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**OPERNHAUS  
ZÜRICH**

Press Release, 14 December 2022

## **NORMAL IS SOMETHING ELSE**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2021/22 SEASON**

For the third time in a row, the season was marked by the effects of the Corona pandemic. Once again, the Opernhaus had to face enormous challenges. The first part of the season brought the continuation of certification and mandatory masking, which officially ended on February 16, 2022. The Opernhaus extended optional masking through March 31, 2022 and returned to «normal operations» on April 1, 2022. Nevertheless, it has not been a «normal» season. The entire house was under great strain. Countless casting changes were necessary, and substitutes or still-healthy colleagues filled in for illness-caused absences. As a result of these joint efforts, not a single performance was cancelled.

While only 72 performances were allowed to take place on the main stage in the previous season, in the 2021/22 season all 248 planned performances were seen by a total of 202,518 visitors. The overall audience capacity was 83.3%. The opera division saw an audience capacity of 81.6% and the Ballett Zürich reached 93.6%. The total revenue from performances was CHF 21.296 million.

The most successful opera production was Wagner's «Rheingold» in the interpretation of Intendant Andreas Homoki, with an audience capacity of 95.9% for nine performances. It was followed by Verdi's «Il trovatore», the inaugural production by new General Music Director Gianandrea Noseda, with 94.8% for nine performances. The eight performances of the ballet «Dornröschen» by Christian Spuck reached 98.5%.

Although this is not yet a return to a pre-pandemic state, we consider ourselves very fortunate that audiences and sponsors, patrons and friends continue to place a great amount of trust in the Opernhaus Zürich. In sponsoring, this trust was reflected at a record level: with a total of CHF 10.727 million, CHF 300,000 more revenue was generated than in the previous year.

The «pandemic» provision established in the previous season, in the amount of CHF 5.93 Mio., was used as planned in the 2021/22 season and was fully utilized. Although the Opernhaus is on a steady course, the effects of the Corona pandemic will likely still be felt in the 2022/23 season. To mitigate this, a new provision of CHF 2.49 million was established. As a result, a loss of CHF 357,588 will be posted for the 2021/22 financial year.

# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

## Chairman of the board Markus Notter:

«The 2021/22 season was a major effort, one that was rewarded in the end. We are especially proud of a feat that very few operatic stages managed to pull off: the realization of a season program without cancelling a single performance. In addition, the Opernhaus further increased its high productivity by making up for productions and events from previous seasons that were cancelled due to the Corona pandemic. The open air event «Oper für alle» took place twice in the 2021/22 season, once at the beginning of the season with «Salome» – still under Corona restrictions – and again at the end, with a performance of the ballet «Dornröschen» attended by 12,000 individuals. Two particularly important artistic milestones for Opernhaus Zürich were the successful inauguration of Gianandrea Noseda as new General Music Director and the birth of a new Zurich «Ring des Nibelungen». This is a major project for any opera house, one that ties up all its resources and requires maximum effort.

In addition, we can be delighted about several awards. Our commissioned composition «Girl with a Pearl Earring» was named «World Premiere of the Year 2022» by the *Opernwelt* magazine. Furthermore, the Ballett Zürich was named «Highlight of the Year» by *tanz* magazine, and «Company of the Year» by *Dance Europe*, which also named Christian Spuck «Director of the Year».

All this would have been impossible without the tireless efforts of the staff and the constant support of audiences, sponsors and patrons of the house».

## The results for the 2021/22 season can be summarized as follows:

	2021/22	2020/21
<b>Earnings</b>		
Public sector contributions	<b>85.908</b>	85.428
Ticket sales revenue	<b>21.296</b>	2.444
Donations and sponsors	<b>10.727</b>	10.355
Other business earnings	<b>8.955</b>	5.493
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel expenses	<b>103.303</b>	80.553
Other business expenses	<b>23.844</b>	23.449
<b>Year-end results</b>	<b>- 358</b>	- 430

(All figures in 1,000 CHF)