



PRESS INFORMATION

360-DEGREE PANORAMA FOR ALL: CEREMONY MARKS OPENING OF ELBPILHARMONIE PLAZA

Hamburg, 4 November 2016: The Plaza of the Elbphilharmonie – a public viewing platform situated between the former warehouse and the new glass structure – was officially opened at a ceremony earlier today. The event to mark the opening of the Plaza and the handover of the completed building by the construction firm Hochtief was attended by the Mayor of Hamburg, Olaf Scholz, the CEO of Hochtief AG, Marcelino Fernández Verdes, General and Artistic Director Christoph Lieben-Seutter and the architects Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron and Ascan Mergenthaler from the firm Herzog & de Meuron. Some 200 Hamburg residents were also invited, from pupils at the neighbouring Katharinenschule to former dock workers who used to work in Kaispeicher A – the warehouse on which the new concert hall has been built. The Plaza will be open to the public from 5 November.

The opening of the Elbphilharmonie will take place on 11 and 12 January 2017, but Hamburg has already gained a new attraction today: the Elbphilharmonie Plaza. The observation deck of the concert hall, which follows a public square concept, is located at a height of 37 metres above ground level, between the historical brick warehouse foundation and the new glass structure. Visitors reach the deck via an 82-metre-long, curved escalator which leads to a large panorama window. From there, the path follows a second smaller escalator and spaciouly designed stairs to the Plaza itself. An exterior walkway around the building offers fantastic views of the city and the harbour. The interior of the Plaza houses the stairs to the concert halls, the lobby of »The Westin Hamburg« hotel and the takeaway café »Deck & Deli«. It is also home to the Elbphilharmonie shop, which sells books, CDs and products created specially for the venue.

The Plaza will be open to all visitors from Hamburg and around the world starting on Saturday, 5 November 2016. Music will be performed on the Plaza throughout the weekend to celebrate its opening. As the visitor capacity is limited, admission will be regulated by the issue of tickets. For spontaneous visitors, these are available free of charge on the day of their visit; reservations for a fixed admission time can be made (subject to availability) at www.elbphilharmonie.de/en as well as in the Elbphilharmonie Visitor Center located at Am Kaiserkai 60–62. A reservation fee of €2.00 per visitor applies.

The Plaza: a place for encounters

In his speech, Hamburg's Mayor Olaf Scholz emphasised a number of points, including the significance of the Elbphilharmonie as a concert hall for all. »Hamburg has one of the best



concert halls in the world now. I am delighted that we are holding the first of several official opening ceremonies here on the Plaza. Right now, we are standing in the Port of Hamburg, 37 metres above sea level at the highest public square in northern Germany – and there is a skyscraper above our heads. The Elbphilharmonie is a place for everyone. Hamburg is a city of music, and you could call this its parliament. It is a concert hall that will wow the world.«

Marcelino Fernández Verdes, CEO of Hochtief AG, recalled the challenges, which had to be overcome during construction. »Constructing the Elbphilharmonie presented outstanding engineering challenges. This was evident during almost every construction phase. Today we are proud to deliver the project to the greatest satisfaction of everyone involved. A building has been created that will not only fascinate the citizens of Hamburg, but also the city's visitors.«

Herzog & de Meuron underscored the Plaza's special significance as a place where anyone is welcome: »The Elbphilharmonie is much more than just a spectacular concert hall. It is a unique place, which reflects Hamburg's social and cultural life. With the Plaza, we wanted to create a place for everyone with a unique panorama: the outward-looking design of the spacious terrace, sprawling on the warehouse like a new public square, counterbalances the inward focus of the philharmonic hall above it.«

General and Artistic Director Christoph Lieben-Seutter sees the combination of a striking building, an outstanding concert venue and an attractive location as a source of inspiration for concert-goers and performers alike. »Moving into this unique building was a fantastic experience for my team and me. The Elbphilharmonie motivates us and visitors, who have had the chance to see it before, in a unique way. We are extremely pleased that we can share this experience with many citizens and guests of Hamburg from tomorrow on. The opening of the Plaza is an important milestone in the run-up to the inauguration of the whole building in January.«

Inside the Elbphilharmonie: a sneak peek with Google Street View

On 5 November, the Plaza at the centre of the Elbphilharmonie will open to the public. Thanks to Google Street View, anyone can now also take a tour of the building and explore rooms such as the new concert hall on their computer or smartphone. This virtual service is offered by the Elbphilharmonie in partnership with Google Arts & Culture. The new Google Arts & Culture profile for the Elbphilharmonie at g.co/elbphilharmonie offers a further insight into how Hamburg's new landmark has evolved over time and its current shape.

Countdown to the Grand Opening: events at the Elbphilharmonie in the run-up to January

There is no need to wait until the official opening in early January to experience the inaugural musical events at the Elbphilharmonie first-hand. From 5 November, the walk-through sound installation »The Ship« by the legendary ambient musician and producer Brian Eno will enable visitors to experience music as a product of space, time and motion in Kaistudio 1 (until 4



December). Then, from 1 to 4 January 2017, the world-famous choreographer Sasha Waltz, her dance company and guests will invite the public to a musical exploration of the Elbphilharmonie foyers.

Tickets for concerts and events at the Elbphilharmonie

As a »concert hall for all«, the Elbphilharmonie offers exciting experiences for both aficionados and newcomers to the live music scene. Demand for concert tickets for the inaugural season is high; many events are already sold out. At www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/tickets-available, there is a list of performances for which tickets are still available.

Anyone who wants to catch the extraordinary performances in the next few weeks should make a note of the following dates when tickets will go on sale:

10 November: Pre-sale for the »Lux aeterna« festival (9–28 February)

1 December: Pre-sale for Sasha Waltz & Guests, »Figure Humaine« (1–4 January)

1 December: Ticket pre-sales for Family Day (29 January)

1 December: Pre-sale for the Elbphilharmonie »World of Instruments« (from 24 January)

Plaza Tickets

The Plaza of the Elbphilharmonie is open to the public from 5 November. **NB: Anyone hoping to visit the Plaza on the first few days after it opens without a pre-booked ticket should expect long queues.**

Online

Plaza tickets for a fixed time slot are available at www.elbphilharmonie.de/en to print at home or save on a smartphone. A booking fee of €2.00 per ticket applies.

At the Elbphilharmonie Visitor Center

The Elbphilharmonie Visitor Center is located at Am Kaiserkai 60–62, opposite the concert hall. It is open every day from 9:00 to 20:00. Plaza tickets can be booked in advance there for a €2.00 booking fee. As of 5 November, it will also be possible to obtain free same-day Plaza tickets there, subject to availability.

At the Plaza ticket machines

From 5 November onwards, visitors will also be able to obtain free same-day Plaza tickets from machines, subject to availability. There are two Plaza ticket machines in the Elbphilharmonie Visitor Center and one in the foyer of the Elbphilharmonie.

As of January 2017: concert tickets include access to the Plaza

Holders of tickets for concerts in the Grand Hall and the Recital Hall may access the Plaza up to two hours before their event starts. Visitors to the Kaistudios and all other visitors need a Plaza



ticket if they wish to go to the viewing platform.

The Elbphilharmonie Ticket Shop opens on 4 November (on the ground floor of the concert hall, open from 11:00 to 20:00 every day) and offers visitors an additional way to buy tickets for events at the Elbphilharmonie in advance.

Recent photos from the Plaza Opening are available for download via the following link:
www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press/plaza-opening

Press Office:

Tom R. Schulz, Elena Wätjen and Julia Mahns

Press and Public Relations

Phone: +49 (0) 40 357 666 -258, -249, -245

presse@elbphilharmonie.de

www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/press