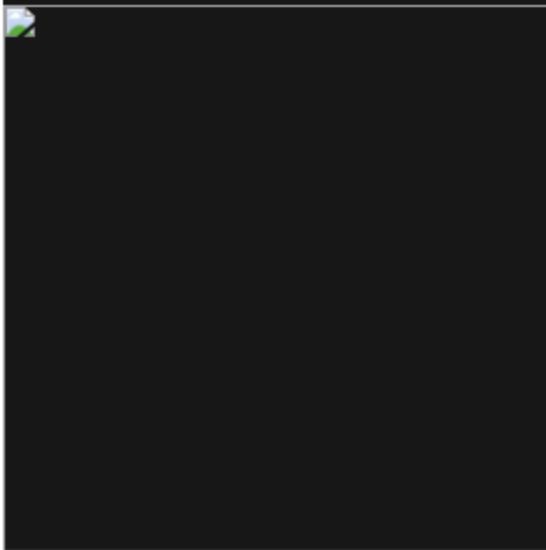


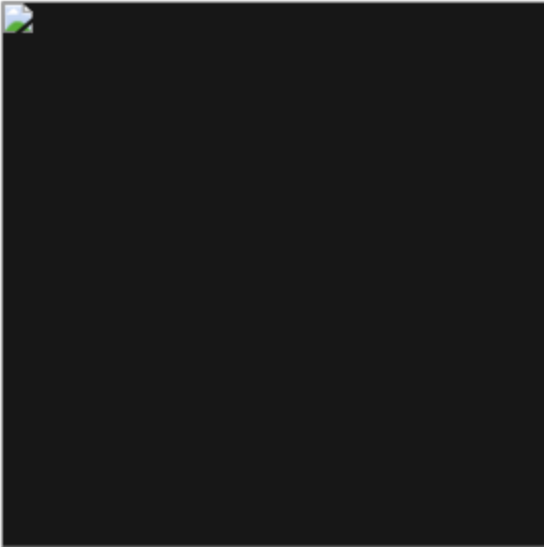
The end of an era

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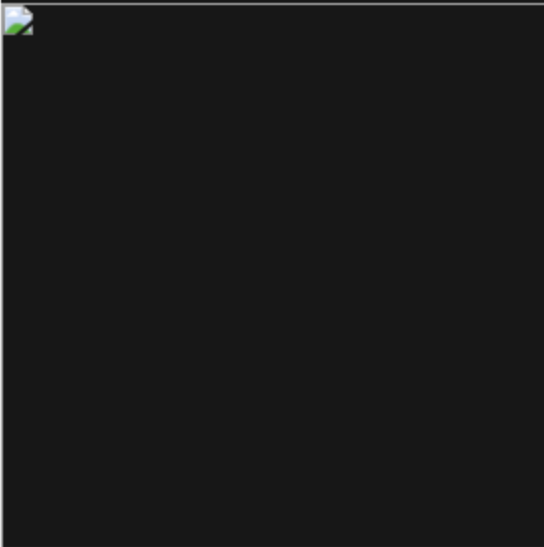
Berliner Philharmoniker, Sir Simon Rattle

Today's annual press conference of the Berliner Philharmoniker was marked both by excitement and a hint of sadness. The 2017/18 season is again full of top-class concert programmes – but at the same time, it also signals the departure of Sir Simon Rattle as the orchestra's chief conductor. The good news is that many of the upcoming concerts give us the opportunity to relive highlights of the Rattle years.



Kirill Petrenko, Daniel Barenboim, Seiji Ozawa

A performance of the oratorio *The Creation*, for example, lets audiences enjoy Rattle the celebrated Haydn conductor once more, while with Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri*, Sir Simon presents one of his favourite works of the Romantic repertoire. We also have another opportunity to hear the completion of Bruckner's Ninth Symphony which caused a sensation in 2012, and Rattle conducting Stravinsky is, of course, also an absolute must. On top of all that, there are joint appearances with artistic friends such as Mitsuko Uchida and Daniel Barenboim. Other than all these reminiscences are Wagner's *Parsifal* and Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, two operas Sir Simon has never performed with the Berliner Philharmoniker before. Concerts with Mahler's Sixth Symphony – with which Rattle made his debut with the Philharmoniker in 1987 – and the traditional end-of-season concert at the Waldbühne bring this great chapter in the history of the orchestra to a close.



Joyce DiDonato, Janine Jansen, Yuja Wang

In addition to Simon Rattle, there are also many other first-class guest conductors in the Philharmonie and the Digital Concert Hall this season, including Daniel Barenboim, Herbert Blomstedt, Iván Fischer, Daniele Gatti,

Alan Gilbert, Bernard Haitink, Daniel Harding, Marek Janowski, Mariss Jansons, Paavo Järvi, Ton Koopman, Zubin Mehta, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Seiji Ozawa, Antonio Pappano, Tugan Sokhiev and Christian Thielemann. Other outstanding soloists of the season include Yefim Bronfman, Joyce DiDonato, Vilde Frang, Janine Jansen, Leonidas Kavakos, Magdalena Kožená, Maria João Pires, Gil Shaham, Baiba Skride, Daniil Trifonov and Yuja Wang. As in the current season, one musician will attract particular attention: Kirill Petrenko, who takes up office as the new chief conductor of the Berliner Philharmoniker in 2019.


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