

Germany's finest in art and music

Literary festival and concerts invite to a week of cultural extravaganza during IDS Cologne

■ In late March, Cologne is offering its visitors a diverse cultural programme. The fact that city is one of the world's top travel destinations when it comes to art is well known. Some of the city's major attractions are actually the museums. The Museum Ludwig, famous for its outstanding Picasso and Pop-Art presentation, is showcasing special exhibitions from young artists Lucy McKenzie (Scotland) and Joel Shapiro (USA). Furthermore, the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum is hosting a temporary exhibition with works of Alexandre Cabane, one of the most important French artists of the 19th century.

The Roman Germanic Museum (Römisch-Germanisches Museum), is presenting the exhibition "Magic in Amber". There, rich necklaces will be presented alongside magnificent diadems, precious belts or enchantingly carved lucky charms, created by jewellers artists as early as the 8th century B.C. Besides, the museum provides an fascinating insight into Cologne's Roman history through select finds in its permanent exhibition.



The newly built Cologne museum inside the Cologne Kulturquartier (cultural quarter) is also worth a visit. It opened in October last year. Also located inside the new museum complex, the Museum Schnütgen, has become one of the most significant museums housing medieval art in Europe.

Europe's largest literary festival lit.COLOGNE, will also be held during IDS. The festival is an established event in the Cologne literature scene and usually invites to over 100 readings, discussions and narrations presented by well-known national and international authors. Elke Heidenreich, a famous German book critic and journalist, will be hosting the Great Gala on Saturday, 26 March, 2011, in the Cologne Philharmonie.

Music lovers can definitely look forward to a broad and exciting programme. At the Cologne Philharmonie (Cologne Philharmony) the Gürzenich Orchester Cologne will be performing Mozart and Tchaikovsky on 22 March. A day after soloists from the Mahler Chamber Orchestra will be presenting a musical potpourri featuring among others works by Chopin and Hector Berlioz. Finally, on Friday, 25 March, 2011, the WDR Big Band will take to the stage.

As far as opera and theatre are concerned, the artistic collaboration between Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill will be on the agenda. While the theatre aspect is presented through the Three Penny Opera (Dreigroschenoper), the opera side will feature "Auf-

stieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny" (Rise and Fall of the City of Mahogany).

Due to the restoration and redevelopment of the opera district, visitors can also experience operas in a rather unusual setting. For example, the "The Turn of the Screw" opera from James Britten will be performed on 24 and 26 March in the Trinitatis-

kirche (Trinity Church) in English with German subtitles. As a highlight, British pop star Chris de Burgh & Band will be presenting the Moonfleet Tour 2011 on 26 March in the LANXESS Arena near the exhibition centre. ◆◆

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(DTI/Photo Image Focus)

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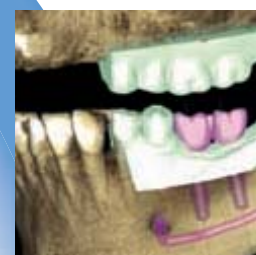
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