

# Heidelberger Frühling

Press release 18 June 2023

## 2nd Heidelberger Frühling Liedfestival with around 3000 visitors

This Sunday evening, the **2nd Heidelberger Frühling Liedfestival** comes to an end with a birthday concert for the composer, clarinettist and conductor Jörg Widmann in the Aula der Alten Universität Heidelberg. For five days, 23 concerts at five venues in Heidelberg presented the diversity of Lied: from classical Lied recitals in the Aula der Alten Universität Heidelberg to a four-day Lied.LAB at the Völkerkundemuseum (Ethnological Museum) by up-and-coming artists and the Liedakademie with its artistic director Thomas Hampson to singer-songwriter concerts at the Karlsruhahnhof.

All in all, the festival team counted **about 3000 visitors** and thus increased the number of visitors by about 40 percent compared to the first edition last year. Around 60 per cent of the Liedfestival guests came from Heidelberg and the surrounding area, about 25 per cent from the region and about 15 per cent came to Heidelberg from cities beyond the region, such as Berlin, Munich, Cologne or Hamburg, as well as from abroad, such as Switzerland or the Netherlands.

After 2022, this was the second edition of the Liedfestival, which had previously taken place as a Lied focus in the Heidelberger Frühling Musikfestival. **Artistic director Thorsten Schmidt** draws a positive balance: "The fact that we were able to inspire significantly more listeners than last year for Lied is very pleasing to us and is a clear signal for us. Not only the concerts with classics of the repertoire were well attended, but also the innovative formats with which we gave young musicians in particular an artistic space and a stage. This feedback gives us the assurance that we are on the right track and that Heidelberg has further established itself as one of the most important addresses for Lied fans."

**Guests** included artists such as Samuel Hasselhorn, Julia Kleiter, Mikhail Timoshenko, Gerold Huber, Wallis Bird, Spark – the classical band and Carolin Widmann. In addition, the Liedfestival stage belonged above all to young up-and-coming voices such as Bella Adamova, Sophia Burgos, Kieran Carrel, Äneas Humm or Laurence Kilsby as well as this year's scholars of the Liedakademie. Singing legend Thomas Hampson gave a series of lectures on Lied at Stift Neuburg as part of his honorary professorship at the Universität Heidelberg.

The Liedfestival is a project of the **Heidelberger Frühling Liedzentrum**, which was founded in 2016 as a centre of excellence for Lied. It has set itself the goal of cultivating the heritage of Lied and ensuring its renewal at an excellent level. The Liedzentrum unites the year-round Liedakademie under the artistic direction of Thomas Hampson, the biennial international Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb "Das Lied" founded by Thomas Quasthoff and, since 2022, the Liedfestival. In addition, the Liedzentrum implements other artistic projects such as interdisciplinary Lied.LABs, the short films of "Lied me!" or the CD release "Schumann – Alle Lieder" with Christian Gerhaher and Gerold Huber.

The **3rd Heidelberger Frühling Liedfestival** will take place from 12 to 16 June 2024.