

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

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

### RUSSIAN SPONSORSHIP OVERSHADOWS SALZBURG MUSIC FESTIVAL

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The Bulgarian-born author will speak on the topic of "The sound of war, the keys of peace." Troyanov has lived in many countries, engaged with different cultures, and is considered a dedicated observer and critic of corruption and intolerance.

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### War, climate and COVID

Contemporary problems are also being taken into consideration in the festival's productions. As Mozart's "The Magic Flute" was being newly produced after first being presented in 2018, director Lydia Steier pointed out at a recent panel that the world has changed since the premiere: "We have all lost something – in the best case only time and money, in the worst case a human being or our health," she said, referring to the COVID pandemic.

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She said they had a young team that was engaging with current topics. "Not only with war, but also with, for example, the question: Is the role of Pamina anti-women?" [Pamina is the kidnapped daughter of the queen in Mozart's "The Magic Flute"].

Since the beginning of this season, the festival has a new president, Kristina Hammer. Her predecessor Helga Rabl-Stadler's parting words, published on the festival's website reflect the ambitions of the festival: "I firmly believe that art can help reorient our world that has gone out of whack," adding that in 2022, opera, theater and concerts need to be asking the right questions and sparking imaginative new solutions.