

Press Release

Moscow, October 24, 2017

John Neumeier's „St. Matthew Passion“ performed in Russia for the first time (October 25)

Federal President Steinmeier attends the performance on the occasion of the Reformation Jubilee

On the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Hamburg Ballet performs the "St. Matthew Passion" by John Neumeier in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall Moscow on the 25th of October. "I am both Christian and a Dancer" – with this motto, the Artistic Director of the Hamburg Ballet conveyed his ideas of this key work which has been performed around the world for more than 30 years. As a highlight of the celebrations of the Reformation Jubilee and with the support of the German Foreign Ministry and the Goethe Institute, this pioneering ballet is performed in Russia for the first time. Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier attends the performance as a part of his official visit to Moscow. There will be a personal encounter with John Neumeier.

During the press conference this morning, Mr. Neumeier explained the relevance of tomorrow's performance: *"The performance of the 'St. Matthew Passion' here in Moscow has a special significance for me. In spite of my considerable work and artistic exchanges with Russia, it has been impossible until this opportunity to schedule this very special work in this country. I consider it to be my most important ballet. Inspired by Bach's deeply religious music, I have explored the essential elements of community, betrayal, violence, forgiveness and love. In the 'St. Matthew Passion' dance embodies a universally comprehended language."*

John Neumeier maintains close contact with Russia: by means of regular tours with the Hamburg Ballet, as recently to the Bolshoi Theatre Moscow in 2016, as well as working as guest choreographer. In 2001, he was the first Western choreographer to create a ballet for the Mariinsky Theatre St. Petersburg. For his artistic engagement, he was awarded the "Golden Mask" in 2002 (the most important theatre prize in Russia) and the Order of Friendship of the Russian Federation in 2012.

October 25, 2017, 7 pm | Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow

St. Matthew Passion

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Choreography, Staging, Set and Costumes: John Neumeier

Conductor: Simon Hewett
Soprano: Anja Zügner
Mezzo Soprano: Bettina Ranch
Tenor: Martin Platz
Baritone: Tobias Berndt
Bass: Thilo Dahlmann
Organ: Alexander Fiseisky
Grand Choir "Masters of Choral Singing"
Moscow Chamber Orchestra
Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier

Further Information: www.meloman.ru

Performance on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

October 31, 2017, 6 pm | Hamburg State Opera

St. Matthew Passion

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (with recorded music)

Choreography, Staging, Set and Costumes: John Neumeier

Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier