

# TONHALLE ORCHESTER ZÜRICH

Melanie Kollbrunner  
Press Officer  
+41 44 206 34 63  
+41 76 576 60 06  
melanie.kollbrunner@tonhalle.ch

—  
Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG  
Gotthardstrasse 5  
CH-8002 Zürich  
+41 44 206 34 40

—  
info@tonhalle.ch  
tonhalle-orchester.ch

Media release of 23 September 2021

## Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich: new concert organ inaugurated

**Following last week's festive inauguration of the concert hall, attention will focus repeatedly over the coming days and indeed throughout the season on the Tonhalle Zürich's new organ – an outstanding orchestral instrument that will also be used for solo performances. The organ will be inaugurated under Music Director Paavo Järvi and Focus Artist Christian Schmitt on 23 and 24 September 2021.**

It is considered the queen of all musical instruments: the organ. The instrument newly built for the Tonhalle Zürich is ideally suited for performing both the classical and the contemporary organ repertoire. Thanks to its particularly broad dynamic spectrum – ranging from a finely chiselled pianissimo to a roaring fortissimo – the flexible new organ is especially responsive to the requirements of accompanying orchestras, choirs, ensembles and soloists. Designed by organ experts Peter Solomon, Christian Schmitt and Martin Haselböck together with renowned organ builder Kuhn AG of Männedorf, the instrument is precisely tailored to the Grosse Tonhalle – in both musical and architectural terms.

The programme of 23 and 24 September will include the world première of a commissioned work. Lausanne-born Richard Dubugnon's *Caprice V "Zürcher Art" for Orchestra, op. 72 no. 5* will provide a suitably impressive opening for the concert, juxtaposed with Camille Saint-Saëns' famous *Organ Symphony No. 3 in C minor, op. 78*, with which Guillaume Connesson's organ *Concerto da Requiem* (co-commissioned with the Basel Symphony Orchestra) shares the inspiration of the mediaeval chorale form. In turn, Saint-Saëns' majestic final theme has served as the model for many a melody used in film and pop music.

The Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich has made a point of inviting local artists for the *Orgelnacht* of 25 September. "Networking with the local organ scene is immensely important to us and forms the basis of the conception of these concerts. Together with local luminaries, we will be presenting international artists to complete the programme, which will range from Bach to Pärt. These performers will be complemented by the renowned Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Martin Haselböck and Christian Schmitt," says Ilona Schmiel, Director of the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich. The evening will be moderated by participants in the *Nextstop: classic* project that consists of young students and has shaped the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft

# TONHALLE ORCHESTER ZÜRICH

Zürich's programme for many years.

As the focus of the current season's programme, the new organ will be the centre of attention at both the *Internationale Orgeltage* and the *Orgeltag für Kinder* (both events will be held in June 2022), as well as making its mark on the *Literatur und Musik* series.

## **Background: How the organ came to the Tonhalle Zürich**

Organ builder Kuhn AG of Männedorf specialises in the design and construction of large concert organs that incorporate state-of-the-art tonal and architectural elements. **The entire organ was painstakingly built by hand in Switzerland.** As the new instrument was not budgeted for in the building project, it was financed entirely by the Baugarten Foundation.

For the inauguration, organ builder Kuhn and the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich have jointly published a booklet, which includes background texts on the history of the instrument and its significance for the Tonhalle Zürich. The publication will be available at Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich concerts.

[www.tonhalle-orchester.ch/konzerte/abonnements/kosmos-orgel/](http://www.tonhalle-orchester.ch/konzerte/abonnements/kosmos-orgel/)