



## MEDIA INFORMATION



### MUSIC AT THE ELBPHILHARMONIE

The Elbphilharmonie was primarily built as a concert venue for unamplified music. It is therefore logical that its two halls – the Grand Hall seating approximately 2,100 and the Recital Hall for an audience of up to 550, both of which are completely detached from the rest of the building in acoustic terms – mainly host orchestral concerts, chamber music and solo performances. These types of music do not need any kind of sound equipment to convey the natural beauty of the instruments or voices involved. Exceptions to this rule are not only possible, but actively welcomed as they give the venue a clear artistic profile. Concert-goers are therefore also able to hear jazz, world music, pop and singer-songwriters at the Elbphilharmonie. These performances may not be held as often as classical concerts, but they are still regular fixtures.

The concert hall has also adopted a broad definition of classical music. As a result, the works performed at the Elbphilharmonie range from early polyphonic music to recent compositions. The distinctly contemporary design of the building by architects Herzog & de Meuron from Basle makes it a good fit for 20th and 21st century music in spatial and visual terms. It therefore seems right that new and current music is playing a prominent role in both halls at the Elbphilharmonie. Classical compositions from non-European music cultures also feature on the programme at the Elbphilharmonie.

The Kaistudios in the old brick warehouse enables everyone who lives in Hamburg – regardless of age or education – to experience music. With the World of Instruments – a curated collection of musical instruments for active use, from an alpenhorn to an iPad, a kettledrum to a recorder and a violin to a tuba – the education department at the Elbphilharmonie has an excellent resource which enables members of the public to try playing instruments and experience music first-hand. The Kaistudios serve as a venue for courses and concerts aimed at schoolchildren. They also provide rehearsal space for four community ensembles. The Audience Orchestra and Family Orchestra brings enthusiastic amateurs together to make music under professional leadership. Meanwhile, the Gamelan Ensemble enables even non-musicians to quickly succeed at playing instruments together under guidance. The Creative Orchestra stimulates exciting collective sound processes with no set outcome and welcome even participants with no prior musical knowledge.

Leonard Bernstein is purported to have said that there is only good music and bad music. In line with this maxim, the Elbphilharmonie sees itself as a venue for good music.

The NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra is the orchestra in residence in the Grand Hall, while the Ensemble Resonanz has a residency in the Recital Hall.