

Official Opening of the Pierre Boulez Hall in Berlin

- opening weekend with two concerts at 18:00 on 4 March and at 11:00 on 5 March
- German President Joachim Gauck, architect Frank Gehry and acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota among the invited guests on 4 March
- broadcast on Arte Concert and ARD radio stations



Photo © Volker Kreidler

“We must, after all, extend our horizons to include new and unknown worlds as well as those to which we are accustomed.” Pierre Boulez

After a four-year building programme that has gone entirely according to plan, Berlin’s new Pierre Boulez Hall will open with a gala concert under the direction of Daniel Barenboim. As honorary guest, German President Joachim Gauck is going to attend the opening concert on 4 March. The newly formed Boulez Ensemble will present works by Boulez, Schubert, Mozart, Jörg Widmann and Alban Berg.

The Pierre Boulez Hall has been designed by American architect Frank Gehry and is a part of the Barenboim–Said Academy. Summoned into existence by Daniel Barenboim, the Academy began its teaching programme in the autumn of 2016. Located at the cultural heart of Berlin, the new concert hall has seating for 700 and offers a range of possibilities with its elliptical shape and flexible stage design. The hall’s acoustics are the responsibility of the Japanese acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota, who is well known for his expertise in this field. Both Frank Gehry and Yasuhisa Toyota have generously donated their services to the Barenboim–Said Academy and renounced any fee for their work.

The opening concert’s programme is a reflection of Pierre Boulez’s inexhaustible musical inquisitiveness. The French composer, conductor and visionary, who died in January 2016, was for many years one of Daniel Barenboim’s closest artistic colleagues. “Pierre Boulez was not just a great composer and conductor,” recalls Barenboim, “he also revolutionized music from the ground upwards. We are dedicating this chamber music room to the spirit of a musical visionary and looking forward to the forthcoming concerts and encounters.”

Under the heading of “Music for the Thinking Ear” the programme for the opening season comprises more than sixty concerts featuring chamber music from the Classical and Romantic periods as well as modern classics from the early 20th century, contemporary compositions, world premieres, music from the Middle East and jazz.

The Boulez Ensemble

The flexibility and interdisciplinary versatility that are central to the philosophy of the Pierre Boulez Hall are reflected in the newly formed Boulez Ensemble, which is made up of musicians from the Berlin Staatskapelle and from Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra as well as students and teachers from the Barenboim–Said Academy and international guests. In the course of its opening season between now and July the Ensemble will give a whole series of concerts featuring, among others, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle, François-Xavier Roth, Jörg Widmann and Anna Prohaska.

A new album in memory of Pierre Boulez

To mark the opening of the Pierre Boulez Hall, Deutsche Grammophon is releasing a recording dedicated to Boulez. *Hommage à Boulez* contains key works by the French composer, including *Le marteau sans Maître* conducted by the composer and *Dérive 2* recorded live by the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at the 2012 BBC Proms. This double album is available on iTunes and from the usual market outlets from 3 March 2017.

Dates and times of the opening concerts:

Saturday, 4 March 2017 at 18:00

Sunday, 5 March 2017 at 11:00

Artists

Boulez Ensemble

Daniel Barenboim, piano and musical direction

Karim Said, piano

Michael Barenboim, violin

Yulia Deyneka, viola

Anna Prohaska, soprano

Jörg Widmann, clarinet

Programme

Pierre Boulez, *Initiale*

Franz Schubert, *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* D 965 for soprano, clarinet and piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Piano Quartet in E flat major K 493

Alban Berg, Chamber Concerto for piano, violin and thirteen wind instruments

Jörg Widmann, Fantasy for clarinet solo

Pierre Boulez, *sur incises*

Concert broadcasts on March 4th, 2017

Live on ARTE from 18:00 at concert.arte.tv

and on the radio from 18:03 on rbb kulturradio, BR-Klassik, SR2 KulturRadio and NDR Kultur

Delayed radio broadcasts (see individual stations for times) on

hr2-kultur, WDR 3, MDR KULTUR, SWR2, Deutsche Welle

ARTE will also broadcast a two-part recording of the concert on television at 18:00 and at 23:45 on 5 March.

For further information, please visit

www.boulezsaal.de

www.barenboimsaid.de

www.danielbarenboim.com

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