

# FESTSPIELEZÜRICH:

Zurich 10 March 2014

## Zurich Festival 2014: “Prometheus – Unleashing powers”

**Dedicated to the theme of “Prometheus – Unleashing Powers”, the Zurich Festival, held from 13 June to 13 July 2014, invites audiences to rediscover the myth of the figure who brought both fire and culture to mankind. The work at the heart of the rich and multi-faceted artistic programme is Luigi Nono’s *Prometeo – Tragedia dell’ascolto*, performed in the Tonhalle Zurich and conducted by Ingo Metzmacher.**

Seldom performed, this is the first time that Luigi Nono’s epoch-making work, *Prometeo – Tragedia dell’ascolto*, will be heard in Zurich. A glittering example of the musical avant-garde, it is an uncompromising attempt to use music to translate mankind’s fundamental themes into sound and voice. Other performances also devoted to Luigi Nono include an evening with the Collegium Novum Zurich, a chamber concert with Quatuor Diotima, a matinée from the series “Elective affinities – literature and music” as well as a Prometheus day held at the Zurich University of the Arts.

The imaginative powers unleashed in the music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are the focus of a wide range of concerts. The Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, for example, both in its opening concert and on its day of chamber music, will bring alive the tonal variety made possible in music since then. Theater Rigiblick presents a medley of text and music by Arnold Schönberg and Gessnerallee will hold a discourse in concert form on the avant-garde composer, Alexander Scriabin. And the jazz of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the tone of a series of concerts entitled “Prometheus meets Jazz” at Moods and Museum Rietberg.

The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century also saw the unleashing of devastating powers – the hundredth anniversary of World War I takes place on 28 June, the subject of an exhibition held at Landesmuseum Zurich and of a round-table discussion with leading experts at Schauspielhaus Zurich. Also dating from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are the Festival’s new productions of old favourites: Puccini’s western opera, *La fanciulla del West* at the Opera House and the suburban legend *Liliom*, staged by Barbara Frey at the Schauspielhaus.

Lectures, exhibitions and the Zurich Festival Symposium invite audiences to reflect on the impact of the Promethean myth down through the ages – at the opening matinée, for example, with a Festival address given by Rüdiger Safranski, or in a series of events resulting from the first joint project with University of Zurich. A cabinet exhibition in the Kunsthaus juxtaposes Johann Heinrich Füssli with the Venezuelan artist, Javier Téllez, and explores the evolution of artistic activity inspired by the figure of Prometheus.

Theatre performances bring the Festival theme right up to the present day. At the Schauspielhaus, the audience attending Rimini Protokoll’s *Situation Rooms* experiences firsthand the global world of warfare, rulers and refugees, in the Gessnerallee, Chris Kondek’s and Christiane Kühl’s *Anonymous P* steals data from the hands of the ruling powers, and in Theater Neumarkt, a contemporary Promethean artist fights annihilation in the theatrical adaptation of Michel Houellebecq’s *The Map and the Territory*. Urs Widmer’s *King of Books* is removed from his throne in Theater Rigiblick, and Prometheus takes centre stage in a dynamic poetry slam.

Festival atmosphere is guaranteed right in the heart of Zurich when the Sechseläutenplatz is transformed into an open air venue thanks to the Opera House’s live transmission of Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. Fritz Senn, as head of the Zurich James Joyce Foundation, will receive the Zurich Festival Prize 2014. And, in an educational project, school classes are given the chance “to be Prometheus for once”. The grand finale of the Festival features a lavish Festival celebration in the Gessnerallee with a dance display by the Belgian collective, Peeping Tom.

**Media contact**

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**Press pack**

For a press pack with extensive information on the Zurich Festival 2014:

[www.festspiele-zuerich.ch/de/2013/pressebereich](http://www.festspiele-zuerich.ch/de/2013/pressebereich)

The Zurich Festival is organised jointly by Zurich Opera House, Schauspielhaus, Tonhalle Orchestra, Kunsthaus, and other cultural institutions within the city and canton of Zurich. Dedicated to a common theme, the festival provides the occasion for a summer meeting of the arts which reflects the diversity of Zurich's cultural life. [www.festspiele-zuerich.ch](http://www.festspiele-zuerich.ch)