

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

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

### RUSSIAN SPONSORSHIP OVERSHADOWS SALZBURG MUSIC FESTIVAL

#### Festival loyal to Currentzis

After pressure from Ukraine's ambassador to Germany at the time, [Andriy Melnyk](#), the Vienna Concert Hall canceled a charity concert for Ukraine being conducted by Currentzis. The director general of the Salzburg Summer Festival, Markus Hinterhäuser, had told the Austrian newspaper *The Standard* that they were not planning to let Currentzis go. "He was one of the most prominent voices for the director [Kirill Serebrennikov](#), who was under house arrest," Hinterhäuser said.

Already in March after Russia invaded Ukraine, Markus Hinterhäuser had said on Austrian radio that it wasn't necessary to suspect all Russian artists and one needed to consider that those speaking against Putin would face huge punishments in Russia.

At the time, there was discussion about cancelling events with Russian conductor [Valery Gergiev](#), a friend of Putin, and the soprano [Anna Netrebko](#).

#### 'Toxic' sponsor money at the festival

The festival itself is sponsored, among others, by a foundation created by the Russian oligarch Leonid Michelson, the main shareholder of the Russian petrochemical company, Sibur. Sibur is however not in the EU's list of sanctions. "If something changes there, we will naturally cut our ties with the foundation," Hinterhäuser told "Standard."

He also said his institution was being pushed into some kind of a villains' club. "It's as if the classical music festival is being exclusively sponsored by toxic money, as if the world of classical music were Putin's shadow empire. That is as laughable as it is untrue," he commented.



At the Salzburg Summer Festival in 2021