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**Schimmer PR**  
**Sabine Knodt**  
+49 221 168 796 25  
sabine.knodt@  
schimmer-pr.de

**Meike Becker**  
Head of Press  
Oper Köln  
+49 221 221 28 279  
meike.becker@  
oper.koeln

I. V. von  
**Friso van Daalen**  
Head of Marketing  
Gürzenich-Orchester Köln  
friso.vandaalen@  
guerzenich-orchester.de

## **François-Xavier Roth extends his contract as Gürzenich-Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne to 2022**

**François-Xavier Roth is extending his contract as Gürzenich-Kapellmeister (Music Director of the Gürzenich-Orchestra) and Generalmusikdirektor (Music Director) of the City of Cologne up to the 2021/22 season. Roth took up the position on 1 September 2015 and since then has established the Gürzenich-Orchestra as a top class ensemble both in Cologne and well beyond.**

**François-Xavier Roth** is delighted to continue his successful work with the Gürzenich-Orchestra:

» I am extremely happy to continue my work with the orchestra and the opera here in Cologne. I am now already in my fourth season as Gürzenich-Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor and, together with the musicians in the orchestra, can look back on many wonderful successes. Recently, for example, there were the performances of Gustav Mahler's Third Symphony right at the start of this season, the ›Die Soldaten‹ by B. A. Zimmermann in spring at the Oper Köln and also the projects that we carry out with Philippe Manoury and other contemporary composers. And, of course, the further development of our education projects in Cologne and our live streams, which reach people throughout the world. All of this makes me look towards the future with great anticipation. I feel personally inspired by this city and treasure its energy, philosophy and wonderful audiences.«

# GÜRZENICH ORCHESTER KÖLN

**Stefan Englert** Executive Director of the Gürzenich-Orchestra:

»The extension of François-Xavier Roth's contract as Gürzenich-Kapellmeister until 2022 is fantastic news for the City of Cologne and the Gürzenich-Orchestra. He is not only an eminent conductor who has elevated the musical quality of the Gürzenich Orchestra to the next level in the past three years but also a great communicator and person with the ability to excite music-lovers and reach out to new audiences. I am delighted to continue the close cooperation with François-Xavier Roth and to develop the unique profile of the Gürzenich-Orchestra over the next years.«

**Birgit Meyer** Intendantin Oper Köln:

»I am very pleased that François-Xavier Roth is extending his contract as Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne and Oper Köln. I look forward to continuing our successful collaborations, like the recent ›Die Soldaten‹ production, and will immediately go ahead with the planning and execution of our joint artistic projects for the Staatenhaus venue. The current survey of critics by the magazine Opernwelt sees Oper Köln, the Gürzenich-Orchestra and Generalmusikdirektor François-Xavier Roth as ranking among the first in all of Europe. That is our mission for the future.«

**Georg Heimbach** Orchestra Committee:

»We are excited to be able to continue our very inspiring and extraordinarily successful work with François-Xavier Roth beyond 2020. Every rehearsal, every concert and every opera performance under his direction is fulfilling and rewarding. In François-Xavier Roth, we have one of the most interesting and sought-after conductors of the current day as our principal conductor. With him as Gürzenich-Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne, we are on an excellent path, something that is being very much noticed in Cologne as well as nationally and internationally. We would like to thank those on the Cologne city council who successfully worked to have this contract extended and are delighted that François-Xavier Roth will be staying with us in Cologne!«