

## **Gustav Mahler Music Weeks Dobbiaco**

**The 39th Gustav Mahler Music Weeks focused on Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, also known as the Resurrection Symphony. The symposium "Gustav Mahler in Dialogue" and the exhibition were also dedicated to this work.**

### **Two plus seven is nine**

Three symphonies by Gustav Mahler were on the programme at the 39th Gustav Mahler Musikwochen Toblach. The Festival opened on July 13 with Symphony No. 9, which Mahler wrote in 1909 during his summer retreat in Toblach, in his composer's cottage in Altschluderbach. This exceptional work was performed by the Dortmund Philharmonic under the direction of Gabriel Feltz. On 16 July, Symphony No. 2 followed, in an arrangement by Erwin Stein, with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir - Valentina Farcas, soprano; Bettina Ranch, mezzo-soprano; Hansjörg Albrecht, conductor. On July 20, Symphony No. 7 was heard in an arrangement for chamber orchestra by Klaus Simon, performed by the Alma Mahler Chamber Orchestra conducted by Leo McFall.

### **"Gustav Mahler in dialogue" & exhibition**

The 2nd Symphony was also the subject of an exhibition curated by students from the Universities of Innsbruck and Trento under the direction of Maestra Sybille Werner and Prof. Milijana Pavlovic. The exhibition opened on 16 July, followed by a brief introduction to the work.

The lecture/discussion series "Gustav Mahler in Dialog", again presented this year by Prof. Federico Celestini (Head of the Institute of Musicology, University of Innsbruck), dealt with Mahler's second work.

The American musicologist Thomas Peattie opened the series with a lecture on the Mahler transcriptions by Luciano Berio, whose "Sinfonia" in the third movement quotes Mahler's Second Symphony extensively. Dirk Rose then discussed Mahler's Klopstock arrangement, the text of the Finale of the Second. Wednesday afternoon was dedicated to a comparison of various historical and modern performances of Symphony No. 2, presented by Gene Gaudette and Sybille Werner. On the third afternoon Eva di Stefano took up the theme from the perspective of art with her lecture on the power of music from Klimt to Kokoschka. And finally, the curator of the lecture series, Federico Celestini, talked about the poetry of the *Wunderhorn* collection of poems, from which Mahler set the "Urlicht", the fourth movement of the Second Symphony, to music.

The lectures, simultaneously translated into/from English for the first time this year, were again be followed by public discussions with the speakers. On Saturday, 20 July, Milijana Pavlovic concluded the week with a guided walk to various Mahler sites, where everyone involved in the "Gustav Mahler in Dialogue" participated.

### **Recitals & chamber music highlights**

The *Salotto Italiano* on 14.7. with pianist Andrea Zaniboni and soprano Cristina Pastorello took you on a musical journey through the Italian musical landscape. Piano recital on 15 July with Francesco Piemontesi (arrangements by F. Busoni and W. Kempff of works by J.S. Bach, among others) and the performance of the ensemble chromoson with premieres of works by South Tyrolean and international composers (17 July). Trio Marvin on 18 July - the piano trio has won first prize at the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition 2018 in

Australia, and an exceptional concert took place on July 19 with the Quartetto di Cremona, one of the most sought-after chamber music ensembles on the international concert stage.

### **Further symphonic highlights**

The Gustav Mahler Academy in Bozen/Bolzano appeared on 26 July under the direction of Marc Minkowski with a concert evening dedicated to Schubert (Octet in F major and the Great Symphony in C major) and on 27 July ). The 39th Gustav Mahler Musikwochen, with Josef Lanz in charge of its musical programme, finished with a concert by the Haydn Orchestra of Bozen/Bolzano and Trento under the direction of Niklas Benjamin Hoffmann (Emanuel Tjeknavorian, violin). On the program: Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D Major and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 1.

### **Auxiliary concerts as part of the Gustav Mahler Music Weeks**

Two pre-opening concerts prior to the start of the Gustav Mahler Music Weeks: on 8 July the Orchestra for the Earth (OFE), under the direction of John Warner. The program included songs by Alma and Gustav Mahler, performed by mezzo-soprano Rosalie Warner. And on 10 July Sybille Werner conducted the International Mahler Orchestra Toblach in Mahler's Symphony No. 4 (with soprano Stefanie Steger), preceded by a multimedia introduction to the symphony.

And on August 24 the "Football Oratorio" with soloists, choir and orchestra of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes under the direction of Moritz Eggert - a joint production between Festspiele Südtirol, Gustav Mahler Musikwochen and Musik Sommer Pustertal.

LINK to pictures and more information:

<https://www.kulturzentrum-toblach.eu/en/gustav-mahler-music-weeks/press/>

Further Information:

Gustav Mahler Musikwochen, Erika Laner +39 335 6506353

[www.gustav-mahler.it](http://www.gustav-mahler.it) – [erikalaner@gustav-mahler.it](mailto:erikalaner@gustav-mahler.it)