

Rundfunkchor Berlin

Press Release 09/10/20

THE WORLD TO COME

Festive Berlin mass based on Ludwig van Beethoven's "Missa solemnis"

The Rundfunkchor Berlin is continuing its successful series of transdisciplinary projects with the centrepiece of the 2020/21 season: THE WORLD TO COME. Under the musical direction of chief conductor Gijs Leenaars the Rundfunkchor Berlin stages the next transdisciplinary project after the renowned "human requiem" und "LUTHER dancing with the gods". Working from a concept and direction by Tilman Hecker and a composition by Birke J. Bertelsmeier THE WORLD TO COME combines contemporary musical trends with Beethoven's masterpiece in a concert installation. Together with the Rundfunkchor Berlin, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin artists Colin Self, Iwona Sobotka, Mohammad Reza Mor-tazavi, Moor Mother, and Planningtorock are taking the themes and music of Beethoven's mass as the starting point for an extraordinary musical journey into the world of tomorrow.

As a transdisciplinary sound experience and spatial installation, THE WORLD TO COME dissolves the boundaries of ordinary choir concerts. This extraordinary interplay of artists from highly diverse musical genres is to be premiered at the Vollgut-lager Berlin. Visitors will walk through the concert installation in the large hall of the Vollgutlager and individual rooms of the adjacent club SchwuZ. The individual sta-tions will be combined in many different ways to create a remarkable concert expe-rience.

THE WORLD TO COME is also the working title for a series concept, in which the Rundfunkchor Berlin will focus on explosive contemporary issues.

The preparatory work has been supervised academically by Jan Assmann – a schol-ar of culture and religion as well as an Egyptologist. Inspired by discussions with Tilman Hecker and by the Rundfunkchor Berlin's involvement with this masterpiece by Beethoven, Assmann wrote his book Kult und Kunst. Beethoven's Missa Solemnis als Gottesdienst, which was published by C.H.BECK in late August. Jan Assmann ded-icated his book to Tilman Hecker and Hans-Hermann Rehberg as well as to the Rund-funkchor Berlin – a special honour, for which we would like to express our apprecia-tion again here.

Vollgutlager Berlin
8th/9th October 2020
Thurs./Fri. 7 pm

 Rundfunk
Orchester
Chöre

Rundfunkchor Berlin

THE WORLD TO COME

Festive Berlin mass based on Ludwig van Beethoven's "Missa solemnis" in D-major, op. 123
Composition and Arrangement by Birke J. Bertelsmeier
Concert installation

Tilman Hecker – Concept and set
Dominikus Müller – Dramaturgy
Birke J. Bertelsmeier – Composition
John Torres – Lighting
Jan Assmann – Academic supervision

Colin Self
Iwona Sobotka – Soprano
Mohammad Reza Mortazavi
Moor Mother
Planningtorock

Arrangement Colin Self: Justin Wong
Arrangement Mohammad Reza Mortazavi: Lea Fink

Rundfunkchor Berlin
Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin
Gijs Leenaars – Conductor

Tickets: 48 Euro (no seating).

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and tip Berlin.

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