

# ELCCNY NEWS

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## **BAMBERG SYMPHONY** **Jakub Hrůša, Chief Conductor**

### **2022/23 SEASON – CREATION** **Season Theme Speaks to New Beginnings and Renewal**

**Herbert Blomstedt and Christoph Eschenbach to Celebrate Special Anniversaries**  
**Fabio Biondi, Ruth Reinhardt, Eduardo Strausser to Make Bamberg Conducting Debuts**  
**Long-Anticipated Returns to the Podium for Osmo Vänskä and Semyon Bychkov**  
**Jonathan Nott, Andris Nelsons, and Manfred Honeck to Conduct**

**Season to Open at the Rheingau Music Festival September 3, at the**  
**Lucerne Festival September 10, and in Bamberg September 30**

**Bamberg Symphony to Visit Spain, Asia, and the Vatican**  
**Residency at the Elbphilharmonie**

### **SEVENTH EDITION OF THE MAHLER COMPETITION** **TO TAKE PLACE IN BAMBERG JULY 2023**

Bamberg, Germany, May 31, 2022 – Today, in the foyer of the Bamberg Concert Hall, President and Artistic Director Marcus Rudolf Axt, and Chief Conductor Jakub Hrůša, announced the 2022/23 season of the Bamberg Symphony – Creation. The guiding concept takes the audience on a musical journey that tells of new beginnings, origins and renewal. Jakub Hrůša, and podium guests, will conduct a universe of repertoire around these themes from Brahms to Ligeti, Stravinsky to Pärt, Gustav Mahler to Alma Mahler, as well as new discoveries in music literature and world premieres (and the popular seat cushion concerts for children).

[Bamberg Symphony 2022/23 Season Brochure \[pdf\]](#)

[Bamberg Symphony Interactive Calendar](#)

In the coming season, beyond his many subscription programs, Jakub Hrůša will again hand the baton to a great range of guest conductors, who will further explore ideas of Creation – including well-known friends of the orchestra such as Jonathan Nott, Andris Nelsons, and Manfred Honeck. Fabio Biondi, Ruth Reinhardt, and Eduardo Strausser will make their conducting debuts with the Bamberg Symphony. The Bambergers will welcome a happy reunion with Osmo Vänskä and Semyon Bychkov, who will both conduct the orchestra again after almost 10 and 25 years. 2022 marks the 40-year collaboration with honorary conductor Herbert Blomstedt, and 45 years of trusting ties with its second honorary conductor, Christoph Eschenbach – both will conduct the

Bamberg Symphony in the coming season. Together, they have conducted more than 350 concerts with the Bambergers, and the star conductors remain closely connected to the ensemble.

At this moment in time, after the disruption of the past two years, it is no coincidence that the Bamberg Symphony chose the theme of Creation for the 2022/23 season. Programs throughout the season tell the story of beginnings, blossoming and becoming, spanning a musical arc from the early classic to the modern to the present. Themes such as religion and myths, the act of creation, incarnation, prosperity and decay, climate, the divine – and the creative power of art – infuse the season’s musical journey. Marcus Rudolf Axt emphasizes the range of the programs: “We touch on the subject of creation from a different perspective every evening. Perhaps this will raise climate awareness in one or the other, perhaps focus attention on the creative process of composing, perhaps you will see the almost unreal beauty of this city in a different way.”

The orchestra will kick off the season on September 3, 2022, at the Rheingau Music Festival in Kloster Eberbach, with Bruckner’s Symphony No. 8 under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach, and on September 10 at the Lucerne Festival, with the music of Alma and Gustav Mahler, conducted by Jakub Hrůša. The season at home in Bamberg will open on September 30, in the Bamberg Concert Hall, with the Chief Conductor and a panorama of works ranging from Richard Strauss' Also sprach Zarathustra, to Igor Stravinsky's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D major, to Richard Wagner's Tannhäuser Overture. In addition to tours of Spain and Asia, and a guest performance in the Vatican, the Bamberg Symphony will perform in a mini-residency at Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie during the 2022/23 season

July 2023 marks the seventh edition of The Mahler Competition. Since this conducting competition was held for the first time in 2004, more than 1,200 young conductors from all over the world have applied. Noted winners from previous years include Gustavo Dudamel, who won the first Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition in 2004, and Lahav Shani, who emerged as the competition winner in 2013. For both, participation in the Mahler Competition marked the start of international conducting careers.

The family and school concerts in February 2023 offer an award-winning concert format, which combines classical music with multi-media technology, under the title The Sound of Climate and focuses on the topic of sustainability. In the coming season, the orchestra has created various new partnerships with Bayerischer Rundfunk. The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christian Thielemann will be visiting Bamberg on July 2, 2023, as part of a subscription exchange. The sing-along concert with the Bavarian Radio Choir will take place on May 21, 2023.

### **Jakub Hrůša**

Jakub Hrůša has been principal conductor of the Bamberg Symphony since September 2016. He is the fifth Chief conductor in the orchestra’s history. "Even before I had the chance to conduct this jewel among European orchestras, I had been a huge admirer," says Jakub Hrůša. "They embody orchestral culture in the fullest sense of the word. Since the orchestra’s roots are in Prague, we breathe the same musical air, so to speak, share the same cultural background, and are very close artistically and historically. With the Bamberg Symphony, every phrase can turn to be a little miracle, and every concert is a transfiguration." [Full bio \[pdf\]](#)

### **Bamberg Symphony**

The Bamberg Symphony is the only orchestra of world renown that is not based in a vibrant metropolis. The "magnetic effect" of the orchestra goes outwards: as a touring orchestra, the symphony orchestra carries the rhythm and musical echo of its hometown, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, all over the world. Since its founding, Bamberg's sound image has been shaped by

almost 7,500 concerts in over 500 cities and 63 countries around the world, helping to put the town on the musical map, and becoming a cultural ambassador for Bavaria and the whole of Germany. They regularly tour, for example, the USA, South America, Japan and China. The orchestra, whose roots reach back to Prague, sees itself as a cross-border, cosmopolitan ambassador of sound. With its principal conductor Jakub Hrůša, who hails from the Czech Republic, these roots have been given new impetus since 2016.

The Bamberg Symphony describes its mission in short words: resonating worldwide. They create resonance with their playing. Artistically and humanly, as an orchestra and as a beacon of cultural society. In all of this, the focus is doubly on sustainability. Because the traces the orchestra leaves behind want to make a difference musically as well as ecologically and contribute to actively shaping the future.

The orchestra's characteristic sound is much praised and has often won awards, most recently the International Classical Music Award (ICMA) for Symphonic Music for their recording of Anton Bruckner: Symphony No. 4 – The 3 Versions, conducted by Jakub Hrůša, and released by Accentus Music in a co-production with BR-KLASSIK. In 2020, the Bamberg Symphony received the Bavarian State Prize for Music. The typical sound of the "Bambergers" is described as dark, warm, and radiant. It is worth discovering for all new listeners.

[www.bamberger-symphoniker.de](http://www.bamberger-symphoniker.de)

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