



**PIERRE BOULEZ  
SAAL**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**June 1, 2018**

### **Presentation of the 2018–19 Season Program**

**Season Opening: September 9, 2018**

**Ticket Sales Begin on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 2 pm**

### **Four World Premieres**

On Friday, June 1, 2018, Daniel Barenboim and Ole Bækhoj presented the program of the Pierre Boulez Saal's third season. In concerts that juxtapose compositions from the classical and romantic era with central works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and music by contemporary composers, the guiding principle of "Music for the Thinking Ear" established during the past two seasons is renewed and continued in many different ways. Among the 140-plus events, six concerts of the Boulez Ensemble featuring a total of three world premieres stand out, alongside 20 piano recitals, 20 quartet concerts, twelve events featuring music from the Arab and Persian world, eight jazz concerts, nine lecture concerts, seven Akademie concerts, and nine concerts for children and adults.

#### Boulez Ensemble

September 9, October 10, November 26, January 20, March 6, June 22

Founded on the occasion of the opening of the Pierre Boulez Saal and including musicians of the Staatskapelle Berlin, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, students and faculty of the Barenboim-Said Akademie, and international guests, the Boulez Ensemble performs on six dates during this season. The concerts are led by Daniel Barenboim, Jörg Widmann, François-Xavier Roth, Matthias Pintscher and Lahav Shani; the Boulez Ensemble performs world premieres of newly commissioned works by Pintscher, Widmann, and Kareem Roustom.

#### Arabic Music Days

September 21 – 23

The Iraqi oud player Nasser Shamma, who has already been a guest at the Pierre Boulez Saal on several occasions, curates the second edition of the Arabic Music Days. The three-day musical program will be complemented by an exhibition of works by the Syrian artist Nasser Hussein; further highlights include screenings of the short film *London Tomorrow* by the British director Nimer Rashed and the winning entries of the film festival *3 Minutes 3 Days*, which took place in Baghdad in March 2018.

#### Beethoven Cycle with Daniel Barenboim

October 24/26, December 14/15, February 10/11, May 4/5

In a cycle designed to cover two seasons and end in the Beethoven Year 2020, Daniel Barenboim interprets the composer's complete 32 Piano Sonatas. The first four programs present works from all of Beethoven's creative periods, from early compositions to the monumental "Hammerklavier" Sonata.

#### Democracy and Europe – Nikos Skalkottas

Democracy and Europe is one focus of the Pierre Boulez Saal's program in the 2018–19 season. The cradle of European identity lies in Greece, which had a decisive influence in shaping European culture. At times such as ours, when world politics present particular challenges to the ideals of the European idea, reverting to the heritage of Greek culture is an important tool in rising to these challenges.

Representing many others, the Greek composer Nikos Skalkottas, a student of Arnold Schoenberg, will be featured with a number of works in six concerts.

Karim Said – October 4

Boulez Ensemble – October 10

Yulianne Avdeeva – November 13

Jiyoon Lee & Giuseppe Guarrera – February 2

Leonidas Kavakos & Enrico Pace – February 19

Cristina Gómez Godoy & Michail Lifits – May 30

Einstürzende Neubauten

November 16 – 18

On three evenings, the Berlin-based band Einstürzende Neubauten presents the final performances of its project *Lament*, commissioned by the Belgian city of Diksmuide for the 2014 commemorations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. The program adds a string ensemble to the band's usual instrumentation of steel, voice and *objets trouvés* with audio recordings of prisoners of war and music from various epochs, resulting in a moving acoustic memorial against violence and horror.

Barocktage of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden

Voces Suaves – November 24

Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin – November 25

Jordi Savall – December 1/2

As part of the cooperation with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, three events of the Barocktage – which are to become an annual November fixture, starting in 2018 – will be presented at the Pierre Boulez Saal.

Schubert Week and Schubert Song Cycle

January 21 – 27

Mojca Erdmann & Malcolm Martineau – October 20

Luca Pisaroni & Malcolm Martineau – February 26

Golda Schultz & Jonathan Ware – June 21

Initiated during the opening season, the Schubert Song Cycle was designed to run through several years and continues this season. Furthermore, Thomas Hampson, the featured artist of the Schubert Weekend in January 2018, curates an entire Schubert Week this season. A solo recital with his piano accompanist Wolfram Rieger and a public workshop with young singers of the Festival Academy of the Heidelberger Frühling are among the featured events, alongside concerts with renowned guest artists and introductory talks. The complete program will be announced on August 20, 2018.

Quartet Week

June 7 – 14

Towards the end of the season, eleven concerts are dedicated to the string quartet, the crowning discipline of chamber music. In addition to the renowned musicians of the Arditti Quartet, the Hagen Quartet and the Belcea Quartet, ensembles of the younger generation will also be heard. The stylistic breadth of the programs ranges from Haydn and Beethoven to Britten and Shostakovich, to Yiddish cabaret songs of the 1920s and works by contemporary composers.

Lecture Concerts

As in the past two seasons, Lecture Concerts occupy a central place in the program again. With Part I of *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Sir András Schiff continues his series of works by Johann Sebastian Bach. Jörg Widmann dedicates himself to Pierre Boulez's *Dialogue de l'ombre double* (Feb. 4) and also introduces

works by Carl Maria von Weber together with the Goldmund Quartet (Dec. 16). Matthias Pintscher presents his new work for piano and ensemble (Jan. 20) and François-Xavier Roth focuses on Pierre Boulez's *Le Marteau sans maître* (Nov. 26), both together with the Boulez Ensemble. The new series of Wasmuth Lectures features the Pulitzer winner Stephen Greenblatt, one of the leading literary scholars of our day; his lecture will discuss *Shakespeare and the Strangers* (Oct. 27).

With its Edward W. Said Days (March 14 – 16, 2019), the Barenboim-Said Akademie presents its annual homage to the life and work of the Palestinian literary scholar. This time, the lectures, concerts, and panel discussions focus on the subject of counterpoint. The full program will be announced on November 6, 2018.

Concerts for Children and Adults

*Once Around the World* – October 14/15

*HEROÏCA* – December 9/10

March 31 / April 1 (program to be announced at a later date)

The series of concerts for children and adults initiated during the 2017–18 season continues with three new projects. As part of this series, we will develop our own formats in the future, exploring unfamiliar music in the spirit of discovery and expressing the joy of music-making.

Further selected highlights of the program:

Ensemble Intercontemporain & Matthias Pintscher – September 10

Menahem Pressler – September 26

Isabelle Faust – September 30

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Lisa Batiashvili & Gautier Capuçon – November 9

Brad Mehldau – November 20

Nikolaj Znaider & Robert Kulek – December 5

Franui – Musicbanda & Niklaus Habjan – December 19/20

Daniel Barenboim, Michael Barenboim, Kian Soltani – January 19 and 29

Anouar Brahem – March 13

Emerson String Quartet – March 21

Radu Lupu – April 26

Magdalena Kožená & Yefim Bronfman – May 13

RIAS Kammerchor – May 24 (world premiere by Lera Auerbach)

Tickets to the 2018–19 season go on sale **on June 6, 2018 at 2 pm.**

Tickets for the concerts of the Schubert Week in January 2019 go on sale on **August 20, 2018**. Ticket sales for the Edward W. Said Days (March 14 – 16, 2019) and the concerts for children and adults on March 31/ April 1, 2019 begin on **November 6, 2018**.

Program books for each individual concert can be found in a digital format on our website, at the latest on the day of the concert. They continue to be available there after the event as well.

**For further information, please contact:**

boulezsaal.de

**Press Contact:**

Katharina Foerster

Tel +49 30 2096 717 25 or +49 174 177 67 77

k.foerster@daniel-barenboim-stiftung.org