

New Year's Concert 2017: Floral Decorations by Municipal Department 42 – Parks and Gardens

When Gustavo Dudamel will raise his baton for the first bars of the New Year's Concert on 1 January 2017, this will mark a prestigious debut for the Venezuelan conductor, while the co-operation of the Vienna Philharmonic with Municipal Department 42 – Parks and Gardens continues the auspicious beginnings of 2015. Together with the Austrian Gardeners and Florists, the staff of Municipal Department 42 will envelop the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in a sea of blossoms. "This year, we will present the full colour palette of natural flowers: from pastel rosé to delicate salmon, from fuchsia to pale violet and ice-blue hues. The New Year's Concert offers a unique occasion to showcase the mastery of Vienna's gardeners before a worldwide audience", is the delighted comment of Vienna Parks and Gardens Director Rainer Weisgram.

Exotic plants spark a veritable fireworks of blossoms

"The audience may look forward to a blooming sea composed of 30,000 blossoms, and to exotic, colourful floral decorations that will convey an international image of Vienna as a city of flowers", Vienna Parks and Gardens Director Rainer Weisgram says. Thousands of blossoms are to reflect the joie de vivre and colourfulness typical of Venezuela. For this purpose, exotic plants will lend an unprecedented atmosphere to the Golden Hall of the Musikverein. Deep-pink and green flamingo flowers, cymbidia in pale pink, green and cream hues, salmon-coloured and rosé amaryllis plants as well as heliconias and light-pink lilies or roses and carnations in a full range of splendid shades are bound to enchant spectators. This multicoloured floral design recalls the Latin American origins of this year's conductor Gustavo Dudamel. "All flowers are certified with the 'Fair Flowers Fair Plants' (FFP) quality label", Municipal Department 42 guarantees.

Masterful floral craftsmanship of the highest standard

Creating this annual floral magnificence for the Golden Hall calls for huge experience and expertise. For the past eleven years, Lorenz Pridt has been co-ordinating the team of florists for the New Year's Concert. "It is very important for us to continue integrating international fashions in colour and new floral trends into our designs. This year, flowers cascading from cones filled to the brim will effectively showcase this glorious abundance of blossoms", Lorenz Pridt – who is also spokesman for Vienna's florists' guild – comments. "The work of our master florists begins already on 27 December to make sure that everything will be ready in time for this worldwide cultural event", he adds. Municipal Department 42 will act as the "floral author" of the flower decorations for the third time. "After all, Vienna Parks and Gardens can look back on 155 years of gardening experience", emphasises Vienna Parks and Gardens Director Rainer Weisgram, who has millions of flowers planted all over Vienna year after year.

Close co-operation between Municipal Department 42, Austrian Gardeners and Florists and the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF

The musicians of the Vienna Philharmonic, the staff of Municipal Department 42 and Austrian Gardeners and Florists will once more make the New Year's Concert of 2017 a highpoint for more than 50 million TV viewers across the world, in this way delivering very special cultural New Year's greetings from Vienna.