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Press Release | Berlin, July 30, 2020



Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at the Pierre Boulez Saal

First Concerts with Live Audience Since the Beginning of the Lockdown

The traditional summer concert of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at Berlin's Waldbühne had to be canceled this year—instead, the orchestra, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, comes to the Pierre Boulez Saal for two consecutive nights. Before the official start of the new season, the musicians will perform works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Richard Wagner, Arnold Schoenberg, and Pierre Boulez on **August 13** and **14**—these are the first concerts in the hall with live audience since the beginning of the lockdown in March. Tickets go on sale Monday, August 3, at 2pm. Due to social distancing requirements, only a limited number of seats will be available, and special hygiene measures, closely coordinated with the authorities, will be implemented.

The four works on the program are variously imbued with the spirit of the mythical shape-shifter Proteus. In his mighty *Grosse Fuge* Op. 133, Beethoven gives free rein to his contrapuntal imagination, elaborating and transforming the musical material with a boldness that confounded his contemporaries. Wagner's *Siegfried-Idyll* superimposes a radiant vision of domestic bliss, emanating from the composer's infant son, onto a heroic image of the mythical Siegfried. Thematic metamorphosis is central to Schoenberg's early *Chamber Symphony No. 1*. Eight decades later, Pierre Boulez utilized similar organic procedures in *Mémoriale*. The piece itself, whose first version was written in the early 1970s, changed its form several times through revisions and new versions until 1993.

For more than 20 years, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra has been a significant presence on the international music scene. In 1999, Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward W. Said created an orchestra to promote a dialogue between the different cultures of the Middle East through music-making and co-existence. An equal number of Israeli and Arab musicians form the base of the orchestra, together with a group of Turkish and Iranian members. The idea of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra inspired the creation of the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin, which has been open to talented young musicians primarily from the countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa since 2015. The Akademie is also home to the Pierre Boulez Saal, a chamber music hall that opened in March 2017.

Downloads:

West-Eastern Divan Orchestra | Photo: © Kai Bienert
Daniel Barenboim | Photo: © Monika Rittershaus

Thursday, 13 August 2020, 19:30

Friday, 14 August 2020, 19:30

WEST-EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA

Tomer Amrani – Flute

RICHARD WAGNER
Siegfried Idyll

ARNOLD SCHOENBERG
Chamber Symphony for 15 Solo Instruments Op. 9

PIERRE BOULEZ
Mémoriale (... explosante-fixe ... Originel) for Flute and Ensemble

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Große Fuge B-Dur op. 133 (Fassung für Orchester)

Please note that the contingent of press tickets is limited. We look forward to receiving your accreditation requests by **Thursday, 6 August, 12am** (CEST). Do not hesitate to contact us at any time concerning other requests:

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