



**ELBPILHARMONIE**  
H A M B U R G

**The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg –  
tradition fuses with modernity at Hamburg’s new landmark**

With the opening of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg on 11 and 12 January 2017, Hamburg forges its path as a port city and a city of music, once again demonstrating that the city is shaping its future based on contrast. Located in the Hafencity Hamburg district – Europe’s largest inner-city development project between the Speicherstadt UNESCO World Heritage site and the port – this unique concert hall is emerging as a new magnet for locals and guests alike. The spectacular building comprises three concert halls with a diverse music programme, a comprehensive music education programme, a hotel, as well as the Plaza – a public viewing platform at a height of 37 metres that offers visitors an amazing view of the city.

Designed by renowned Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, the dazzling glass structure of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg rises up to a height of 110 metres upon the former Kaispeicher A, a historic warehouse that was built by famous architect Werner Kallmorgen between 1963 and 1966 and was subsequently used for storing tea, tobacco and coffee. With its unique architecture the new concert hall represents the diverse, maritime flair of Hamburg – a city that is built on tradition and modernity and continues to successfully reshape its future by drawing on courage, creativity, innovation and cosmopolitanism. The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg symbolises the city’s ruggedness and beauty, these ubiquitous contrasts that are so characteristic for Hamburg’s appeal as the gateway to the world.

**The Plaza – experiencing the city from a height of 37 metres**

From the entrance of the building, an 82-metre long curved escalator leads visitors to the Plaza. The ride on the ingeniously illuminated tunnel-like “tube” is an experience in itself. Situated at a height of 37 metres between the historic warehouse and the innovative glass structure, the Plaza offers a unique 360°panoramic view of the port and the city and enables visitors to experience Hamburg’s contrasting urban landscape from a bird’s eye perspective. As a publicly accessible area, the Plaza will serve as a place of encounter for Hamburg’s locals and guests to the city, for diners and concert-goers, and for all those who simply wish to enjoy the view. With a floor area of 4,000 square metres, the Plaza is about as large as the Rathausmarkt square. It will be open to the public from November 2016.

**Innovative architecture – amazing acoustics**

The centrepiece of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg is the Grand Hall. Much like the terraced planting of vineyards, 2,100 seats ascend around the central stage, providing an entirely new

music experience and creating an interface between the audience and the performing artists. As the maximum distance between the audience and the conductor is no more than 30 metres, the Grand Hall offers an intimate experience despite the immense size of the venue.

To ensure perfect acoustics, the architects collaborated with star acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota in designing a special wall and ceiling structure for the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg – the “White Skin”. Moulded to precision, 10,000 gypsum fibre panels ensure optimal and targeted sound distribution and turn every visit to the Grand Hall into an unparalleled acoustic experience. In addition, a reflector suspended from the ceiling ensures an optimal dissemination of sound. Klais, a traditional organ building company from Bonn, developed an organ with 4,385 pipes for the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg – an accessible and touchable instrument that is located in the middle of the terraced seats.

The east side of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg houses the Recital Hall. With its elegant wood panelling it ensures optimal acoustics, providing the perfect venue for chamber music and other, smaller concert formats. Thanks to its adjustable platform technology and flexible seating for up to 550 people, the Recital Hall can be used for various purposes.

Situated in the former Kaispeicher beneath the glass structure, the Kaistudios offer a large area for music education activities and include seven rooms in total. Here, participants will be able to actively experience the world of music on a daily basis.

### **An all-embracing music experience**

The music performances to be given in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will be multicoloured and rich in contrast. Whether it is classical music, world music, pop, a rich orchestral sound or jazz tunes: the new concert hall offers music for everyone. Artists and orchestras from Hamburg will shape the programme just as much as outstanding guest orchestras and stars from around the world. The NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra under the baton of its chief conductor Thomas Hengelbrock will serve as the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg’s resident orchestra, and the Recital Hall will be the new home to the Ensemble Resonanz with its experimental concert programme. And yet, as a gateway to the world of music, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will be much more than just a high-end concert hall: with its comprehensive music education programme that includes concerts for children and families, interactive projects and workshops for all age groups, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will serve as a vibrant platform for music encounters of all types.

The Elbphilharmonie builds on Hamburg’s rich music tradition and its diverse cultural scene. With eminent composers who have made their mark in Hamburg and continue to shape Hamburg’s concept of itself, with world-renowned orchestras and ensembles, with the Hamburg State Opera, the Laeiszhalle, with classical, jazz and pop festivals, popular musicals and its unique club scene, Hamburg exudes a creative tension that is reflected in its new landmark – both in terms of music and in terms of architecture.

As a concert hall for everybody, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg stands for musical diversity, spectacular acoustics and innovative architecture. At the same time, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg serves as an unparalleled place of encounter that symbolises Hamburg’s contrasting features and invites the world to experience the city first hand.

**Further information on the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg:**

Website: [www.elbphilharmonie.de](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/elbphilharmonie.hamburg](http://www.facebook.com/elbphilharmonie.hamburg)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/elbphilharmonie](http://www.twitter.com/elbphilharmonie)

**Media-Service:**

Press section of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg's website on [www.elbphilharmonie.de/presse.en](http://www.elbphilharmonie.de/presse.en)

Further information, stories and tips on Hamburg by the Media Service of Hamburg Marketing GmbH on [www.mediarelations.hamburg.de](http://www.mediarelations.hamburg.de)

Photos for editorial use on [www.mediaserver.hamburg.de](http://www.mediaserver.hamburg.de)

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