



Grafenegg Summer Season 2021

In 2021, Grafenegg celebrates its **15th festival**. With the experiences of last summer, Grafenegg goes into its anniversary year full of optimism and presents a programme filled with renowned orchestras and superb artists. The main venues in the impressive surroundings are the **open-air stage Wolkenturm** in Grafenegg's Schlosspark and the **Auditorium concert hall**, which in 2021 can be used again for matinees and as an alternative venue in case of bad weather.

The 15th Grafenegg Festival takes place from **13 August to 5 September 2021** and is the artistic highlight of the summer season, which begins with the Summer Night's Gala (10 & 11 June 2021) followed by the Summer Concerts (26 June to 7 August 2021) and Grafenegg Academy concerts (18 & 25 July 2021). Under the artistic direction of Rudolf Buchbinder, the festival opens on 13 August 2021 with Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem, featuring soloists Krassimira Stoyanova, Anita Rachvelishvili, Piotr Beczala and René Pape, the Vienna Singverein and the resident Tonkünstler Orchestra under the direction of Yutaka Sado. The evening gets under way with the premiere of a fanfare by **Toshio Hosokawa**, 2021 Composer in Residence. Another new work by the Japanese composer, his violin concerto, was co-commissioned by the Grafenegg Festival and receives its Austrian premiere on 20 August 2021. The soloist is the German violin virtuoso Veronika Eberle. Hosokawa will also lead the **composer conductor-workshop INK STILL WET**.

Over the course of the festival until its finale on 5 September 2021, Grafenegg hosts the philharmonic orchestras of Vienna, Munich, Prague and Milan, conductors Herbert Blomstedt, Valery Gergiev, Semyon Bychkov and Andrés Orozco-Estrada together with soloists such as Leonidas Kavakos, Gautier Capuçon, Rudolf Buchbinder and Renée Fleming. Hélène Grimaud performs with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich under Paavo Järvi, and Sol Gabetta appears with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. Further programme highlights include the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the European Union Youth Orchestra with Vasily Petrenko and saxophonist Jess Gillam, and the Tonkünstler Orchestra with Christian Tetzlaff. Rudolf Buchbinder can be heard in several performances, including Johannes Brahms's two piano concertos (with the Australian World Orchestra, Zubin Mehta and the Czech Philharmonic, Semyon Bychkov) and, conducting from the piano, with the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia «Evgeny Svetlanov».

The festival's Sunday matinees in the Auditorium include Janine Jansen, the Berlin Baroque Soloists performing the Brandenburg Concertos, and Joyce DiDonato performing 'My Favourite Things'.

On the last day of the festival, 5 September 2021, the Matinee features works that were intended for the 2020 festival opening, which was cancelled because of bad weather. These include the world premiere of Konstantía Gourzí's Trumpet Concerto (soloist: Simon Höfele) and Beethoven's Triple Concerto with Emmanuel Tjeknavorian, Harriet Krijgh und Rudolf Buchbinder. The closing concert featuring Renée Fleming brings the festival full circle to its very beginnings: Ms Fleming enchanted audiences from the Wolkenturm stage in the festival's opening concert in 2007.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is not yet certain if some of Grafenegg's typical events such as the prelude concerts, concert introductions, Music in the Park and Late Night Sessions 2021 can take place again. Programme details for these events will be given as soon as they can be confirmed.



Thanks to the expansion and update of our prevention strategy, the Auditorium can again be used in 2021 and is available for the popular Sunday morning matinees and as an alternative venue in case of bad weather.

The 2021 budget for all Grafenegg Kulturbetriebsgesellschaft m.b.H. activities amounts to 9.4 million Euros. 3.7 million Euros will be raised by Grafenegg itself, primarily through ticket sales, sponsoring and rentals. 5.7 million Euros come from subsidies.

Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria: «As Governor of Lower Austria, I'm very proud that Grafenegg was able to organise a top-quality music festival in 2020 with a superb safety strategy, making it possible to provide our loyal audience with many wonderful concert evenings. Once again, Rudolf Buchbinder has created a brilliant programme for Grafenegg in 2021, with renowned soloists and conductors offering the highest level of magical musical moments in this unique atmosphere. Lower Austria's international reputation as a region for culture is closely tied to Grafenegg and Rudolf Buchbinder.»

Rudolf Buchbinder, Artistic Director: «It feels like only yesterday that the first concert took place at the Wolkenturm in summer 2007. Since then, we have experienced countless great musical moments at Grafenegg: there is hardly an orchestra of international standing that has not yet performed at the Wolkenturm; hardly a star of classical music who has not graced the idyllic Schlosspark. The anniversary season programme seamlessly continues this success. Central pillars are the philharmonic orchestras of Vienna, Munich and Prague. Conductors taking the podium include Zubin Mehta, Valery Gergiev and Semyon Bychkov. I'm especially looking forward to the arrival of Composer in Residence Toshio Hosokawa, one of the most important composers of today and a wonderful human being as well. We return full circle to the festival's beginnings with the closing concert featuring Renée Fleming, who was the star of festival's opening concert in 2007 when she performed «Somewhere over the Rainbow» as an encore – an unforgettable moment!

Dr. Philipp Stein, Managing Director, Grafenegg Kulturbetriebsgesellschaft m.b.H.: «We gained a lot of valuable experience in the challenging summer of 2020. Equipped with this know-how, we enter the 15th Grafenegg Festival with optimism, but with realistic expectations around its implementation. This is also the reason why we are initially starting our advance sales with a reduced contingency of tickets, in keeping with our previously successful prevention strategy. Unfortunately, at this point in time we cannot guarantee that the musical supporting programme featuring prelude concerts, introductory talks and Late Night Sessions can take place again in their familiar form. We do know, however, that by updating and expanding our prevention strategy, the Auditorium will be available again as a venue for matinees and as an alternative venue in case of bad weather.»

The Sound of Today

Composer in Residence: Toshio Hosokawa



Toshio Hosokawa is Composer in Residence of the 2021 Grafenegg Festival. He will leave his mark on the festival as a composer, teacher and conductor. He will compose a fanfare for the opening of the 2021 Grafenegg Festival as well as a violin concerto, which receives its Austrian premiere on 20th August. The German violin virtuoso Veronika Eberle is the soloist for this new work, jointly commissioned by the Grafenegg Festival, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. As a teacher, Toshio Hosokawa will lead the **composer conductor-workshop INK STILL WET** from 13 to 20 August 2021.

To become one with nature, to merge the self with nature: Toshio Hosokawa's artistic ideal places him within the long Japanese tradition of the link between nature and man. He sees the forest as the perfect place for his music, where birdsong and the sounds created by wind can unexpectedly become part of the performance. But it is not the Idyllic that is central to Hosokawa's preoccupation with nature. Rather, he is interested in the ambivalent relationship between man and nature, which in his homeland has been shaped by the experience of catastrophic events. As the composer of several stage works, he has explored this most strongly in his work «Erdbeben. Träume» («*Earthquake. Dreams*»), which premiered at the Stuttgart opera House in 2018. Two years earlier, his exploration of the Fukushima catastrophe, «Silent Sea», was performed at Hamburg State Opera. The second major area of tension in Hosokawa's music lies between the avant-garde of the West and traditional Japanese culture. Born in Hiroshima in 1955, Hosokawa was shaped by his years of study in Berlin, where on the one hand he became acquainted with the European trends in contemporary music and on the other hand gained the courage to deal intensively with his Japanese identity from afar. Since the success of his oratorio «Voiceless Voice in Hiroshima», which premiered in 2001, his gentle tonal language bridging East and West has been admired internationally. His works have been performed just as frequently by orchestras such as the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras as by the most important orchestras in Asia. Hosokawa contributed the variation «Loss» for Rudolf Buchbinder's «The Diabelli Project» in the Beethoven anniversary year.

As Grafenegg Festival Composer in Residence, Toshio Hosokawa follows Konstantía Gourzí, Peter Ruzicka, Ryan Wigglesworth, Brad Lubman, Christian Jost, Matthias Pintscher, Jörg Widmann, Krzysztof Penderecki, Heinz Holliger, Tan Dun, Cristóbal Halffter, HK Gruber, James MacMillan and Brett Dean.