

The Barbican Centre and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra: for immediate release 11 March 2009

The Barbican and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the oldest civic musical performing organisation in Europe, today announced a new partnership. In an exclusive relationship, the orchestra becomes an International Associate of the Barbican and begins a series of biennial residencies in London in 2011 involving concerts, new commissions and educational and outreach work.

Riccardo Chailly, Gewandhauskapellmeister said:

"London is one of the most important musical centres in the world. The number of leading orchestras based there is unique. It has always been exciting for the Gewandhaus Orchestra to perform in London as it is an ideal place to compare yourself musically with others. We know the value of the enthusiastic reception that we have received from the audiences and the press there and look forward to starting the regular residencies at the Barbican. It makes us very proud to have been chosen as one of the International Associates by the Centre."

Robert van Leer, Head of Music and Arts Projects at the Barbican said:

"It has been a great pleasure to have the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly for a three concert residency at the Barbican this season and this has reinforced our wish to have the Orchestra as one of our International Associates. The long tradition and the historic sound of the Orchestra, together with the vision and energy of its Kapellmeister is a combination that promises an exciting series of residencies."

Notes for editors:

The **Barbican Centre** is one of the world's leading arts centres, founded and run by the City of London Corporation. It provides all the arts - music, theatre, dance, cinema, the visual arts and education – under one roof and one creative direction. The Barbican's classical music concerts take place under the headline *Great Performers*. Since establishing the series in its present form, long-term relationships with world's leading musicians have enabled the Barbican to present a wide variety of international orchestral concerts, operatic performances and recitals as well as to build a reputation of commissioning groundbreaking new projects from great composers of our time. The London Symphony Orchestra, resident orchestra of the Centre from day one, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, associate orchestra from the year 2000, are an invaluable addition to the Centre's versatility. The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is one of the Barbican's five International Associate orchestras announced on 11 March 2009. For more information visit www.barbican.org.uk

The **Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra** was founded on 11 March 1743. With a history spanning over 250 years, the Orchestra is recognised as the oldest civic musical performing organisation in Europe. It started off as a concert society founded by sixteen Leipzig merchants and has since become one of the world's most renowned orchestras that can count Mendelssohn, Nikisch, Furtwängler, Konwitschny, Masur and Blomstedt among its past Music Directors. Riccardo Chailly, the 19th Gewandhauskapellmeister and known for his passionate interpretations, started in the position in 2005. The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is the biggest professional orchestra in world and performs in three venues in Leipzig: the Gewandhaus, the Opera and the Thomaskirche. For more information, visit www.gewandhaus.de

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