

Media Information

July 9, 2020; Update: September 1, 2020

“State Opera for All”: Beethoven’s Romances for Violin and “Ode to Joy” with Anne-Sophie Mutter and Daniel Barenboim. BMW and Staatsoper Unter den Linden to give thanks to everyone that helped ensure vital services during the coronavirus pandemic.

Munich/Berlin. On Sunday, September 6, 2020, BMW Berlin and Staatsoper Unter den Linden will be hosting “State Opera for All” at Bebelplatz in Berlin. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year’s open-air concert, which is also celebrating the 450. anniversary of Staatskapelle Berlin, will be held respecting regulations and protective measures. The concert is foremost intended to thank everyone who contributed significantly and helped ensure vital services during the crisis. To mark the 250. anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven’s birth, the concert will feature two Romances for Violin, the “Egmont” Overture and “Ode to Joy” from his Symphony No. 9, presented by solo violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and conducted by Daniel Barenboim. “State Opera for All” will be presented under the patronage of Berlin’s governing mayor Michael Müller. Thanks to BMW Berlin, admission to the concert will be offered free of charge.

Following the protective guidelines for events, this year’s “State Opera for All” will offer a reduced number of seats for a total of 2,000 spectators. As in previous years, the open-air concert will be one of the highlights of Berlin’s cultural calendar. The event is also meant as a token of appreciation offered to all those that provided indispensable support working in sectors crucial to the society such as healthcare services, retail and logistics. A share of the tickets will be reserved for people working in any one of these sectors and will be available in advance. As of August 20, a second share of the tickets will be made available to the general public following www.staatsoper-berlin.de. Admission to the event is by ticket only.

On the occasion of the 250. anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven’s birth, “State Opera for All” will present two romances for violin featuring **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, as well as the “Egmont Overture” and “Ode to Joy” featuring **Julia Kleiter, Waltraud Meier, Andreas Schager** and **René Pape** as solo vocalists in collaboration with the **Choir of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden**. In 2020, **Staatskapelle Berlin** celebrates its 450. anniversary and marks this special occasion over the course of the seasons 2019/2020 and 2020/2012. With a tradition reaching back to 1570, the Staatskapelle Berlin is one of the oldest orchestras in the world. Daniel Barenboim was appointed general music director of the Staatskapelle in 1992.

Staatsoper Unter den Linden and BMW are delighted that Anne-Sophie Mutter agreed to perform as solo artist at “State Opera for All”. The pianist Lang Lang had very much been looking forward to celebrate Beethoven’s 250. anniversary together with Daniel Barenboim, Staatskapelle Berlin and the German audience. However, as a result of rising numbers in infections linked to the coronavirus across the world international travel bears significant health risks. For this reason, Lang Lang decided with a heavy heart to cancel his Berlin performance. He wishes all participants and spectators a wonderful concert and hopes to be able to perform in Germany again very soon.

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The concert will be recorded by the German TV channel ZDF and aired on September 13, 2020 at 10.15 pm. In addition, the concert will be shown live at www.staatskapelle-berlin.de, www.staatsoper-berlin.de and at www.facebook.com/BMWGroupCulture.

Matthias Schulz, Artistic Director of Staatsoper Unter den Linden, said, “This year, ‘State Opera for All’ carries special meaning for us. As we are marking the 450 year-long history of Staatskapelle Berlin, we are also celebrating the concert as a symbol of a new beginning in the wake of a culture of silence imposed by the coronavirus. This year, we saw the season interrupted in a way we have witnessed never before in the long history of Staatsoper Unter den Linden and its orchestra. Together with BMW, we would like to use ‘State Opera for All’ and this live event to give back and to thank all those that dutifully served our society over the previous months. In a crisis, we learn how important solid partnerships are and appreciate the trust placed in the power of culture, which is also why I would like to use this occasion to thank BMW as our main partner for our close collaboration of many years.”

“I am delighted and honoured to conduct the concert as part of ‘State Opera for All’ on the occasion of the 450. anniversary of Staatskapelle Berlin and to once again perform at Bebelplatz. We are very pleased to offer this evening to those who contributed significantly during the coronavirus crisis and we are especially grateful to BMW for their support this year. We are also grateful to ZDF, who will air the concert on prime time and thereby make it available to all other music enthusiasts,” said **Daniel Barenboim, General Music Director of Staatsoper and Staatskapelle Berlin**.

Maximilian Schöberl, Head of BMW Group Corporate and Governmental Affairs and Executive Vice President, said, “Special times demand special gestures. Which is why I am delighted that, together with Staatsoper Unter den Linden, we are once again able to present ‘State Opera for All’. And it is my great pleasure that we can dedicate this year’s open-air concert to all those who ensured the welfare of our society during this very unusual year. I hope that this concert will offer each of these helping hands a moment of repose and that they can truly enjoy this summery night of music in the heart of Berlin as a token of our gratitude for all their work and efforts.”

Sebastian Mackensen, BMW Group Senior Vice President Market Germany, said, “‘State Opera for All’ is one of the longest-standing formats of the Cultural Engagement of BMW Group and as such has been a recurring event and highlight of Berlin’s cultural calendar over the last fourteen years. As soon as the audience gathers at Bebelplatz to enjoy the open-air performance of musical highlights, an extraordinary atmosphere begins to form.”

State Opera for All

Sunday, 6 September 2020, Start: 8.00 PM

Open-air concert at Bebelplatz, Berlin

Staatskapelle Berlin

Conductor: Daniel Barenboim

Performing soloists: Julia Kleiter, Waltraud Meier, Andreas Schager, René Pape, Anne-Sophie Mutter

Corporate Communications

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Choir of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden
Program: Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 D minor Op. 125 as well as the "Egmont" Overture Op. 84, the Romance for Violin No. 1 in G Major, Op. 40 and the Romance for Violin No. 2 in F Major, Op. 50

Admission to the event is by ticket only (available at www.staatsoper-berlin.de).
Free of charge thanks to BMW Berlin.

#SOFA2020
#BMWOperaNext
#StaatsoperUnterDenLinden
#BMWGroupCulture

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Cooperation of Staatsoper Unter den Linden and BMW

Since 2007, "State Opera for All" has welcomed over half a million visitors and for over a decade, it has been the cornerstone of the long-standing cooperation of BMW and Staatsoper Unter den Linden. Since the 2018/2019 season, BMW Group has been supporting Staatsoper Unter den Linden as its official and global main partner and expanded the cooperation by adding the exclusive digital partnership **BMW OPERA NEXT**. The collaborative initiative of BMW and Staatsoper Unter den Linden includes specially-developed social media series, interactive selfie spots in front of Staatsoper Unter den Linden and enhanced streaming programmes as well as a stronger presence on various social media channels, all presenting exciting new insights into the thrilling and multi-faceted world of the opera and its back stage areas. In 2019, Daniel Barenboim used a bodycam for the very first time while conducting and presented entirely new perspectives and insights for the audiences following the performance both at the square and live online.

For almost 50 years, BMW Group has supported hundreds of cultural institutions worldwide. The cooperation with Staatsoper Unter den Linden is an integral part of a broad range of partnerships of BMW Group and various concert halls and ensembles from all over the world ranging from South Africa to China. The partnerships include a series of open-air concerts held in Munich and at London's Trafalgar Square and, since 2018, in Moscow.

About BMW Group Cultural Engagement

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by

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the artist Gerhard Richter specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. For years, the BMW Group and its partners have been initiating and establishing their own formats such as BMW Tate Live, BMW Welt Jazz Award, BMW Open Work, the BMW Art Journey and the "Opera for All" concerts in Berlin, Munich, Moscow and London. The company also partners with leading museums, art fairs and orchestras as well as jazz festivals and opera houses around the world. With BMW OPERA NEXT, the new partnership with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, the opportunities presented by digitalisation are used to open up new ways of accessing the world of opera for young audiences. As part of its art programme "Muse", Rolls-Royce partners for the initiative "The Dream Commission" with two internationally esteemed art institutions. Together with Fondation Beyeler and Serpentine Galleries, emerging and established artists are invited to submit a moving-image work that delivers an immersive sensory experience. The artists are nominated and chosen by renowned personalities of the art world like Daniel, Birnbaum, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Cao Fei, and Theodora Vischer. The BMW Group takes absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities for granted – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business.

Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview

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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 15 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2019, the BMW Group sold over 2.5 million passenger vehicles and more than 175,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2019 was € 7.118 billion on revenues amounting to € 104.210 billion. As of 31 December 2019, the BMW Group had a workforce of 126,016 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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