



## CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE BERLIN STATE BALLET

**BERLIN** Johannes Öhman and Sasha Waltz will be stepping down as joint directors of the Berlin State Ballet at the end of 2020. The announcement came in February, after Johannes Öhman's decision to return to his native Sweden to take up the role of general and artistic director of prestigious Swedish dance institution Dansens Hus, in Stockholm. Initially, Sasha Waltz said she would not carry on alone, but has since asked to take some time to think about it, suspending her resignation. Their unusual joint directorship at Berlin effectively began from the 2018/19 season for Johannes Öhman, and from 2019/20 for Sasha Waltz; based upon mutual dialogue between the two directors, one focusing on general programs and the other above all on creations and collaborations with contemporary dance makers, it is coming to an end after just two years, including the already-planned 2020/21 season. While waiting to see how things unfold, the Berlin State Ballet is set to debut Sasha Waltz's first creation for the company. Titled *Sym-phonie*, the full-length work has a score composed especially for it by Georg Friedrich Haas, performed by sixty musicians from the Staatskapelle Berlin; set design is by Pia Maier Schriever, with costumes by Bernd Skodzig. If all goes to plan the show will run at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden from 25 April – 25 May. c.z.

## A EUROPEAN MIX AT DANCE SALAD

HOUSTON Dance Salad Festival is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year at the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, with an international line-up. It will kick off, as always, with the Choreographers' Forum on 8 April at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts; those taking part include Sebastian Kloborg, guest choreographer at the Royal Danish Ballet; Rafael Bonachela, artistic director of the Sydney Dance Company, and Harold George, founder of the Dunia Dance Theatre in Brussels. Performances will include the Hofesh Shechter Company with *Grand Finale* (2017), an exciting work full of anarchic energy with live music composed by the choreographer himself; this will be its Texan premiere. Then there's the Semperoper Ballett Dresden with a pas de deux from David Dawson's *The Four Seasons* with music by Max Richter, a 'spherical' rewriting of Vivaldi that ripples through the bodies and constantly changing lighting. Also from Europe, the Royal Danish Ballet will be appearing at the festival with pieces accompanied by live chamber music: *Chorale Dances* by Tobias Praetorius set to Bach, *Absolute Pitch Black* by Sebastian Kloborg danced to Chopin. The Royal Ballet of Flanders presents a solo version of *Jack*, with music by Gershwin, danced by the company's former Principal, American Drew Jacoby. Then it's the Dunia Dance Theatre again with *Making Men*, a dance film and performance by Harold George and Antoine Panier, built around a combination of traditional African and western music. To wrap things up, *ab [intra]* by Rafael Bonachela with the Sydney Dance Company, Donlon Dance Collective Berlin with Marguerite Donlon's choreographies and *ANNA* from France's Laboration Art Company. This female duet by Laura Arend pays homage to five exceptional women: Lise Meitner, Sophie Scholl, Clarenore Stinnes, Pina Bausch and Clara Schumann. [www.dancesalad.org](http://www.dancesalad.org)

Top left, Johannes Öhman and Sasha Waltz. Here, artists of Dresden Semperoper Ballet in "The Four Seasons" by David Dawson  
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