

German Mozart tricentennial 2019: Augsburg is dedicating a glittering year of festivities to Mozart’s father in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth

Without Leopold, there would have been no Wolfgang – Augsburg, Leopold’s native city, played a decisive role for the prodigy that was Mozart! Confident in its position as Germany’s only Mozart city, Augsburg is celebrating Leopold’s special birthday with a year-long programme of events. The highlights will be the Mozart Festival, the first Leopold Mozart biography, a new museum and a gala concert that includes a world premiere.

“This year of celebration will span a long musical period: starting with the music of Bach, which Leopold grew up with, the German Mozart Festival in May will focus on Leopold Mozart as a teacher, composer, networker, humanist and European. Then we will transport him to the present with a world premiere – Moritz Eggert has composed a piece especially for Leopold’s birthday on 14 November,” says Simon Pickel, artistic director of the Leopold Mozart Year, describing the staging of the festival year.

Leopold Mozart’s native city is really the only place to celebrate this anniversary. Augsburg, as an authentic German Mozart City, is using this important occasion to step out of Salzburg’s shadow and finally pay proper tribute to Leopold Mozart’s invaluable achievements in the music world. As a far-seeing, tireless mentor, teacher and manager for his son Wolfgang, it was Leopold who truly paved the way for the once-in-a-millennium composer that was Mozart, decisively influencing music history in the process.

The publication in autumn 2019 of the world’s first biography of Leopold Mozart will bring him to the public attention: the renowned musicologist Silke Leopold has just completed the manuscript. As well as this, a large-scale exhibition entitled “Mozart’s World of Fashion” in the award-winning State Textile and Industry Museum is bound to attract many visitors to Augsburg. Likewise, the newly designed museum in the Mozarthaus (Leopold’s birthplace, opening in November), and the 10th International Leopold Mozart Violin Competition in June will be big draws. The musical high point of the year will be the six concerts at the German Mozart Festival in May: with performances by an array of international stars, each concert will illuminate one facet of Leopold Mozart through music. None other than Christian Tetzlaff will then personally congratulate Leopold on his 300th birthday.

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