

NACHWEIHNACHTZEIT / POST CHRISTMAS SEASON

Neujahrstag (der 1. Januar): New Years Day

Neujahrstagsitte: New Years Day custom

New Year cheer with the Vienna Philharmonic

With 50 million television viewers in 90 countries, the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's concert is the world's standout classical music event. The orchestra itself has seen its public image evolve in recent years.



When the lilting melodies of Johann Strauss waft from the stage of Vienna's sumptuous "Musikverein," it's clear that another year has passed. Joining the television audience in the live transmission on January 1 is a worldwide audience of radio listeners and live stream users. Former EBU Media Director Annika Nyberg Frankenhauser once described the magic as "a concert with a spirited, yet nostalgic program that gives one a chance to review the year past and enter the new year with momentum."

At the rostrum in 2018: Italian conductor Riccardo Muti, whose collaboration with the Vienna Philharmonic dates back several decades. This marks the fifth time that Muti conducts at the prestigious event.

The program begins with the Entrance March from the Operetta "The Gypsy Baron" by Johann Strauss, Jr. and includes a variety of waltzes, polkas and marches by the Strauss family, Franz von Suppé and Alphons Czibulka.



Intoxication in three-four time

"One can hardly comprehend the power of the waltz," wrote author Auguste Graf de La Garde (1783-1853) during the Vienna Congress. "From the first bars, people's faces cheer, eyes enliven, all are taken up in a tremor of delight." It comes as little surprise that the dance form deriving from the stately and more dignified courtly minuet was prohibited - unsuccessfully - by the Church, maintaining that the seductive power of this music was not limited to spiritual matters.