EUROPE'S MOST MODERN OPERA HOUSE

# MUSIKTHEATER KULTUR





# WELCOME TO THE LAND OF CULTURE: UPPER AUSTRIA LINZ IS THE PLACE TO BE

Upper Austria, the birthplace and home of iconic artists and revered scientists like Johannes Kepler, Adalbert Stifter, Anton Bruckner, Alfred Kubin and Thomas Bernhard, has over the last few decades evolved into an exceptional culture center. In 2009, the state capital of Linz was the European Capital of Culture and aptly demonstrated that it is much more than just an industrial "steel city" on the Danube.

Since 2013, Linz has had an impressive new cultural focus: the Musiktheater, Europe's most modern opera house. The ideal venue for staging operas, operettas, musicals and dance of the Landestheater Linz (Upper Austrian State Theatre) as well as the Bruckner Orchester Linz under the direction of music director Dennis Russell Davies. The new building combines the utmost quality in acoustics, ultimate comfort for the audience and state-of-the-art stagecraft.

The Musiktheater is just the few minutes' walk from Linz's Hauptplatz (main square) and also located along this main city promenade are two more venues of the Landestheater Linz: the current Schauspielhaus, with its 200 years of theatre history, and the Kammerspiele focusing on plays.

More than 800 people from 40 countries work at the Landestheater Linz both in front of and behind the scenes. Over 370,000 visitors flocked to the Landestheater Linz during the 2014/2015 season. Under the new artistic direction of Hermann Schneider, who became director after the 10-year tenure of Rainer Mennicken, and the business management of Uwe Schmitz-Gielsdorf, up to 40 premieres and almost 900 performances are offered annually to visitors of all ages at the various venues.

# NEW SYMBOL OF CULTURE: The musiktheater In linz/austria

In April 2013, the grand opening of the Musiktheater marked the launch of Europe's most modern opera house. The distinctive and spacious building was designed by London architect Terry Pawson. It offers its visitors and guests the best possible views and acoustics with state-of-the-art stagecraft. Besides the centrepiece, the Großer Saal (main hall), which provides seating for up to 1,200 visitors, the Black-Box, BlackBox Lounge, Orchestersaal and FoyerBühne offer four additional, variable theatre venues.

The divisions of opera/operetta, dance, the newly established musical division, which is unique in Europe, and the Bruckner Orchester Linz have set up their new home here. International guest performances by Erwin Schrott, Thomas Hampson, Nigel Kennedy, Piotr Beczala, Diana Damrau, Edita Gruberová, Marianne Faithfull, José Cura, Franz Welser-Möst, Philip Glass, percussionist Martin Grubinger and many more, concerts offering classical, jazz and world music, as well as recitals, readings, tours and exhibitions round off the wide-ranging program. Many careers have been initiated in Linz, such as those of Piotr Beczala, Stephen Gould, Adrian Eröd and Kurt Rydl.

Stage Directors such as Robert Wilson, Achim Freyer, Carlus Padrissa (Fura dels Baus) and Uwe Eric Laufenberg have directed productions in this exciting new cultural location.



# **HIGHLIGHTS** of the 2016/2017 Season

#### **FALSTAFF** Comic opera in three acts by giuseppe verdi

Libretto by Arrigo Boito based on William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *King Henry IV*. In Italian with English surtitles

Premiere September 16 2016 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Dennis Russell Davies Director Guy Montavon Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

Falstaff, a knight and libertine par excellence, just as hard drinking as he is chronically bankrupt, has the ingeniously impertinent idea to write identical love letters to two wives of wealthy citizens. Too bad that the two women are well acquainted with each other and conspire to take revenge. In the course of this wonderfully entertaining opera evening, things become more and more complicated until finally no one knows exactly who the joker is and who is the butt of the joke.

#### **SOLARIS** Chamber Opera by Michael Obst

Libretto by the composer after Stanisław Lem's novel of the same name In German | Austrian Premiere

Premiere September 17 2016 | BlackBox Musiktheater Conductor Daniel Linton-France Director Hermann Schneider Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

Stanisław Lem's, *Solaris* is widely regarded as one of the most enthralling and iconic novels of the science fiction genre. The story about a research facility on the planet Solaris, where scientists working there meet revenants from their own past, has inspired numerous filmmakers and playwrights to produce creative interpretations. The composer Michael Obst, a student of Karlheinz Stockhausen, was the first to bring this subject to the operatic stage. In 1996, the work premiered at Munich's Biennale for New Musical Theatre, in a co-production with the innovative IRCAM in Paris (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique).

#### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (IN 80 TAGEN UM DIE WELT) or how many operas fit into one musical

Music by Gisle Kverndokk, libretto by Øystein Wiik Based on the novel by Jules Verne, German translation by Elke Ranzinger and Roman Hinze | In German with English surtitles **World Premiere** 

Premiere October 1 2016 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Stefan Diederich Director Matthias Davids Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

In a wager with fellow members at the London Reform Club, Phileas Fogg claims that he can circumnavigate the world in 80 days! He embarks on the journey with his servant Passepartout, closely followed by detective Fionula Fix, who was hired by Stuart. Fogg's agenda is in danger: In Paris, he happens upon a festival of the Merry Widow Hanna Glawari, in Rome, Tosca falls into his arms, in Beijing, Turandot wants to have him beheaded! The fact that Fogg is triumphant in the end, is as miraculous as any opera libretto could create...

> "LINZ'S PERFECT MUSIC THEATRE: LINZ HAS A WORLD-CLASS HOME FOR OPERA, BALLET AND MUSICALS." - AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE -

#### **THE LITTLE MERMAID** (DIE KLEINE MEERJUNGFRAU) Dance Theatre by Mei Hong lin

Music by Alexander von Zemlinsky and Franz Schreker Creative adaptation, based on motifs by Hans Christian Andersen

Premiere October 15 2016 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Dennis Russell Davies Director and choreographer Mei Hong Lin Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

The King of the Sea's daughter falls in love with an earthly prince and enters the human world to look for him, although she is in great pain with every step she takes. In 1902 himself in the throes of unrequited unconditional love, Austrian composer Alexander von Zemlinsky found encouragement and inspiration in Hans Christian Andersen's *The little Mermaid* for his symphonic poem. He cleverly employed heartrending music to express the psychological process of losing a beloved person, rejection and suffering.

#### **SALOME** DRAMA IN ONE ACT BY RICHARD STRAUSS

Libretto by the composer based on Oscar Wilde's play of the same name German translation: Hedwig Lachmann | In German with English surtitles

Premiere November 12 2016 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Dennis Russell Davies Director Marc Adam Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

The biblical story of King Herod, who at the urgings of his wife Herodias and their daughter Salome, issues the order to have John the Baptist beheaded. Oscar Wilde re-developed the biblical tale in 1891 and turned it into a one-act play titled *Salomé*. Filled with the crackling tension of erotic desire, a scandal was inevitable. Reason enough for revered composer Richard Strauss to select this controversial piece as the story basis for an opera. Strauss turned the elegant virtuosity of Wilde's text into a glamorously opulent sphere of sound that has never lost its appeal.

#### **THE WHITE HORSE INN** (IM WEISSEN RÖSSL) Musical comedy in three acts by ralph benatzky

Libretto by Hans Müller and Erik Charell, lyrics by Robert Gilbert Adaptation of the comedy of the same name by Oskar Blumenthal and Gustav Kadelburg | In German with English surtitles

Premiere December 10 2016 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Marc Reibel Director Karl Absenger Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

It's high season at the White Horse Inn (Zum Weißen Rössl): vacationers and enjoyment seekers here are comprised mostly of summer guests from northern Germany. Their interaction with the Upper Austrian staff – at the front Lady Innkeeper Josepha Voglhuber and her headwaiter Leopold – repeatedly results in an entertaining culture shock. Forget the rather reserved nature of northern character. "It's easy to be cheerful in the Salzkammergut!" Ralph Benatzky's operetta The White Horse Inn, is a satirical, humorous ode to memorable summer holidays.

#### **DON GIOVANNI** DRAMMA GIOCOSO IN TWO ACTS BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte In Italian with English surtitles

Premiere January 21 2017 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Enrico Calesso Director François De Carpentries Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

The myth of Don Juan: the "The Lure of Women" turns the perpetual seducer into an addict and then into a man possessed. The list of literary and musical arrangements of this great masterpiece – ever since Tirso de Molina's *Rogue of Seville* – is never ending. Mozart and Da Ponte's interpretation of the subject concerning Don Giovanni, the "punished lecher", is most certainly a fascinating highlight among the numerous interpretations. E. T. A. Hoffmann called it "the Opera of all Operas".



#### **THE MAKE-UP ARTIST OF THE BRIDE** (DIE BRAUTSCHMINKERIN) Dance theatre by mei hong lin

Adaptation of motifs by Taiwanese author Li Ang Music by Michael Erhard, with compositions by Li-Yu You, Yuan-Keng Yu

**Premiere** February 10 2017 | Großer Saal Musiktheater **Director and choreographer** Mei Hong Lin

Against the historical background of the Taiwanese "white terror", Mei Hong Lin recounts the fate of a woman completely on her own after the murder of her husband. In order to provide for herself and her son, she takes a job as a make-up artist, preparing young brides for their wedding. The mask-like makeup is the symbol of her own being, through which she is trying to cover up the unbearable truth – forcing it behind a mask. However, when her son suddenly dies, the undisguised truth is revealed...

#### GHOST

Book and lyrics by Bruce Joel Rubin Music and lyrics by Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard Based on the Paramount Pictures film of the same title German translation by Anja Hauptmann In German with English surtitles | **German language premiere** 

Premiere March 18 2017 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Stefan Diederich Director Matthias Davids Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

Sam and Molly are afresh in love and have just moved into a new apartment. But one evening, the unimaginable happens: Sam is shot and killed in a robbery. While Molly mourns his death, Sam wanders around as a good ghost and discovers that Molly, too, is in danger of losing her life. However as a ghost he can neither be seen by the living nor interfere in what is happening. In 1990, the film thrilled an entire generation. Since 2011, this musical adaptation is fascinating theatre audiences around the world.

#### **THE HARMONY OF THE WORLD** (DIE HARMONIE DER WELT) OPERA IN FIVE ACTS BY PAUL HINDEMITH

Libretto by the composer | In German with English surtitles

Premiere April 8 2017 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Gerrit Prießnitz Director Dietrich Hilsdorf Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

In 1957, Paul Hindemith premiered his opera, *Die Harmonie der Welt* (*The Harmony of the World*), about the life and work of Johannes Kepler. Needless to say, the city of Linz plays a major role in this opera. Of course, Hindemith also reflects on the effects and consequences of Nazi terror when he poses the question what roll art and science can play in politically problematic times. The composer dispenses with all superfluous late-Romantic pomp, yet his music is sensuous as well as intelligent, modern, yet with a familiar ring.

#### **THE OTHER SIDE** (DIE ANDERE SEITE) Musical theatre by Michael obst based on the Fantasy novel by Alfred Kubin

Libretto by Hermann Schneider | In German with English surtitles

Premiere May 20 2017 | Großer Saal Musiktheater Conductor Dennis Russell Davies Director John Dew Orchestra Bruckner Orchester Linz

In 1908, graphic artist and illustrator Alfred Kubin wrote *Die andere Seite (The Other Side)*, a fantasy novel that greatly impressed Franz Kafka. It recounts the surrealistic journey to a dream world in the Far East and its fascinating capital city. Initially the twilight scenario serves as an inspiration for the visitor but evolves more and more into a mesmerizingly apocalyptic scenario. In 2010, Michael Obst composed the music: tender a cappella choir passages alternate with acoustically stunning mass scenes; intense organ passages alternate with morbid images interspersed with fragile beauty.

HERMANN SCHNEIDER Artistic Director DENNIS RUSSELL DAVIES Music Director

MEI HONG LIN Artistic Director of the dance department

#### MATTHIAS DAVIDS

Artistic Director of the musical theatre department

## HERMANN SCHNEIDER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

... has been the artistic director of the Landestheater Linz since the 2016/2017 season. The German director has directed over 50 musical theatre productions as well as plays at numerous German theatre houses. He had also worked in Vienna, France and London. Mr Schneider has previously served as artistic director at various theatre houses. Aside from his work in the theatre Mr Schneider is also a recognized opera librettist and lectures at various music schools.

### DENNIS RUSSELL DAVIES MUSIC DIRECTOR

... has been principal conductor of the Bruckner Orchester Linz and head of the Opera at the Landestheater Linz since 2002. Born in Toledo, Ohio, he studied at the prestigious Julliard School in New York. Mr Davies is an accomplished pianist as well as having conducted numerous orchestras in the US and Europe. Since 1997, he has been a professor at the Mozarteum Salzburg. Mr Davies is internationally noted for his close cooperation with contemporary composers and exhilarating program constellation.

## MEI HONG LIN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE DANCE DEPARTMENT

... was born in Taiwan and studied classical Chinese dance before receiving an education in ballet and dance theatre by the Accademia Nazionale di Danza in Rome and the Folkwanghochschule in Essen, Germany. In 2013, Mei Hong Lin was appointed artistic director of dance at the Landestheater Linz after serving as chief choreographer at several theatres in Germany such as Plauen, Dortmund and Darmstadt.

# MATTHIAS DAVIDS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE MUSICAL THEATRE DEPARTMENT

... is one of the most renowned directors in the German-speaking theatre world. Davids' œuvre includes more than 80 productions with 30 world and German-speaking premieres. Since 2012, he has been artistic director of the musical theatre department of Landestheater Linz, overseeing numerous productions including *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Show Boat, Les Misérables, McTeague, Into the Woods* and numerous others.





# **BRUCKNER ORCHESTER LINZ**

The Bruckner Orchester Linz can look upon a 200-year history and an admirable tradition. Since 1967 it has carried this, in meantime, internationally noted name and over the course of the past decades has evolved into one of Middle Europe's leading orchestras. With its 130member ensemble, it not only is the symphonic orchestra of the Upper Austrian state but also serves as the accompanying orchestra for the Landestheater Linz. Since 2012, the orchestra has presented a concert cycle in the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein, where internationally acclaimed soloists such as Fazil Say and composer Arvo Pärt have been instrumental in helping to create defining moments.

In the course of its history, the Bruckner Orchester has had various acclaimed guest conductors including Hans Knappertsbusch and Sergiu Celibidache. Recently these also included Zubin Mehta, Stanisław Skrowaczewksi and Franz Welser-Möst. Since 2002, Dennis Russell Davies has been the principal conductor of the Bruckner Orchester Linz. He has successfully employed his creative instincts to work with renowned composers such as Philip Glass and William Bolcom and has brought the orchestra into the international classical music spotlight. Under his direction the orchestra has undertaken numerous concert tours that have brought the music ensemble to the United States – two times –, Italy, Spain as well as Japan and France. With this year's concert tour of England and Scotland, the orchestra is involved in extensive recording activities, which includes the recent Arte Nova/SONY release of the entire symphonic collection of Anton Bruckner.

# THE UPPER AUSTRIAN Experience by Michael Troy

There is much to be discovered in Upper Austria. Strategically located along the Danube River, Linz was for almost 400 years the sleepy, provincial capital of Upper Austria before it became an industrial hub in the early 20th century. Today, Linz is a modern mini-metropolis of about 200,000, with a visionary approach to the future as well as a proud and strong attachment to its past. Underscoring its current status, Linz was chosen as a "European Capital of Culture" in 2009 and, since 2014, has been a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities (UCCN) network as City of Media Arts.

The city's modernity is inescapable, but as one wanders the picturesque, cobblestoned inner city walkways, surrounded by historical buildings and sites, a delightful sense of a glorious past descends upon the visitor. Meticulously restored, colorful townhouses whisper fascinating tales of people and their doings that made such indelible marks, not only on the history of the city but the world beyond.

There's the intriguing Mozart house, where during a short stay, in late 1783, the maestro wrote the Linz Symphony. According to legend, it only took him four days to compose it.

Also on the West side of the square, there is a winding path leading up to the Schlossberg (the city castle) with a grand view of city rooftops and housing an excellent restaurant.

The German mathematician and astronomer, Johannes Kepler, another famous citizen of Linz, lived here from 1612 until 1627. His former residence on Rathausgasse 5 is now an educational facility.



#### FOR ART AFICIONADOS

Wandering down towards the Danube from the old town is the Lentos Museum with its impressive art collection, including several Herbert Beyer drawings. Born in Upper Austria, Beyer was an inspirational, visionary figure of the Bauhaus movement whose ideas profoundly influenced many remarkable personalities.

For art aficionados, a visit to the Schloss Museum and the Landesgalerie certainly is a must with numerous interesting exhibitions. The Austrian printmaker and illustrator, Alfred Kubin resided in a small castle in the Upper Austrian town of Zwickledt and is buried in Wernstein. He bequeathed half of his extensive œuvre to the Upper Austrian State Museum in Linz in 1955.

#### **CITY OF MUSIC**

As Linz is also a city of music and an evening visit to the recently opened Musiktheater is something of a must. Operas, operettas, musicals, dance and concerts are on the agenda throughout the year. It's a state-of-the-art facility and, despite the 1,000 seat capacity, still emanates a cozy, woodsy charm. The program offers an extensive variety of first-class productions throughout the year, surely something to suit everyone's taste.

From late spring to early fall, outdoor cafés line the inner city avenues and, in the old town, there are numerous restaurants, bars and clubs that are open late for night owls. Linz is also noted for its pastry, above all the famous Linzer Torte, considered the world's oldest-known cake recipe. Hotels and inns are plentiful in Linz, and all are hospitable and clean to a high standard.

#### **STUNNING VIEW**

Anyone visiting Linz must take a morning or late afternoon 20-minute ride up to the Pöstlingberg on the historic cogwheel trolley. The stunning, 180° panoramic view stretching from the city rooftops to the sparkling snow-covered peaks of the Austrian Alps (weather permitting) is indeed an extraordinary sight. The private, modern and highly respected Anton Bruckner Private University is situated serenely just below the Pöstlingberg. Of course, the celebrated Brucknerhaus concert hall offers many stirring classical concerts throughout the year. Not to forget the acclaimed annual Bruckner Festival being held 2016 from September 14 to October 15 with 36 inspiring concerts. Bruckner is, after all, a son of Linz and the renowned Abbey of St. Florian with its famous church organ – on which Bruckner played and composed – is in the immediate vicinity of the city.

#### **CITY OF MEDIA ARTS**

It's certainly advisable to visit the impressive Ars Electronica Center. Four floors of stunning exhibitions and installations including a 45-minute 8K 3D presentation are something no serious techie (regardless of age) would want to miss. In late summer, it's the main venue for the highly regarded international Ars Electronica Festival. On that note, Linz is a city that has embraced current technologies and industrial trends, even becoming a leader in many current technical fields and Upper Austria is the country's leading industrial state.

#### FROM THE BLACK FOREST TO THE BLACK SEA

One of most fascinating areas along the lore-laden Danube's serpentine path from the Black Forest to the Black Sea is the Upper Austrian section, which begins at the German border by Passau. Be it by boat, car, train, bicycle or on foot, an extended excursion along this part of the Danube is full of countless outdoor activities, stunning scenery, and fascinating cultural treasures.

Ensconced in the rolling hills, lining the Danube's path, are medieval monasteries, ancient, painstakingly restored castles, enticing inns and cozy traditional taverns, each with compelling tales, many shrouded in mystery and therefore endlessly enthralling. The hub of Linz affords the traveller the luxury of choosing where to explore the many possibilities Upper Austria has to offer, as so much of interest is in the immediate vicinity.



#### SPECTACULAR SALZKAMMERGUT

The UNESCO World Heritage region Hallstatt-Dachstein is easily accessible from Linz and located in the heart of the spectacular Salzkammergut region. The towns of Hallstatt, Bad Goisern and Bad Ischl are renown for their natural charm, awe-inspiring vistas, unique traditions and endless opportunities for sports. Hallstatt and St. Wolfgang being two places that no serious traveller to the region should forgo as both lakeside towns offer fascinating histories and spectacular vistas.

In short, a trip to Upper Austria affords many opportunities, not only to experience the region's natural splendors, elegant hotels and restaurants but also to immerse oneself in a historical, primeval landscape filled with mysteries and magic. Yes, the hills of Upper Austria are still alive with the sound of music, as well as a beguiling history and so much more.

#### "... WITH A RESONATING BANG AND A FASCINATING ARRAY OF PRODUCTIONS LINZ HAS ESTABLISHED ITS NEW MUSIC THEATRE. Not only the scope and variety of the repertory is unique, but the new building itself is awe-inspiring" - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung -

#### Impressum

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# TRAVELLING TO LINZ

# LINZ, ONE OF THE "TOP 10 ALTERNATIVE CITY BREAKS IN EUROPE" - THE GUARDIAN -Airplane

The international Blue Danube Airport is located only a few miles from the Linz city centre. The Musiktheater is located in the city centre and easily accessible by taxi, train or bus.

#### Ship

International shipping companies offer Danube cruises with stops in Linz.

#### Train

International, long-distance trains stop at the Linz main train station, which is in the immediate proximity of the Musiktheater.

#### Car

Travelling from Salzburg take the Westautobahn, A1 in the direction of Vienna, exit Linz/Zentrum. Traveling from Prague take the Mühlkreisautobahn A7, exit Linz/Prinz-Eugen-Straße.Traveling from Regensburg and Passau take the Innkreisautobahn, A8 to the A1, exit Linz/Zentrum. There is a parking garage located in the basement of the Musiktheater.

For further information please contact Linz Tourismus, Hauptplatz 1, 4020 Linz Telephone +43 732/7070 2009, tourist.info@linz.at

For further information regarding Upper Austria please contact Oberösterreich Tourismus, Freistädter Straße 119, 4041 Linz Telephone +43 732/221 022, info@oberoesterreich.at



BERLIN

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# SERVICE

#### Contact

Musiktheater, Am Volksgarten 1, 4020 Linz, Austria Telephone international +43 732/76 11-400 Monday to Friday 9 am – 6 pm, Saturday 9 am – 12.30 pm kassa@landestheater-linz.at

#### **Tickets online**

www.landestheater-linz.at, or with our complimentary Theatre-App: tickets 24/7, easy, quick and safe bookings, printable with print@home.

#### Travel agencies, tour operators and bus companies

For information and ticket orders please contact Sonja Fröschl: telephone +43 732/7611- 824 and froeschl@landestheater-linz.at.

#### Backstage tours

Obtain a fascinating "behind the scenes" perspective – certainly a memorable experience. For further information and times, please contact Eva Schütz: telephone +43 732/7611-823 and fuehrungen@landestheater-linz.at.

#### Monitors

Touchscreens for play texts, cast, interesting dates and special offers can be found in virtually all the backrests of the chairs in the main hall (Großer Saal) of the Musiktheater. Surtitles in English, German and Czech are available for many performances.

#### Catering

Located on the ground floor of the Musiktheater is the Café Volksgarten and, on the fourth floor, you will find the restaurant/brasserie, Das Anton, telephone +43 732/7611-950.

# LANDESTHEATER-LINZ.AT 🛛 📑 🕥 🈏 You 💷 🕒



#### "LINZ IS MAKING A STRONG BID TO PUT ITSELF ON THE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL MAP WITH ITS HANDSOME NEW HOUSE. ITS CENTERPIECE IS A 1,000-SEAT JEWEL BOX OF A THEATRE FOR OPERA, ORCHESTRA, MUSICALS AND BALLET, LAVISHLY EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND FEATURING, BY EARLY INDICATIONS, EXCELLENT ACOUSTICS."

- NEW YORK TIMES -

#### "ASCENT TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE" - DIE DEUTSCHE BÜHNE -

