**Biography Ilona Schmiel**

Born in Hanover in 1967, Ilona Schmiel studied Music Education, Classical Philology and Cultural Management in Berlin and Oslo, beginning her career with the Donaueschingen Festival (Donaueschinger Musiktage) and the Olympic Arts Festival in Lillehammer. She was also project manager of the Arena di Verona’s worldwide opera tours, as well as holding a post as guest lecturer at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin.

In 1998, as Germany’s youngest director, she took on the management and Artistic Direction of Bremen’s Die Glocke concert hall, a position she held until 2002. From 2004 until 2013, she was Artistic Director and General Manager of the Beethoven Festival (Beethovenfest Bonn). Under her leadership, the Beethovenfest Bonn was chosen as the «European Cultural Brand 2012» (Europäische Kulturmarke 2012). In recognition of her services to the Beethoven Festival, she subsequently received the Order of Merit of North Rhine-Westphalia in January 2017.

Ilona Schmiel has guided the fortunes of the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich since the beginning of the 2014/15 season, bearing responsibility for all the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich’s concerts and tours as well as a variety of concert series and the operation of the Tonhalle Zürich. The Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich was also responsible for the construction and management of the interim venue Tonhalle Maag and performed in this now award-winning concert hall from 2017 until the reopening of the renovated Tonhalle Zürich in September 2021.

In 2018, Ilona Schmiel was honoured with the «Junge Ohren Preis» for her programmatically and structurally pioneering approach to music education as an essential component of the cultural institutions she heads.

From 2005 to 2007, she was also a member of the jury of the German Cultural Federal Foundation (Bundeskulturstiftung). Since 2007, she has been on the jury of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation. From 2009 until 2023 she was Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen since 2010, guest lecturer at the Munich Academy of Music and the Freie Universität Berlin and since 2012, a Member of the Board of the Beethoven Haus Bonn as well as the Council of the University of Bonn.

From 2014 to 2022, Ilona Schmiel has also been a Member of the Council of the Munich Academy of Music and Dance, as well as being on the Board of Trustees of the Concours Géza Anda, Zurich, the Artistic Committee of Zürcher Sing-Akademie, and the Board of the Collegium Novum Zürich, Board Member der IAMA International Artist Managers’ Association und Advisor for Zurich University of the Arts.

She passes on her knowledge as a mentor and is a sought-after judge at numerous international competitions.

Zurich, 4 January 2024