

Press Release

Halle (Saale), 22 May 2018

## **RACHEL PORTMAN TO RECEIVE THE GERMAN FILM MUSIC AWARD IN HALLE (Saale)**

For major films such as “**Chocolat**”, “**Marvin’s Room**”, “**The Cider House Rules**” and “**The Duchess**”, she custom-tailored the music to fit the protagonists. In **1997**, for **Jane Austen’s “Emma”**, she was the first female composer to be awarded an **Oscar** for the “**Best Original Score**”. With her creative compositions, **Rachel Portman** established herself in the film music sector, a field dominated by men, and this autumn will be honoured with the **German Film Music Prize** in the category “International”. The German Film Music Prize will be awarded for the fifth time on **26<sup>th</sup> October** in the **Steintor-Varieté in Halle (Saale)** under the auspices of the Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt. Award winners in the past years were Harold Faltermeyer, Klaus Doldinger, Stephen Warbeck, Jeff Beal and Trevor Jones.

Rachel Portman, the British master of film music, began composing already at the age of thirteen. After classical musical studies at Oxford University, she turned increasingly to the theatre stage and subsequently to film. **Her breakthrough in Hollywood came in 1992** with the music to “**Used People**”, featuring Shirley MacLaine and Marcello Mastroianni in the main roles. To date she has created the scores to over a **hundred films in various genres**. Yet, as she emphasised in an interview, “emotional drama is my favourite, something with heart”. Rachel Portman places the **creation of new melodic themes** in the focus of her creative work, in most cases realized with a classical instrumentarium, such as piano and strings. According to her own statements, her wealth of melodies and her orchestrations are informed by classical music, such as Shostakovich’s symphonies, as well as by traditional folklore.

The German Film Music Prize will be awarded under the auspices of the **11<sup>th</sup> Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt**, which takes place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018. For the first time, the Film Music Days opens with a **Film Music Ball** in the appropriately glamorous ambient of the historical **Steintor-Varieté**. In cooperation with the organisers of the Film Music Days, the **Steintor-Varieté** will bring to life again the era of the **Golden Twenties**.

As always, the **11<sup>th</sup> Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt** will have as its central event the two-day symposium with lectures, workshops and panel discussions. Following its very successful premiere in 2013, the interdisciplinary **Masterclass – The Orchestra** has numbered among the permanent features of the programme. Under the experienced direction of Prof. **Benjamin Köthe** and Prof. **Bernd Ruf**, five selected up-and-coming composers receive a unique opportunity to develop their compositions to a **sequence of the movie „GRUFFALO“ (2009)\*** and have them performed straight away by the Staatskapelle Halle. At the **Gala Concert on 27 October** in the **Opera Halle**, the invariably sold-out highlight of the Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt with the **Staatskapelle Halle** under the baton of **Bernd Ruf**, one of the thus created compositions will again be heard live. Ticket sales for the gala concert have already started. Ticket sales for the First Film Music Ball start May, 28.

\* Kindly supported by Magic Light Pictures and ZDF.

**+++An Overview of Dates of the 11<sup>th</sup> Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt 2018+++**

SATURDAY, 20 October, Steintor-Varieté  
First Film Music Ball

SUNDAY, 21 October to THURSDAY, 25 October, various venues  
Masterclass –The Orchestra

THURSDAY, 25 October, Mitteldeutsches Multimediazentrum  
Dolby-Atmos Workshop

FRIDAY, 26 October to SATURDAY, 27 October, Puschkinhaus  
Symposium of the 11<sup>th</sup> Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt

FRIDAY, 26 October, Steintor-Varieté  
Presentation of the 5<sup>th</sup> German Film Music Prize

SATURDAY, 27 October, 7:30 p.m., Opera Halle  
Gala Concert of the 11<sup>th</sup> Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt

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