## KONZERT



IULI-2.SEPTEMBER 2012

## PROGRAMME

JOSEPH HAYDN • Die Schöpfung – Oratorium für Soli, Chor und Orchester Hob. XXI/2 (Text von Gottfried van Swieten)

## PERFORMERS

Sir John Eliot Gardiner, *Conductor* Lucy Crowe, *Soprano* James Gilchrist, *Tenor* Vuyani Mlinde, *Bass* The Monteverdi Choir, The English Baroque Soloists, Salzburg was once referred to as a "sacred city". To a certain extent this is justified: for centuries the dominance of ecclesiastical power had a decisive impact on the character and appearance of the city. With inspired perception Max Reinhardt recognised the significance of this unique atmosphere when he decided to stage Hugo von Hofmannsthal's Jedermann against the backdrop of the cathedral façade. The Salzburg Festival 2012 aims to follow on in this tradition by presenting for the first time a concert series of masterpieces of sacred music as a kind of "overture" to the main programme. Two performances of Jedermann are also integrated into this context. The primarily Christian content of the prologue is contrasted by a focus on Jewish music.

The series of concerts will be opened with a performance of Joseph Haydn's oratorio The Creation dating from 1798. The work reflects how deeply impressed Haydn was by performances in London of the great oratorios by Handel. Haydn brought back from London an English text book about the story of the creation which Baron Gottfried van Swieten arranged for him for the musical composition. What is remarkable about the score are the immensely vivid portrayals of nature; however, of even greater significance is the florid melodic invention of the arias and ensembles, the hymnal splendour of the choruses.

The so-called Via Francigena is one of Europe's oldest pilgrimage routes. It is the route taken by Sigeric the Serious, Archbishop of Canterbury, when, towards the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century he walked the 1,700 kilometres to Rome. Sir John Eliot Gardiner and his Monteverdi Choir follow in his footsteps on a musical pilgrimage along which he intends to highlight the relationship between the architecture of major churches, monasteries and cathedrals with sacred vocal music from around 1450 to 1600. An arc will be spanned from Josquin Desprez to Jean Mouton, Clemens non Papa, Lassus and Palestrina to Claudio Monteverdi, and also includes English composers such as Tallis and Byrd.

Johann Sebastian Bach's elaborate vocal polyphony led to the culmination of the golden age of the compositional genre of the a cappella motet; in particular in the Motet for double choir "Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied" and "Komm, Jesu, komm!" Johann Christoph Bach, a distantly related uncle of the Thomaskantor, also devoted himself to the composition of motets. It is possible that he also wrote the Motet BWV Anh. 159 generally ascribed to Johann Sebastian Bach.

Masses by the genius loci Wolfgang Amadé Mozart feature prominently on the programme of the concert series. For the consecration of the Waisenhauskirche on the Rennweg in Vienna



## Ouverture spirituelle • Haydn: Die Schöpfung

20.

Premiere: 20 July, 20:30, Grosses Festspielhaus