

STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 25 February 2022

Cornelius Meister opens Bayreuth Festival 2022

Cornelius Meister, Staatsoper Stuttgart's General Music Director, will conduct the opening of this year's **Bayreuth Festival**. Meister will make his debut at the Festspielhaus on **25 July 2022** with *Tristan und Isolde*. **Roland Schwab** will be in charge of the production. The title roles are interpreted by **Stephen Gould** and **Catherine Foster**, the other roles are sung by **Georg Zeppenfeld** (Marke), **Markus Eiche** (Kurwenal) and **Ekaterina Gubanova** (Brangäne).

"Ever since I first experienced the Bayreuth acoustics' intoxicating sound in 1998, it has been my dream to conduct there one day myself. As an eighteen-year-old, I cheekily sat down on the conductor's chair during a guided tour of the Festspielhaus. Six years later I sat there again as an assistant. Now I am full of gratitude and anticipation to 'return' to Bayreuth with *Tristan und Isolde* – at least that is how it feels in all the attachment that I have for Richard Wagner, the Festival and Bayreuth," says **Cornelius Meister**.

Viktor Schoner, Staatsoper Stuttgart's Intendant, also welcomes the Festival's decision: "We are very pleased for Cornelius Meister that he will now be able to conduct Wagner on the "Green Hill" in addition to conducting the *Ring* in Stuttgart. It was not only during Wieland Wagner's time that a close connection existed between Stuttgart and Bayreuth – for decades Stuttgart was known as 'Winter Bayreuth'. Now, following in the footsteps of Ferdinand Leitner, Carlos Kleiber, Georg Solti, Silvio Varviso and Dennis Russell Davies yet another conductor with close ties to Stuttgart continues that tradition by opening the Festival."

Cornelius Meister has been General Music Director at Staatsoper Stuttgart since the 2018/19 season. With *Tannhäuser* he conducted his first Wagner opera at Theater Heidelberg in 2004. Since then, Meister has performed almost all of Richard Wagner's Works, some of which have been recorded for radio, CD and video, including *Der fliegende Holländer* at the Bavarian State Opera and the Vlaamse Opera in Antwerp. *Tannhäuser* at Semperoper Dresden, *Lohengrin* in Stuttgart and at the Vienna State Opera. *Tristan und Isolde* at the Royal Danish Opera in Copenhagen, among others *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at the Latvian National Opera in Riga, *Walküre* at the Vienna State Opera and *Parsifal* at Vlaamse Opera.

Cornelius Meister is currently preparing a **new production** of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in Stuttgart. After *Das Rheingold* premiered in Stuttgart last November, the premiere of *Die Walküre* is scheduled for **10 April**.

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