

# Rundfunkchor Berlin

Press Release, October 15, 2021

## Rundfunkchor Berlin presents documentary of the concert installation THE WORLD TO COME

Rundfunkchor Berlin has released the documentary of its trans-disciplinary concert installation THE WORLD TO COME – A festive mass after Ludwig van Beethoven's »Missa solemnis«. The 25-minute documentary invites you to immerse yourself in the multi-layered structure of the polyphonic sound worlds developed by Tilman Hecker with the Rundfunkchor Berlin for the event at Vollgutlager and SchwuZ Berlin. The video is available on the [Youtube channel](#) of the Rundfunkchor Berlin.

*»For me, this is the most successful artistic work to date taking a creative approach to the pandemic conditions – not avoiding them but assimilating them, exploiting them as a form of empowerment.«*

– Visitor to the performance of THE WORLD TO COME on 9 October 2020.

With the premiere one year ago – on October 8 as well as another performance on October 9, 2020 – the Rundfunkchor Berlin presented THE WORLD TO COME – a Berlin festive mass after Ludwig van Beethoven's »Missa solemnis« according to Tilman Hecker's concept as a walk-through course at the Vollgutlager Berlin as well as the adjacent Club SchwuZ.

In the documentary, the director Tilman Hecker, the chief conductor and overall musical director, Gijs Leenaars, as well as the composer Birke J. Bertelsmeier, the artists Mohammad Reza Mortazavi, Moor Mother, Planningtorock, Colin Self and the dramaturge Dominikus Müller provide insights into the idea, the conception and their collaboration in relation to the themes and the music of Beethoven's mass as the starting point of the extraordinary musical journey. The documentary makes it possible to experience how, with THE WORLD TO COME, the Rundfunkchor Berlin opens up the »Missa solemnis« to other musical traditions and histories and brings Beethoven's work into a present-day context in which tomorrow becomes negotiable.

As a transdisciplinary sound experience, THE WORLD TO COME dissolves the boundaries of ordinary choir concerts and leads the visitors in a parcours through the concert installation in the large hall of the Vollgutlager as well as individual rooms of the adjacent club SchwuZ. An event that, in terms of its artistic dimension, was indebted to the worldwide pandemic, but at the same time

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was also fuelled and enriched by it, so that a concert experience was created with the enduring potential to change and enhance the planning and the art of tomorrow's (concert) world in many ways.

With a [video trailer](#) already released in March 2021, the Rundfunkchor Berlin gave a foretaste of the now available 25-minute documentary.

**Documentary:**

**THE WORLD TO COME**

**A festive mass after Ludwig van Beethoven's »Missa solennis«**

**Concert installation by Tilman Hecker with the Rundfunkchor Berlin**

With music by:

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

**Birke J. Bertelsmeier**

**Mohammad Reza Mortazavi (arr. by Lea Fink)**

**Moor Mother**

**Planningtorock**

**Colin Self (with Justin Wong)**

**Iwona Sobotka – soprano**

**Jakub Sawicki – organ**

**Ivan Cheng – performance**

**Tilman Hecker – concept & scenography**

**Dominikus Müller – dramaturgy**

**Birke J. Bertelsmeier – score**

**John Torres – lighting**

**Thorsten Hoppe – sound**

**Prof. Dr. Jan Assmann – scientific support**

**Rundfunkchor Berlin**

**Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin**

**Gijs Leenaars – principal conductor Rundfunkchor Berlin**

**Justus Barleben – conductor foyer; assistant to the principal conductor**

**Franziska Kuba – conductor SchwuZ**

**Salvatore Percacciolo – conductor concert shell**

Audio document

Pepsi Boston: Bambi und der Elch (recording from SchwuZ, late 1980s)

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**Stephan Herzog** – director & editor  
**Simon Hertling** – camera  
**Henning Brümmer** – camera  
**Malin Meier** – assistant editor  
**Cristian Iorga** – sound mixing  
**Bernhard Schlick** – colorist  
**Maria Lanowski** – graphic design  
**Katharina Waltl** – translation & subtitles

**Postproduction: Herzog Media**  
**Acoustic design & production: MMT-TLV Ltd.**

**Sponsored by: The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.**  
**In the context of: BTHVN 2020.**

**We would like to thank the following artists, their partners and agencies for their kind support:**

**Recordings by Planningtorock provided by DF/COOP/ROSTRONRECORDS.**  
**Recordings by Moor Mother provided by Patrick JF Smith and Qu Junktions.**

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**Friends and Sponsors of the Rundfunkchor Berlin e.V.**  
**Procuratio.**

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