



Orchestral concerts in 2014

Our concert programme opens with a commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War, which marked the start of the tumultuous upheavals of the 20th century. Celebration would not be the right word here.

The war was triggered by an event of little significance in itself, the assassination of the heir to the Habsburg throne on 28 June 1914. One hundred years later, exactly on the day the war began, we will perform Benjamin Britten's epic masterpiece, War Requiem. The work combines the war poems of the British officer Wilfred Owen, who fought in the trenches, with the Latin text of the Requiem mass. Just as at the world premiere in Coventry cathedral, the Bregenz performance will feature a German baritone, an English tenor and a Russian soprano. The concert will be conducted by the Swiss man Philippe Jordan and marks his debut as the new chief conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Music by the composer of the opera at the Festspielhaus, HK Gruber, can be heard in the second concert in our series. Ulf Schirmer returns to the conductor's podium at Bregenz for the third concert, a concert that showcases Vienna's bitter-sweet music tradition with a selection of composers from Zemlinsky to Lehár. Ulf Schirmer's return to Bregenz in my final season is especially fitting because our first collaboration took place at Bregenz – on my production of The Flying Dutchman on the lake stage in 1989.

My departure from Bregenz will be celebrated (and this time I am sure that it is the right word) at a concert by the Vorarlberg Symphony Orchestra on the last day of the festival, 24 August 2014 – a concert that promises to be a special high point.

David Pountney
Artistic director



Concert programme

Vienna Symphony Orchestra

28 July – 7.30 pm, Festspielhaus

Conductor: Philippe Jordan

Benjamin Britten: War Requiem, op. 66

Duration: 1 1/2 hours, no interval

4 August – 7.30 pm, Festspielhaus

Conductor: Claus Peter Flor

Trumpet: Jeroen Berwaerts

Johann Strauss (the Younger): Perpetuum mobile, op. 257

HK Gruber: Charivari

HK Gruber: Busking – Concert for trumpet, accordion, banjo and strings

Franz Schmidt: Symphony No. 4 in C

Duration: 2 hours, incl. interval

11 August – 7.30 pm, Festspielhaus

Conductor: Ulf Schirmer

Johann Strauss (the Younger): Tales from the Vienna Woods, op. 325

Franz Lehár: Fever

Franz Lehár: Danube Legends – The Grey Danube

Alexander von Zemlinsky: The Mermaid

Duration: 1 3/4 hours, incl. interval

Vorarlberg Symphony Orchestra

24 August – 11 am, Festspielhaus

Conductor: Gérard Korsten

Leonard Bernstein: Overture from Candide

Leonard Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Der Schauspieldirektor

Duration: 2 hours, incl. interval

The 2014 Bregenz Festival runs from 23 July to 25 August 2014. For tickets and information, please call +43 (0)5574 407-6 or visit www.bregenzfestspiele.com.