

## German Unity Day: Siemens Art Program sets a musical signal of understanding with kick-off concerts at the Brandenburg Gate

- **Furtherance of young musicians: Performance by soprano singer Ilkin Alpay (1st prize in the Siemens Opera Contest) and the Berlin New Philharmonic on October 1**
- **Artistic intervention in memory of Mstislav Rostropovich with cellist Daniel Müller-Schott on October 3**

German reunification has taught us that great feats can only be accomplished together. "Together" is also the motto of the Siemens Arts Program, for which participation in original creative processes is a guiding principle. With world-renowned artist Daniel Müller-Schott and the winner of the Siemens Opera Contest Turkey, Ilkin Alpay (soprano), the Siemens Arts Program is contributing two musical highlights to this year's festivities surrounding German Unity Day.

Siemens is supporting young musicians and will kick off the German Unity celebrations on October 1 with a performance by Ilkin Alpay and the New Philharmonic at the Brandenburg Gate. Alpay, winner of the Turkish Siemens Opera Contest award, will be presenting a range of pieces, including excerpts from the international opera repertoire.

A further highlight of the musical program is the performance by renowned cellist Daniel Müller-Schott on October 3 at the #1heit ("unity") concert. Müller-Schott will be commemorating the fall of the Berlin wall with excerpts from Bach's Cello Suite No. 2 – the very piece his teacher, Mstislav Rostropovich, played at Checkpoint Charlie in 1989. The original film recordings of this historic event that took place in October 1989 will be shown live on the stage as an accompaniment.

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"This artistic intervention pays tribute to a citizen of the world and his outstanding contribution towards peace. Rostropovich was quick to set a signal of understanding between East and West, and Berlin, too, has benefitted from this in the long run," explains the Artistic Director of the Siemens Arts Program, Stephan Frucht.

The public are warmly welcome to join in the German Unity Day festivities from October 1-3 at the Brandenburg Gate.

### Siemens Arts Program:

The Siemens Arts Program operates mainly in the areas of music, visual arts and cultural education and provides a platform for the company's own arts and cultural projects. One key objective of the program is the global support of excellent young artists. This is done through internally initiated competitions to find new talent (e.g. the Siemens Opera Contest) and by networking young artists with established international cultural institutions (ARD Music Competition, Bavarian State Opera, Carnegie Hall New York, Paris Opera, Salzburg Festival).

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