

Fall 2009

# The Salzburg Festival Society



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## SALZBURG FESTIVAL 2009

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends and Patrons of the Salzburg Festival Society,

The Salzburg Festival we enjoyed so much this year was as fine and full of surprises as anyone could wish. I hope you all had enough time in Salzburg to attend many operas and concerts. Among the operas were Jürgen Flimm's valedictory production of Rossini's Old-Testament rarity *Moses and Pharaoh* (*Moïse et Pharaon*) under Maestro Riccardo Muti, and its almost polar opposite, the challenging young director Katie Mitchell's staging of Luigi Nono's *Al gran sole carico d'amore*. Handel's Biblical oratorio *Theodora* staged as an opera by the magical Christoph Loy provided other insights, and it was also gratifying to welcome back our old friend Mozart with two operas staged by Claus Guth: *Le nozze di Figaro* – well-remembered from the Mozart anniversary year – and a new *Così fan tutte* with Miah Persson and Isabel Leonard as the charming Neapolitan sisters.

Concerts and recitals under the most capable leadership of Markus Hinterhäuser were again tremendous highlights of the 2009 summer. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (VPO) elevated to stage level from its place in the opera pit played more magnificently than ever. The outstanding VPO concerts were led by Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Riccardo Muti, Franz Welser-Möst and the exciting young Gustavo Dudamel in his return to Salzburg. Daniel Barenboim also returned with his West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, playing not only concerts but also giving a concert performance of Beethoven's *Fidelio*; and Pierre Boulez guest-conducted this astonishing combination of Israeli and Palestinian players in his own compositions. Standout soloists were pianist Gabriela Montero, Joshua Bell, and our Salzburg Festival Society (SFS) Advisory Board members, soprano Anna Netrebko and Daniel Barenboim (wearing his pianist hat) in a stunning performance of Russian songs. Rolando Villazón was unable to appear, but the fine American mezzo Joyce DiDonato filled in, making her SF debut complete with a broken leg in a cast.

The regular SFS series of conversations with Festival artists continued this year thanks to the affable Jay Nordlinger. All of Jay's artist conversations were wonderful, but especially enjoyable were those with lovely American mezzo Isabel Leonard, the irrepressible Venezuelan-American pianist Gabriela Montero, New York's own Emerson String Quartet, Markus Hinterhäuser – who will serve as interim Artistic Director of the Festival in 2011, cellist Steven Isserlis and violinist Joshua Bell.

As every summer, the members and guests of the SFS enjoyed several delightful social events. Especially memorable: Karlheinz and Elizabeth Muhr graciously hosted a private luncheon and concert at their Schloss Haldenhof in Kitzbühl. We also enjoyed the Salzburg Festival Salons at Schloss Leopoldskron and the SFS Welcome Reception at the Salzburg Kulisse and the Credit Suisse Gala in honor of the SF Young Singers Project, which Credit Suisse and the SFS supported this year.

Once more, I express my heartfelt thanks to all of you supporting the SFS over the years and especially this tough year. The work of the SFS helps to expand the number of U.S.-based supporters of the Salzburg Festival, and I'm grateful that ever-growing numbers of you actively invite friends to join you at our events, and to become members in turn.

With very best wishes,

Gerry Andlinger  
Chairman, Salzburg Festival Society

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Members of the Salzburg Festival Society,

Welcome to the new 2009/2010 Season of the Salzburg Festival Society. First and foremost, please let me thank you all for your continuing support during the year and especially during the 2009 Salzburg Festival, when we were able – with your help – to have so many wonderful Festival-associated events and programs in Salzburg. Without you and your contributions in this difficult financial time, the Salzburg Festival would simply not be able to maintain the artistic pre-eminence it enjoys worldwide. Very special thanks this year go to Gerry Andlinger and Rami and Ines Kaldas for their outstanding and continuous dedication to the SFS and through that their support of the Festival.

It is important for you to know that 80% of the Festival's financial support is private, only 20% come from public sources. More precisely, about 55% come from Ticket sales and 25% from donors, sponsors, the Austrian Friends "Freunde" and SFS. Here some other interesting facts about the 2009 season: The Festival sold 213,000 tickets (achieving sell-through of 93% in a trying economic environment). Nearly 4000 of those were sold at a discount for young people. Festival attendees came from 68 countries, 34 of them outside Europe; and a total of 199 Festival events were produced. We can be proud of the contributions the SFS has made in the last years to this unique cultural institution with wide reach.

Let us look forward to the upcoming months: The first of many exciting events we have planned between now and the 2010 Festival is the SF Society's fourth Salzburg Festival Program Presentation at the Morgan Library and Museum on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 6 – 8 PM. Our special guest will be SF President Dr. Helga Rahl-Stadler, who will present the 2010 program in the private library of J.P. Morgan. The Program Presentation will be followed by a reception. As before, Salzburg Festival Society members will be eligible to complimentary tickets, as long as the supply lasts.

Only a few days later, on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at 2 PM, members and friends are invited to a private screening of the 2005 Salzburg Festival production of Verdi's *La Traviata*. This was one of the Festivals most successful performances ever, starring Anna Netrebko, Rolando Villazón, and Thomas Hampson – all three are members of our SFS Artistic Advisory Board! The screening will be in the auditorium of the Morgan Library. Please get in touch with Joseph Bartning, SFS Director of Membership at: 212-355-5675 or [Jbartning@sfsociety.org](mailto:Jbartning@sfsociety.org) as soon as possible to reserve your tickets.

Soon we will also be able to announce the date of our SFS Gala Fundraiser in Spring 2010 where we will of course meet and hear some of the Festivals most prestigious artists. You will receive that information in the mail and will find it of course on the SFS website, [www.sfsociety.org](http://www.sfsociety.org) as soon as it is announced in the next weeks.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our New York events and at next summer's American Weeks as well.

Warm regards,

Isabelle Harnoncourt

Executive Director, Salzburg Festival Society

### SFS Artistic Advisory Board

Daniel Barenboim

Diana Damrau

Plácido Domingo

Renée Fleming

Ferruccio Furlanetto

Valery Gergiev

Hélène Grimaud

Thomas Hampson

Lang Lang

Anna Netrebko

Rolando Villazón

August 7<sup>th</sup>—22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

American Weeks of the Salzburg Festival

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Program Presentation at the Morgan Library and Museum

Updates for all SFS events are available online at:

[www.sfsociety.org](http://www.sfsociety.org)

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Screening of the 2005 Salzburg Festival production of *La Traviata* at the Morgan Library and Museum



SFS WELCOME RECEPTION, AUGUST 10, 2009, SALZBURGKULISSE





**DINNER HONORING GERRY ANDLINGER, AUGUST 17, 2009, SALZBURGKULISSE**





**KARLHEINZ AND ELISABETH MUHR LUNCHEON AND CONCERT,  
AUGUST 18, 2009, KITZBÜHEL**





**ARTIST LECTURE SERIES 2009** moderated by Jay Nordlinger





## MUSIC CAMPS of the SF in cooperation with the Vienna Philharmonic and support of the American Austrian Foundation

One of the most exciting 2009 Festival projects for the next generation of music lovers were three composer-oriented Music Camps for children and teenagers aged 6 to 15. The Salzburg



Festival Society has supported this important effort in Salzburg and facilitates the participation of American Youth in the programs. Members of the Vienna Philharmonic and professionally trained teachers worked with the pupils on a single work by one of three different composers – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Robert Schumann and Luigi Nono – each in a separate week and for a different age-group. Participants at each Music Camp attended a special VPO concert and gave a separate final concert.

Children at the **Mozart Camp** (aged 10-12) worked on *Le Nozze di Figaro*.



At the **Luigi Nono Music Camp**, the children (aged 11-15) worked on many aspects of the Luigi Nono's music and his fight for the less privileged. *Al gran sole*

*carico d'amore* (*In the bright sunshine, charged with love*) was one of SF's key operatic offerings and the camp children were able to attend the dress rehearsal.



The **Robert Schumann Camp** for 6 to 9 year-olds worked on the composers wordless song for piano "Der fröhliche Landman" from "Album for Children", and played at imagining life in the Schumann household. The Salzburg children's' refrain ended "Schumann is a hit!".

Parents reported their children's excitement about the programs. Stephan's enthusiastic "the most exciting days of my life" and another child's "Please, I want to go back next year!", not to mention "It was really fun to learn stuff, work together, play together, put on shows, and everything else!" were typical comments about all three Music Camps.



## The Salzburg Festival Society

### SFS Board of Directors

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Mrs. Judith Pierpont  
Mrs. Peggy Weber-McDowell

\* Members of the Executive Committee

For further updates, please visit our web site:

[www.sfsociety.org](http://www.sfsociety.org)

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## SFS MISSION

Founded in 2005, the Salzburg Festival Society's\* mission is to serve as the liaison between the Salzburg Festival and its American friends and patrons. The Society has a dedicated national membership base and chapters in major cities. It provides its members with exclusive access to all events and services related to the Festival. The broader mission of the Society is to advance the general public's understanding and appreciation of classical music and opera. Although primarily dedicated to supporting the artists and productions of the Festival and to underwriting the participation of major American artists, the Society also aims to offer educational opportunities to young artists. The Society's board of directors is composed of a distinguished group of American and international business leaders, philanthropists and artists.

\*The Salzburg Festival Society is a 501 (c) 3 Delaware Corporation with the EIN # 412178546. Your contribution to the SFS is tax deductible and will support Artists and Productions of the Salzburg Festival, the English Program notes and the attendance of young American Artists.