace the premiere of »Playlist«, which cannot be sufficiently rehearsed under the current circumstances, with a three-part ballet evening. In general, the decision to discontinue live performances still permits the running of rehearsals in compliance with hygiene measures. More details on the replacement schedule for the rest of the 2020/21 season can be expected at the end of January 2021, when the various state ministers of culture have once again met to discuss the current health situation.

Regarding the decision to close its doors, the Semperoper’s Managing Director, Peter Theiler, has issued the following statement: »All of us who consider art and culture to be an invaluable asset of any democratic society painfully regret the fact that collective artistic creation and experience are once again placed on ice. Yet public health and the protection of life are now our top priority. Therefore, we respect the urgent appeal of our government to stop the pandemic by all means possible. Recognizing that we all bear responsibility for this decision, the Semperoper Dresden intends to resume cultural activities as soon as possible but only when there is no health risk to our audience, the Semperoper staff and our artists. Furthermore, this clear stance will give us the necessary security and time to plan carefully for the return of regular performances.«

Tickets for all cancelled events will be refunded. On its homepage, the Semperoper Dresden continues to provide information on how to return tickets as well as regular updates on the likely resumption of performances. All information as well as a refund form for purchased tickets can be found at semperoper.de/tickettrueckgabe or can be requested from our visitor service. Simply call +49 (0)351 4911 705 or send an email to bestellung@semperoper.de.

Semperoper Dresden

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