

The Salzburg Festival Society

STAGING EXCELLENCE - PROMOTING PEACE - BUILDING COMMUNITY



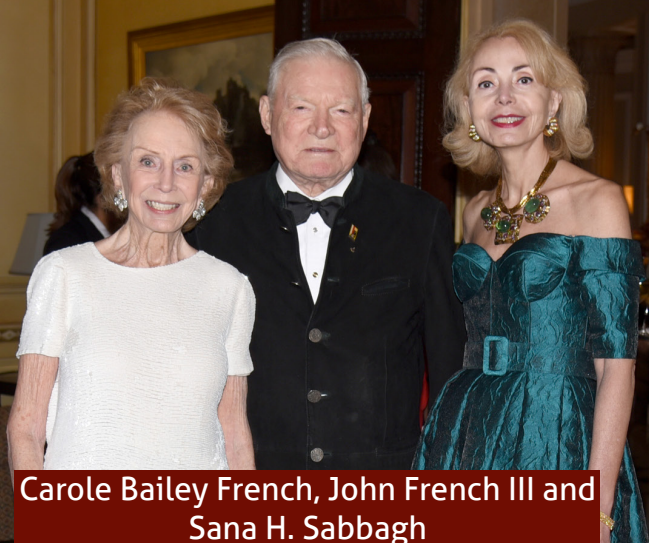
BEST PRODUCTION OF 2024
MIECZYŚLAW WEINBERG'S
DER IDIOT



Kristina Hammer (President),
Markus Hinterhäuser (Artistic Director)
© SF / Peter Rigaud

The Salzburg Festival receives the Oper! Award

SPRING 2025



Carole Bailey French, John French III and
Sana H. Sabbagh



Svetlana Wachtell, The Hon. Mary V. Mochary
and Valerie Carney



Noreen Buckfire and
Gianluigi Vittadini



Kristina Hammer and
Dorothee Volpini de Maestri



Ijaz Malik, Princess Shamina Talyarkhan,
Stephanie Stokes, Kitty Isola and Max Isola



Alison Bergen, Tom Einhorn, and
Kimberly Smith Spacek



Mitchel Levine, Isabelle Harnoncourt-Feigen
and Tristan Andlinger



Michael Lynch and Susan Baker



Horacio Milberg, Daisy Soros, Matthew Pietras
and Adrienne Vittadini

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Friends of the Salzburg Festival Society,

I am truly honored to serve as your new Chairman of the Salzburg Festival Society. My vision embraces our rich heritage while focusing on engaging the next generation through innovative programming and strategic partnerships.



I have attended the Salzburg Festival since I was 10 years old and have been a passionate supporter of the Festival ever since. As a founding member since 2005 and Executive Committee member, I bring enthusiasm and experience to this role. I remain wholly committed to preserving the legacy that defines the Salzburg Festival. Their high standard for artistic excellence and innovation sets it apart.

20th Anniversary

This year marks a milestone for The Salzburg Festival Society as we celebrate two decades of artistic patronage and preserving cultural excellence. I am committed to improving member experiences by organizing exclusive events and intimate gatherings with artists, providing behind-the-scenes access to the productions you love. As we celebrate this Anniversary, we have the chance to reflect on our achievements and set ambitious goals for the future. We will plan commemorative opportunities that honor our founding members while welcoming newcomers to our community.

Future Growth

Our fundraising campaigns will support the Festival's artistic excellence for future generations. The Festival will build an enduring cultural legacy through expanded educational initiatives, digital accessibility projects, and international outreach programs. The newly established Campaign for Artistic Excellence will provide sustainable support for innovative productions, while the Festival Young Artist Program will nurture the next generation of performers. Your generous contributions will make this possible. For more information don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Together, we support the vision of the Festival founders and believe that great art can transform lives and unite people across borders. We need your engagement and support to realize this priority in our society today.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the performing arts and The Salzburg Festival!

Warm regards,
Elisabeth Muhr



Guillermo and Cecilia Schultz



Erik and Cornelia Thomsen



Herbert Wachtell and Mary V. Mochary



John French III with Young Artists
Emily Pogorelc and Joseph Parrish

The Salzburg Festival Society Welcomes Three New Board Members

The Salzburg Festival Society is delighted to announce three additions to its Board of Directors: Mary Mochary, Guillermo Schultz, and Cornelia Thomsen. Their combined experience in philanthropy, business strategy, and arts administration will significantly contribute to the Society's growth.

The Hon. Mary V. Mochary, a retired attorney and active farmer, graduated from Wellesley College and the University of Chicago Law School. She made history as the first woman Principal Deputy Legal Advisor at the U.S. Department of State and also served as Mayor of Montclair, New Jersey. She successfully ran in the Republican primary for the U.S. Senate, facing incumbent Bill Bradley. Her career demonstrates a commitment to public service, civic engagement and philanthropy.

Dr. Guillermo Schultz, born on July 21, 1943, in Mexico City, is a prominent business leader and philanthropist residing in Great Falls, Virginia, since 1981. Fluent in English, German, and Spanish, he holds citizenship in the United States, Mexico, and Germany. Dr. Schultz is married to Cecilia Amtmann since 1971 and is a devoted father to two daughters and grandfather to four grandsons. Beyond his business achievements, Dr. Schultz has actively contributed to the arts and culture, serving on the boards of various cultural institutions and as a patron of organizations like the Gesellschaft der Freunde von Bayreuth and the Salzburg Festival Society.

Mrs. Cornelia Thomsen, born in East Germany in 1970, transitioned from the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory to a career in abstract art after the fall of the Berlin Wall. She co-founded the Thomsen Gallery in Manhattan, specializing in Japanese art, while pursuing her artistic practice. Her abstract works, including the "Golden Ratio" and "Silver Ratio" series, are held in major museum collections. She exhibits internationally, and actively lectures on German history and women's roles in society.



THE SALZBURG FESTIVAL SOCIETY

Address: 515 Madison Avenue, 41st Floor, c/o Kensico Properties, New York, NY 10022



Dear Members of the Salzburg Festival Society,

As we approach the 2025 Festival season, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your generous support over the years. Your commitment has been essential in our journey to celebrate the performing arts and foster an essential community.

Celebrating 20 Years Together

We are delighted that this year marks our 20th anniversary! To celebrate this occasion, we invite you to attend our Gala in New York on November 20, 2025. It promises to be an unforgettable evening as we honor our shared achievements. We hope to see you there!

Before that, we invite you to our August 16th Summer Gala in Salzburg at Schloss Leopoldskron. We have limited seats available, so we encourage you to confirm your reservation soon at www.sfsociety.org/summergala

Looking Back: Our Fall Gala

In this newsletter, we are excited to share photos from last year's Fall Gala, which beautifully captured the joy of our community coming together. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that three new board members have joined the Salzburg Festival Society in recent months. We warmly welcome them!

Enhancing Your Membership Experience

We are excited to announce that we are developing a new website to enhance your experience as a member and strengthen your connection to our events. We will soon share our summer membership calendar. If you do not receive it, please reach out for the details.

Thank you for your continued support. Your passion for the performing arts and The Salzburg Festival enables our organization to thrive. Together, we create memorable experiences!

Warmest regards,

Joseph Bartning
Executive Director



Email: office@sfsociety.org

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Elisabeth Muhr
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Nabil Chartouni
President

Dorothee Volpini de Maestri
Vice President

Horacio Milberg-Uribelarrea
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Assistant Secretary

Directors:

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Nabil Chartouni

Kristina Hammer

Isabelle Harnoncourt-Feigen

Horacio Milberg-Uribelarrea

Mary V. Mochary

Elisabeth Muhr

Isabella Ponta

Guillermo Schultz

Heinrich Spängler

Cornelia Thomsen

Dorothee Volpini de Maestri

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John French III

Alexandra Kauka-Hamill

Bruce Horten

Rita Z. Mehos

Judith Pierpont

Leon B. Polsky

Sana H. Sabbagh

Alexa Wesner

Cecilia Bartoli Brings Venice to Salzburg: The Whitsun Festival 2025

Music lovers can look forward to an exciting experience at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, which will take place from June 6 to 9 under the artistic direction of Cecilia Bartoli. After exploring the rich musical heritage of Rome and Seville in previous years, this year's festival takes a captivating journey to Venice, celebrating its enchanting sounds and radiant light.



WORLD PREMIERE: HOTEL METAMORPHOSIS

At the heart of the Festival is the world premiere of "Hotel Metamorphosis," an innovative opera pasticcio featuring the exquisite music of Antonio Vivaldi. While Vivaldi's operas were long forgotten, they are now experiencing a revival, thanks to Cecilia Bartoli's efforts. This production marks her long-awaited staging of Vivaldi's work, created in collaboration with conductor Gianluca Capuano and director Barrie Kosky.

The show will weave together Vivaldi's most beautiful arias, ensembles, and choruses, expressing a range of human emotions—joy, grief, love, and rage. The cast includes renowned Vivaldi interpreters like Philippe Jaroussky, Lea Desandre, and Varduhi Abrahamyan, alongside Angela Winkler and Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco. This pasticcio promises to be an unforgettable musical experience.

In her reflections on the project, Cecilia Bartoli shares her deep connection to Vivaldi, which began with her first album in 1999 sparking interest in his operatic works. She states, "I have never been able to perform a Vivaldi opera on stage until now, which is why I wanted to create this pasticcio for Salzburg—a homage to all these masterpieces."

The Whitsun Festival invites you to experience the magic of Venice through its baroque music. Do not miss the chance to witness the world premiere of "Hotel Metamorphosis," an enchanting fusion of myth and music that will be a highlight of the season. "Hotel Metamorphosis" will also be presented this summer from July 31 to August 15.

Salzburg Festival Triumphs with "The Idiot" at the Oper! Awards

The Salzburg Festival has been awarded the prestigious Oper! Award for Best Production of 2024 for its stunning rendition of Mieczysław Weinberg's "The Idiot."

Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser personally accepted the award at the ceremony held at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, expressing his gratitude for the distinction: "In this opera, Weinberg managed to create one of the most remarkable pieces in 20th-century opera literature. Apart from the work's importance, the distinction also underlines the excellent staging by director Krzysztof Warlikowski and the outstanding musical achievements of the singers and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla at the helm of the Vienna Philharmonic."



"It is a political piece, the last of seven operas by a composer who almost perished unnoticed in the maelstrom of 20th-century catastrophes, along with his oeuvre. Its subject is the impotence of a good person in a society marked by greed, nihilism and decadence. Krzysztof Warlikowski staged this parable in a shockingly dense manner, within a stage space that was horizontally mobile, perfect for simultaneous scenes. The outstanding ensemble of singers brought the action to life with breathtaking veracity; the identification of the conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla with the score was compellingly poetic. Yes, this is exactly what festivals are for! To discover lost masterworks for the repertoire: for example, Mieczysław Weinberg's *The Idiot* at the Salzburg Festival." With this jury statement from the journal OPER!, the opera *The Idiot* won the distinction "Production of the Year".



Salzburg Festival 2025: Calling All Young People!

Engaging Education and Creative Experiences

The Salzburg Festival believes that art and creativity should be accessible. Their mobile productions will tour schools throughout the State of Salzburg, allowing students to dive directly into captivating stories. With project weeks supported by professional artists and educators, young minds can explore and create their productions inspired by the Festivals program.



Additionally, the Opera Camps invite children and teenagers aged 9 to 17 to immerse themselves in opera alongside seasoned professionals, culminating in their performances in front of an audience. For passionate teens, our Drama Camp focuses on the themes of "Jedermann," allowing them to develop their theatrical skills and showcase their work.

Accessible Art for All

We are committed to fostering a love for the performing arts among youth. To make performances accessible, we are thrilled to offer 6,000 discounted youth tickets for the Festival, featuring rates up to 90% off for those born after June 30, 1998. Selected performances come with introductory talks that enhance your festival experience with valuable insights.

Become a "Young Friend" of the Salzburg Festival and enjoy an enriching summer program while securing preferential access to youth tickets. Plus, every Friday morning at Kapitelplatz is dedicated to children with the Siemens>Children's>Festival, showcasing free film screenings of opera, ballet, and drama performances crafted for the youngest audiences.

For older teens, there are also exciting opportunities:

Opera Camps: Immerse yourself in the world of opera for a week at Arenberg Castle, working alongside professional artists and the Vienna Philharmonic.

Drama Camps: Explore the themes of a Salzburg Festival drama production through improvisation, stage scenes, and creative writing, culminating in your own performance.

Festival Mentorship Program: Pair up with an experienced Festival-goer who will share their passion and guide you through your first Festival experience.

The Salzburg Festival 2025 welcomes the next generation! Prepare for a summer filled with laughter, wonder, and fun! Check out www.sfsociety.org for more information.