

PRESS RELEASE

Frankfurt am Main, 23rd September 2012

Farewell after years of dedication: Karl Rarichs ceases running the Sir Georg Solti International Conducting Competition

The closing concert of the 6th Sir Georg Solti International Conducting Competition today, Sunday September 23rd 2012, in the Alte Oper Frankfurt not only presents the best three from the more than 400 young people who applied to compete, it also marks the end of a chapter in the competition's success story: the competition took place for the last time under the leadership of its founder Karl Rarichs, who is stepping down because of his age. The four partners in this project, the Alte Oper, Frankfurter Museums Gesellschaft, Hessische Rundfunk and Oper Frankfurt have reaffirmed their agreement to continue the competition, which began in 2002 and takes place every two years, in the future. The next is in 2014. The Hessische Rundfunk and Oper Frankfurt's renowned orchestras remain at the competition's disposal, thereby ensuring the wonderful working conditions under which the competition takes place.

Gabrielle Solti, daughter of the great conductor after whom the competition was named, praised Karl Rarichs' dedication and hard work: „My mother and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done for the next generation of conductors, all within the spirit of Sir Georg Solti.“

Karl Rarichs was, and is, due to his many activities (which included being a former General Manager of Peters Edition music publishers in Frankfurt, a long time manager of the Frankfurt Singakademie and deputy chairman of the Frankfurt Museums Gesellschaft), a central and vital figure in music life in Frankfurt. His expertise, organisational skills and commitment, for which he has often been publicly acknowledged, have brought to life new initiatives and synergies, involving diverse cultural institutions, which have proved extremely beneficial to Frankfurt and the Rhein Main region in past decades.

The competition will now be planned and run by **Dr. Burkhard Bastuck**, who assumed the chairmanship of the Frankfurter Museums Gesellschaft in May 2011 and has been involved in the competition as a jury member in the past. Dr. Burkhard Bastuck is a lawyer and concert pianist. In addition to his work and concert activities he dedicates himself with great commitment to cultural life in Frankfurt, is involved in, for example, – alongside to his commitment to the Frankfurt Museums Gesellschaft – the Goethe House administration committee – the Freies Deutsches Hochstift and is a member of the Städtischen Bühnen Frankfurt am Main GmbH's board of directors.