

Press release – New Conductors for Barocktage Melk

Internationale Barocktage Stift Melk

7 June 2014, 20.00 | “The Seasons” performed by Concentus Musicus Wien, Marlis Petersen, Michael Schade, Florian Boesch and the Arnold Schoenberg Choir

Conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt cancels due to health reasons // Matthew Halls to conduct Haydn’s “The Seasons” // Daniel Harding and Pablo Heras-Casado continue in 2015 and 2016

Regrettably, conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt has been obliged to withdraw from the concert scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2014 with the Concentus Musicus Wien performing Haydn’s “The Seasons”.

Michael Schade, with the support of Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Concentus Musicus Wien, expresses his gratitude to Matthew Halls for stepping in at short notice to conduct this concert. British conductor Matthew Halls established his reputation as a harpsichordist and conductor of early, classical, and romantic music. With a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach to Handel, including the Viennese classics, he has worked with leading international symphony orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra and at such venues as the Bayerische Staatsoper, the New York Lincoln Center, the Wiener Festwochen and the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg. Maestro Halls was appointed the Artistic Director of the Oregon Bach Festival in 2014.

The planned collaboration in Melk between the Concentus Musicus Wien and new conductors will now commence one year earlier than intended. In 2015, this work continues with **Daniel Harding** and in 2016 with **Pablo Heras-Casado**.

“I regret that Maestro Harnoncourt has had to withdraw for health reasons, although I applaud his acceptance of the Concentus Musicus Wien working with new conductors. Naturally, I respect his decision and we look forward to the challenge and incentive that Nikolaus Harnoncourt gives us in his motivation to envision a new future for the Concentus Musicus Wien”, comments Michael Schade, Artistic Director of Internationale Barocktage Stift Melk.