

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

Salzburger Festspiele / Salzburg Festival (held for 5 weeks starting, in late July)

How the Salzburg Festival came to Salzburg 100 years ago

The Salzburg ideal

Everyman has been performed at the Salzburg Festival every year, with the exception of the eight years between 1938 and 1945. After Nazi Germany annexed Austria, the work was declared unsuitable because there had been a Jew among Hugo von Hofmannsthal's forefathers. Max Reinhardt escaped the Nazis and went abroad. He died in 1943 in exile in the United States.

So far, 17 actors have played the title role in *Everyman*, performing the play about the death of a rich man to the backdrop of magnificent Salzburg Cathedral. In a normal season, the opening is followed by about 200 concerts, plays and operas, including several new productions.



Chancellor Angela Merkel is a repeat visitor at the Salzburg Festival, here in 2017

Does the festival fulfill the cosmopolitan and unifying ideals of its founders? One thing is certain: The 270,000 visitors in 2019 came from 78 countries, 40 of them outside Europe.

And the influx of international guests has not caused local food supplies to run out. In fact, revenues from ticket sales amounted to €31.2 million (\$36.7 million) in 2019, but the festival's overall impact on the local and regional economy is many times greater.

Salzburg in the era of the coronavirus

That the Salzburg Festival is taking place at all in its centennial year — amidst the coronavirus pandemic, as most other large events have been canceled — underscores the exceptional status of what is often described as the world's most renowned festival of the serious arts. Adapting to the situation, a scaled-back program from August 1-30 features fewer events at fewer venues, no concert intermissions and other measures to meet or exceed mandated hygiene requirements.



This time the crowds won't be quite as crowded as in this picture of the ritual "Everyman" procession from an earlier season



The entire city is a stage

What remains is the high artistic standard: from the traditional concerts by the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics to a new opera production, a restaging of *Everyman*, star soloists like soprano Anna Netrebko and pianist Igor Levit, and much more.

This exceptional season recalls the Salzburg Festival's founding principles: that art may give depth and meaning to people's lives, particularly during a crisis.