

Rundfunkchor Berlin

PRESS RELEASE 23 August 2021

**Rundfunkchor Berlin announces its 2021/22 season:
Hans-Hermann Rehberg will bid farewell at the end of the
season – the Rundfunkchor Berlin introduces Rachel-Sophia
Dries as Rehberg's successor from August 2022**

Principal conductor Gijs Leenaars and choir director Hans-Hermann Rehberg presented the 2021/22 season at the Rundfunkchor Berlin's recent press conference. The programme for the new season is online. At the end of the 2021/22 season, Hans-Hermann Rehberg, who celebrates his 40th anniversary with the Rundfunkchor Berlin this month, will bid farewell as the ensemble's director. Rehberg's successor as choir director from August 2022 has been chosen already: Rachel-Sophia Dries was introduced to the public at last week's press conference.

For subscribers, advance ticket sales for the 2021/22 season will begin immediately. The official advance booking starts on 25 August 2021.

The new season will see the Rundfunkchor Berlin appearing in a total of **49 concerts** and **25 programmes**, working under **15 conductors** at **11 venues** in Berlin and throughout Germany.

High points include the transdisciplinary project »Time Travellers«, which could not take place due to the pandemic in 2020 and will be performed in the **Schinkelhalle Potsdam** in the new season. Musically, »The Passing of the Year« by British composer **Jonathan Dove** provides the mainstay of the evening. Another gem will be the choir's **sing-along concert**, for which **principal conductor Gijs Leenaars** will be inviting listeners to the **Berlin Philharmonie** for the first time. »Ever Us«, a work commissioned by the Rundfunkchor Berlin from British composer **Roxanna Panufnik**, is planned as the centrepiece of this event.

Further highlights will be the traditional **Christmas Concert** in **Berlin Cathedral** under the direction of **principal conductor Gijs Leenaars** and **Verdi's »Missa da Requiem«** with the **Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Daniel Barenboim**, as well as concertante performances of **Tchaikovsky's operas »Iolanta«** and **»Mazeppa«** with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by **Kirill Petrenko**, **Giacomo Puccini's »Tosca«** with the Rundfunk- Sinfonieorchester Berlin, and a performance of **Julian Anderson's New Work for Soprano, Choir and Orchestra** with the **Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin**.

Ein Ensemble der

 **Rundfunk
Orchester
Chöre**

Rundfunkchor Berlin

Under the direction of **Gijs Leenaars**, recording is currently in progress for a CD to be issued by **Sony Classical** in **March 2022**: the Rundfunkchor Berlin performing **Giuseppe Verdi's »Quattro pezzi sacri«**. The recording is a coproduction with **Deutschlandfunk Kultur**.

We are making an exclusive pre-publication presentation to press representatives of the **25-minute documentation THE WORLD TO COME – a festive mass after Ludwig van Beethoven's »Missa solennis«**. On request, we can also send you the documentation on a USB-stick.

In the **2021/22** season, the Rundfunkchor Berlin is again offering concerts and events as **subscriptions**: the subscription **Chor & Orchester** with **six** and the subscription **Mittendrin** with **three top-quality concerts**.

Ticket sales for the first subscription event, our RundfunkchorLounge – »Thoughts are free« | On the **100th** birthday of **Sophie Scholl** – begins for subscribers on **17 August 2021** and for everyone else from **25 August 2021** via our **visitor service**.

For further information, we invite you to explore our press materials, consisting of a **press kit including biographies, press photos** and the **already published manifesto** attached to this email. We are also happy to send you a printed version of the press kit and the manifesto on request. If you would like us to do so, please let us know your address.

Hans-Hermann Rehberg on the new season and his successor: »I am overjoyed that together with the Rundfunkchor Berlin we have been able to provide new impetus for choral music, even in pandemic times and despite the adverse circumstances. The programme for the **2021/22** season holds many exciting concerts in store for our audiences. At the end of the season, it will be time for me to say goodbye as director of the Rundfunkchor Berlin. I am delighted that we have found a successor in **Rachel-Sophia Dries**.«

Principal conductor **Gijs Leenaars** in this context:

»The **2021/22** season will be an extremely powerful and intense season musically for the Rundfunkchor Berlin, at the end of which we will say goodbye to our choir director **Hans-Hermann Rehberg**. With the final RundfunkchorLounge of the season tackling the subject of »farewell«, this complex topic will not only receive general consideration but will also affect us very personally. I think we have found a worthy successor in **Rachel-Sophia Dries**.«

And here a joint statement from the board of the Rundfunkchor Berlin, represented by **Roksolana Chraniuk, Judith Engel** and **Sascha Glintenkamp**: »**Hans-Hermann Rehberg** opened the way for the Rundfunkchor Berlin to join the top ranks of choirs worldwide with his

Ein Ensemble der



Rundfunkchor Berlin

genre-spanning ideas and extraordinary commitment. The fact that we, the board, will be working with him for his last season makes us both grateful and reflective. It is all the more crucial that Hans-Hermann Rehberg's successor has now been selected: We welcome Rachel-Sophia Dries as choir director and look forward to continuing our work with her in this post from August 2022.«

»I am looking forward immensely to my new job as director of the Rundfunkchor Berlin«, says **Rachel-Sophia Dries**. »To be able to steer the fortunes of this top international ensemble together with Gijs Leenaars from the 2022/23 season onwards is a great honour and a huge responsibility.«

In 2011 Rachel-Sophia Dries prepared the first choral fair "chor.com" at the German Choral Association; shortly afterwards she took over the marketing/communications department at the Rundfunkchor Berlin, where she attended the arrival of chief conductor Gijs Leenaars in autumn 2015, among other things. Since 2018 she has held a leading position at the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz under the artistic direction of Thomas Ostermeier, and in August 2022 she will take up the position of director at the Rundfunkchor Berlin.

Anselm Rose, sole managing director of the Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH: »First of all, I would like to thank Hans-Hermann Rehberg for his tireless, innovative and forward-looking commitment to the Rundfunkchor Berlin and his extraordinary contribution to shaping the excellence of the ROC's orchestras. We are delighted that we have been able to engage Rachel-Sophia Dries, an accomplished successor with an excellent network on the Berlin cultural scene, as choir director and are now able to introduce her to the public. Having been responsible for marketing at the Rundfunkchor Berlin for several years in the past, Rachel-Sophia Dries is now returning as its director.«

Ernst Elitz, chairman of the board of trustees and the shareholders' meeting of the ROC:

»In his 40 years of work here, Hans-Hermann Rehberg has shaped the Rundfunkchor Berlin like no other. Hans-Hermann Rehberg also set an important emphasis for musical life in a united Germany with the integration of this top ensemble into the Rundfunk Orchester und Chöre gGmbH Berlin. I am delighted that we can already confirm Rachel-Sophia Dries as the new director of the Rundfunkchor Berlin from August 2022.«

Principal conductor Gijs Leenaars, choir director **Hans-Hermann Rehberg** and the designated choir director, **Rachel-Sophia Dries** are available for interview with immediate effect. To arrange interviews, please contact us at presse@rundfunkchor-berlin.de.

Ein Ensemble der

ROC Rundfunk
Orchester
Chöre

Rundfunkchor Berlin

Johanna Brücker • Presse- und Medienarbeit
Rundfunkchor Berlin, Charlottenstraße 56, 10117
Berlin
Email: presse@rundfunkchor-berlin.de
Tel. (030) 20 29 87 - 562
www.rundfunkchor-berlin.de

Ein Ensemble der

 Rundfunk
Orchester
Chöre