



The Munich Philharmonics in their new concert hall © HGEsch / gmp

Europe's Largest Cultural Centre Presents Its New Home

Gasteig HP8 and the Isarphilharmonie open on 8 October 2021

Valery Gergiev and the Munich Philharmonic will lead opening celebration.

A state-of-the-art wooden modular construction housing 1900 seats designed by a team of international star architects and with an acoustic concept by world-famous acoustician **Yasuhisa Toyota**: With the "Isarphilharmonie", the Gasteig and the City of Munich will offer culture buffs an extraordinary new concert hall that is set to join the list of major international concert halls.

Part of Munich's new HP8 cultural centre, the Isarphilharmonie concert hall is nestled within an ensemble of historic and new buildings that will host the Gasteig's activities and institutions – the Munich Philharmonic, Munich City Library, Münchner Volkshochschule adult education centre and University of Music and Performing Arts – while the Gasteig's main premises are being renovated.

Designed by the international architectural firm **von Gerkan Marg und Partner**, the new Isarphilharmonie was built by the Swiss NÜSSLI Group. Yasuhisa Toyota and his office Nagata Acoustics, whose portfolio includes the Elbphilharmonie, the Philharmonie de Paris and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, bring their decades-long experience to bear on the project.

The Munich Philharmonic in a new guise

With its move into the Isarphilharmonie, the Munich Philharmonic is purposely embarking on a new chapter in its history under the motto of "breaking with the old, being approachable, reinventing yourself". A comprehensive inauguration programme over ten days, during which pianist **Daniil Trifonov** will perform his first complete cycle of Beethoven's five piano

concertos with the Munich Philharmonic and the Mariinsky Orchestra, is just the beginning. Plans include a wealth of unusual special programmes, some of which will be held in collaboration with local artists and actors and include neighbourhood concerts at unusual venues in the new neighbourhood, late-night formats, a musical for all the family, themed festivals with surprise acts, and new concert formats developed together with greats such as **Steven Walter**. Of course, visitors can also expect a top-class symphonic programme: internationally sought-after artists such as **Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, Paavo Järvi, Yefim Bronfman, Barbara Hannigan, Isabelle Faust, Camilla Nylund, Lisa Batiashvili** and many more will be performing at the Isarphilharmonie in the coming season. The spirit of adventure is also expressed in eight world premieres that the Munich Philharmonic will present in the course of the season, with themed programmes in January.

At the new site, culture awaits round every corner

Access to the Isarphilharmonie will be via the so-called "Hall E", a listed industrial building that once served as a transformer hall. Being at the heart of the site, it houses all the information points and central facilities as well as a gallery, cinema, café, bar and, over several levels, the Munich City Library. Conceived as a barrier-free meeting place for all, Gasteig HP8 was designed with accessibility in mind, including the City Library's innovative Open Library concept.

Three temporary new buildings provide space for the Münchner Volkshochschule adult education centre, the "Kleiner Saal" (a smaller auditorium for chamber music) and a restaurant; the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich; and a multifunctional auditorium. The Munich Chamber Orchestra will also join the Gasteig family at its new location.

Following the grand opening on 8 October, celebrations of the move into the interim premises will span several months, with an extensive programme of which each of the Gasteig's institutions will take the patronage for a month to showcase the Gasteig's multifarious offering.

Clear visions for the Gasteig HP8

“The inauguration of Gasteig HP8 shows once again that culture is a priority in Munich. While the Gasteig is undergoing renovation, our city will have a new source of inspiration and interchange that will play a vital role in nurturing and growing our cultural landscape.”

Dieter Reiter, Lord Mayor of Munich

“The Isarphilharmonie will be a pioneering concert hall with excellent acoustics. I look forward to fantastic live performances and to being able to welcome music fans from near and far.”

Valery Gergiev, Principal conductor of the Munich Philharmonic

“The Gasteig HP8 will become an icon. People can already feel the vibrant, innovative aura that the new cultural complex housing the Gasteig and the Isarphilharmonie at its centre will emanate. The artists and craftspeople already based here will only boost the diversity that the Gasteig can offer.”

Max Wagner, Managing Director of Gasteig München GmbH

On the acoustics of the “Isarphilharmonie”

The acoustical design of the “Isarphilharmonie” concert hall presented a unique challenge: creating a concert venue of the highest acoustical standard for the city of Munich and for the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the world's most prominent and history-rich ensembles, but for a construction planned to be used only a few years and subsequently dismantled. From our previous experiences working alongside Maestro Valery Gergiev, we also knew that the artistic ambitions for the “Isarphilharmonie” would match that of any well-established concert hall built to last centuries. Back in Spring 2018, we therefore embarked in this design adventure in close collaboration with design architects gmp architects and Kunkel Consulting with the firm objective of turning potential compromises into bespoke solutions for a one-of-a-kind project.

To best serve the musical qualities of Munich Philharmonic and future visiting ensembles, our primary goal was to create a careful balance between a high clarity of sound on the one hand, and a rich and enveloping reverberant acoustics on the other hand, conveying the sound produced by the performers on stage in the most faithful manner possible to the audience.

The seating layout and sound-reflecting surfaces in the hall were carefully shaped to create an intimate relationship between audience and musicians, and to ensure a well-balanced and even distribution of essential sound reflections. Together with gmp architects, each step of the design aimed at keeping the audience as close to stage and engaged as possible, whilst ensuring that the necessary sound-reflecting surfaces were placed and oriented optimally. Careful design of the walls around the stage and ceiling above provides performers with a precise and reliable acoustic response. The stage area is dimensioned for large musical ensembles, and fitted with motorized risers in a semi-circular arrangement to allow for a compact three-dimensional stepped arrangement of musicians, essential to good ensemble communication and cohesion. The stage apron can be lowered to reduce stage depth and increase seat count for crossover events. The faceted walls and ceiling geometries respond to the need for pre-fabricated replicable elements on the one hand, and the need to distribute sound reflections throughout the hall while avoiding detrimental sound focusing or echoes on the other. Massive composite-timber panels and steel structure are used in lieu of concrete to ensure the mass required to reflect low frequency sound, while shallow horizontal battens are applied to the surfaces to scatter high frequency reflections. The stage floor is built with a carefully-selected timber decking supported by a flexible structure over a resonant cavity, allowing for the floor to serve and act as an extension of musical instruments.

Thus, this new concert hall is expected to offer the most beautiful acoustic space possible, even with its original ephemeral mission, and to be completely at the service of Munich's musical life for years to come.

Yasuhisa Toyota
Nagata Acoustics

The Gasteig institutions at a glance

The Munich Philharmonic

The Munich Philharmonic is the resident orchestra of the Gasteig Philharmonic Hall. Founded in 1893, the city's orchestra enjoys an outstanding reputation both at home and abroad. Its principal conductor since the start of the 2015/16 season is Valery Gergiev – the latest in a line of charismatic conductors of the Munich Philharmonic that include Lorin Maazel, Christian Thielemann, James Levine and Sergiu Celibidache. "Munich's orchestra" regularly gives concerts with internationally renowned soloists and guest conductors, boasting a repertoire that is as varied as it is demanding. With the "Spielfeld Klassik" cultural education programme and low-threshold offers such as the »MPHIL 360°« festival, the orchestra targets new audiences.

The Munich City Library

As Germany's largest lending library, the Munich City Library serves the needs of Munich's ever-growing population. A key institution of culture and lifelong learning, international openness and inclusion, the City Library in the Gasteig welcomes more than 3000 visitors a day. Its varied programme of events and wide selection of literature, newsprint, films and other media make the library a centre of knowledge, exchange and information as well as a popular meeting place and learning venue. In the interim locations Gasteig HP8 and Gasteig Motorama, the Munich City Library plans to implement an innovative Open Library concept.

The Münchner Volkshochschule adult education centre

With its educational and cultural offerings, Munich's centre for continuing education is unique in Germany. As the country's largest adult education centre, the Münchner Volkshochschule (MVHS) promotes learning in the fields of languages, health, the environment, the arts, culture and creativity, politics and society, work and careers, as well as basic education and school-leaving qualifications. It also offers courses in more than 55 foreign languages at all levels, from Albanian to Vietnamese. Around 28,000 migrants learn German at the MVHS every year. In addition to its extensive course programme, the MVHS runs a forum for public debate and communication of scientific knowledge with its Open Academy in the Gasteig.

University of Music and Performing Arts Munich

The University of Music and Performing Arts Munich (HMTM) is one of Europe's most renowned and diverse training centres for music, dance and theatre professions. At five different locations in Munich with about 500 teachers, 1200 students learn their trade in around 100 different study programmes. The courses range from orchestral and keyboard instruments to jazz, historical performance practice, folk music and church music to music journalism and cultural management. With its concert halls, classrooms and rehearsal rooms, the Gasteig is an indispensable location for the university.

Münchener Kammerorchester (MKO)

Internationally renowned for its exceptionally creative programming and the homogeneity of timbre that can only come from a long history of making music together, the MKO is blazing a trail for orchestras in Germany and beyond. Under the leadership of principal conductor Clemens Schuldt, the MKO will continue to present daring, associative programmes combining works from the past and the present. With no aesthetic preconceptions and a love of experimentation, Schuldt and the orchestra place their trust in the sheer impact and emotional intensity of contemporary music, as evidenced by numerous commissioned works that the MKO has premiered in recent decades.

GASTEIG HP8 – Facts and Figures

GENERAL INFORMATION

Aim

For Gasteig visitors, the cultural and educational programme remains almost unchanged: The Munich Philharmonic, the Munich City Library, the Münchner Volkshochschule adult education centre, the University of Music and Performing Arts, The Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Gasteig München GmbH. What's new is the exciting collaborations with local creatives on the HP8 site.

Schedule

- City Council resolution of 2017: Gasteig to be renovated, temporary premises to be sought
- From April 2019: Preparations on the Stadtwerke München site
- March 2020: Start of construction
- October 2020: Topping-out ceremony on the interim Philharmonic Hall
- January 2021: Name competition for the site and the Philharmonic Hall
- October 2021: Grand opening of the Philharmonic Hall as well as Hall E and Hall X
- by March 2022: Successive move into the other buildings

Involved parties

- Planning: Gerkan, Marg und Partner (gmp)
- General contractor for Philharmonic Hall and modular buildings: Nüssli Group
- Acoustics: Yasuhisa Toyota, Nagata Acoustics

Costs

- Construction costs for Gasteig HP8: approx. € 70 million euros
- Of which approx. € 40 million for the Isarphilharmonie

Location

Hans-Preißinger-Straße 4–8, near the city centre, easy to reach by public transport, connection between nature (Flaucher, Stadtbach), industry (Heizkraftwerk Süd power station, Grossmarkthalle) and residential properties

SITE

Area

- Total approx. 12,000 m2 (cf. Gasteig 23,000 m2)
- Hall E (7500 m2), concert hall (approx. 8000 m2), 3 modular buildings (total approx. 10,600 m2)

HALL E

- Listed transformer hall of the Stadtwerke München utility company, steel roof construction (glass roof and transparent ceiling) largely still in its original state
- The aim is to preserve the character and architectural features of the hall
- Centrepiece of Gasteig HP8
- This is where the institutes' interconnections and offerings are most visible, where experiments take place and new approaches are tried – also with regard to the New Gasteig in Haidhausen

Ground floor

- Information
- Ticket sales
- Munich Philharmonic subscription office
- Foyer, cloakrooms and access to the Isarphilharmonie
- Bar & café
- Lending station of the Munich City Library
- Münchner Volkshochschule adult education centre with registration and Aspekte Galerie
- Projektor (event hall/cinema, multifunctional, 99 seats)

Upper floors

- Munich City Library with »open library« concept, open seven days a week until late in the evening (and the event space Generator)
- Cultural education
- Goldsmith workshop of the Münchner Volkshochschule

Isarphilharmonie

- During the general refurbishment of the Gasteig, the only large concert hall in Munich apart from the Herkulesaal
- for the Munich Philharmonic, but also for the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra (BRSO), guest orchestras and third-party events

- Planning: Gerkan, Marg und Partner (gmp): internationally active architectural firm, including Berlin Tegel (1974), Berlin Hauptbahnhof (2006), renovation of Dresden Kulturpalast (2017)
- Acoustics: Yasuhisa Toyota, Nagata Acoustics (Elbphilharmonie, Philharmonie de Paris)
- Modular design: New building, constructed largely of prefabricated elements (steel construction), inserted wooden concert hall (softwood/spruce)
- Overall building height: 24 m, volume 55,000 m³
- Seats: 1840 to 1956, depending on stage layout
- Variable stage depth 11/13/14 m

Hall X

- Newbuild, one storey (approx. 5.9 m high)
- Multifunctional hall (with adjoining rooms); approx. 250 seats
- Use for different formats: cinema, readings, dance, theatre, receptions

Building K

- Newbuild, 6 storeys (approx. 25 m high)
- Münchner Volkshochschule on the 5 upper floors, mainly classrooms, workshops, photo studio
- On the ground floor »Kleiner Saal« (small hall) with 108 seats for classical music, chamber music, cinema, lectures; also used for their concerts by the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich
- Restaurant GAiA (approx. 80 seats)

Forum (directly in front of Hall E)

- Open space with restaurant terrace (80–100 seats)

BUILDING G

- Newbuild, 5 storeys, height 17.9 m
- Main user: University of Music and Performing Arts Munich
- Especially practice and teaching rooms

REHEARSAL HALL, HOUSE C

- Multifunctional hall for approx. 90 people
- Rehearsals, events, cultural education, receptions

Existing building HP8

- Building F: Artists' studios
- Training centre of Stadtwerke München
- Buildings A–C (including Designliga, Architekturbüro Clemens Bachmann, IMAL International, Munich Art Lab, artists, ...)
- Building H (Senjak tyre workshop)

FURTHER GASTEIG INTERIM LOCATIONS

- Gasteig Motorama in the Motorama Ladenstadt shopping centre opposite the Gasteig in Haidhausen, Rosenheimer Straße (Munich City Library and Münchner Volkshochschule)
- Kunstlabor, former Gesundheitshaus Dachauer Straße (Offices of Gasteig München GmbH and the Munich Philharmonic)
- Neuperlach (Munich City Library administration)
- Oberschleißheim (Munich City Library stack room)

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www.gasteig.de/presse/pressefotos/Interim

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