

Press release

Barbara Hannigan honoured with the EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement Award

The International Music + Media Centre and the European Broadcasting Union recognize soprano and conductor Barbara Hannigan for her outstanding contributions to music and the audiovisual industry.

Vienna, 29 September 2022

Vienna / Prague: The 2022 EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement Award was bestowed upon soprano and conductor Barbara Hannigan, who, as IMZ President Arild Erikstad puts it, “is among the most influential artists in our sector.”

The 59th Golden Prague International Television Festival was once again a fitting backdrop for the annual presentation of EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement Award, which went to acclaimed soprano and conductor Barbara Hannigan this year. Awarded during a televised ceremony on 24 September at The New Stage of the National Theatre in Prague, Czechia, it was one of several honours granted that evening, including the renowned Grand Prix, Czech Christal, Czech Television Prize and Special Mention for Extraordinary Artistic Achievement. Many productions by IMZ member organisations were among those recognised. Find a list of this year’s ITV Golden Prague winners [here](#).

“This award is an expression of gratitude towards professionals who shaped + inspired the performing arts film landscape through consistently excellent work,” IMZ President and Executive Producer at NRK, Arild Erikstad, explains. “Barbara Hannigan is among the most influential artists in our sector, and we are proud to celebrate her achievements with this award.”

Nicolas Auboyneau, Chairman of the EBU Music + Dance Experts, could not agree more. “Barbara Hannigan was the obvious choice! Her immense talents as an opera singer and conductor serve the music of our time and its contemporary creators. Each of her performances is a militant act to help people discover and fall in love with works that have been unfairly dismissed.”

Hannigan has been hailed as a champion of contemporary music, performing in over 85 world premières and collaborating with the likes of Pierre Boulez, Karlheinz Stockhausen, John Zorn, György Ligeti and Hans Abrahamsen, to name but a few. An accomplished conductor, Hannigan regularly sings and directs the orchestra simultaneously, placing her firmly at the forefront of creation.

To help secure the future of her craft, she founded the mentoring initiative *Equilibrium Young Artists* in 2017, followed in 2020 by *Momentum: our future, now*, a collective of leading musicians and organisations that allows young talent to perform alongside established masters.

This desire to give back also played a role in the EBU and IMZ’s decision. “Beyond her commitment as an artist, it is Barbara Hannigan’s desire to support new generations of musicians that is remarkable. Her mentoring initiatives show what music and musicians need to keep their high standards: a permanent solidarity between generations of artists,” Auboyneau explains.

Katharina Jeschke, Secretary General of the IMZ, is more than happy with the EBU + IMZ’s choice. “Throughout her entire career, Barbara has always taken the path less travelled, lending her voice – and star power – to countless contemporary productions and mentoring younger artists. I can think of no one more deserving and look forward to whatever she does next!”

Among Hannigan's numerous other accolades are the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album, the 2018 Rolf Schock Prize, the 2020 Léonie Sonning Music Prize and the Order of Canada, to which she was appointed in 2016.

The EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement award is a joint initiative of the IMZ International Music + Media Centre and the EBU European Broadcasting Union alongside the ITF Golden Prague. Established in 2017, the award recognises excellence in music + dance in the audiovisual industry and has been presented to Brian Large, Bruno Monsiegeon, Anca-Monica Pandealea + Gabrielle Babin Gugenheim, Christopher Nupen and Peter Sellars. Find more info [here](#).

ABOUT THE IMZ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC + MEDIA CENTRE

As a global business network for more than 150 Member Organisations, the IMZ International Music + Media Centre provides relevant information + opportunities for those active at the intersection of performing arts + media: leading film + TV production companies, public + private broadcasters, streaming platforms, distributors + record labels as well as opera houses, concert halls, orchestras and dance companies. The IMZ is committed to the sustainable advancement of the industry and bases its activities around four pillars: Market Access + Network, Professionalisation, Audience Development and Innovation + New Business Models. www.imz.at

ABOUT THE EBU EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

The European Broadcasting Union is the world's foremost alliance of public service media, representing 115 member organisations in 65 countries. Their members operate nearly 2,000 television, radio and online channels and services, and offer a wealth of content across other platforms. Together they reach an audience of more than one billion people around the world, broadcasting in more than 160 languages. Moreover, the EBU operates Eurovision and Euroradio services. www.ebu.ch

ABOUT THE GOLDEN PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL

Hosted by Czech TV in collaboration with the EBU + the IMZ, the annual Golden Prague International Television Festival brings together media experts from across the world and the general public, promoting the performing arts on television by honouring the best music + dance film productions in three main categories, one special mention award and two special prizes.

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