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PRESS RELEASE LAUSITZ FESTIVAL 2021 | 01/21

Second cross-border Lausitz Festival to feature over 75 events at 50 locations – Minister Presidents Kretschmer and Woidke are once again patrons

From August 25 to September 18, 2021, the second Lausitz Festival will take place at 50 locations with nearly 80 events in Lower and Upper Lusatia in Saxony and Brandenburg. The program, which has grown significantly this year, was once again created in collaboration with cultural institutions across the region, and brings together local and international artists on the theme of "in-betweenness". The Minister Presidents of the Free State of Saxony and the State of Brandenburg, Michael Kretschmer and Dietmar Woidke, are once again patrons. Both attended the press briefing on Friday for the presentation of the program by Daniel Kühnel, the artistic director of the festival.

Kühnel explains this year's motto, "in-betweenness" (in German: *Zwischensamkeit*) as follows: "Even though this invented word sounds as natural as awareness, loneliness, effectiveness, or mindfulness, the word is confusing because it has no direction or motion, but rather describes a state – the moment of astonishment at the realization of imminent changes".

From the geographical center of Europe, the Lausitz Festival places art and culture at the heart of the region's identity, with genres including concerts, theater, song recitals, jazz, exhibitions, film, discussions and literature. The festival brings Lower and Upper Lusatia into a new performative dialogue with the world while the region undergoes structural change, a dialogue to help shape a Europe of tomorrow. Fundamental questions of European culture can be addressed in Lusatia, a region which stands for transition like no other. "Here more than

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UNTER DER SCHIRMHEFERSCHAFT DER MINISTERPRÄSIDENTEN
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INTENDANT:

Daniel Kühnel

anywhere else, there is an opportunity to develop a conversation about the future that lends new meaning and perspective to our idea of Europe," Daniel Kühnel hopes.

Saxony's Minister President Kretschmer said: "Art and culture are important for our lives; they shape us and create identity. Despite the coronavirus, we experienced a successful start last year. It's wonderful and I am pleased that the Lausitz Festival will be continued and now goes into its second round. This joint and cross-border cultural festival in Lower and Upper Lusatia helps bring people together. In a region that is undergoing change, it stands for what unites people, for positive energy, creativity, and new beginnings. My express thanks go to the federal government for supporting this very special festival in our homeland in the middle of Europe."

Brandenburg's Minister President Woidke said: "After many months of the coronavirus, culture can flourish again. This is good for all of us. Especially for the artists, who deserve an enthusiastic audience and applause. Of course, this also applies to the Lausitz Festival with its great potential. It releases cultural energies and builds bridges: between the Lusatians in Saxony and Brandenburg, but also between the Lusatians and their European neighbors. Culture creates identity, gives self-confidence and is quality of life – in this sense, the 'Lausitz Festival' not only appeals to the head, but also warms the hearts of the people of Lusatia and their guests. The festival is therefore of great importance for structural change and for togetherness in a region that is undergoing major changes. I am pleased about the extraordinarily rich program, the very good cooperation with Saxony and the support from the federal government, which is secured for the longer term."

Managing Director Maria Schulz emphasized her pleasure that networks and cooperations in Lusatia could be further expanded, and in this context thanked the Artistic Advisory Board, which consists of representatives of the different disciplines from Lower and Upper Lusatia, for what they have achieved together.

The detailed festival program can be found at www.lausitz-festival.eu. Tickets can be purchased now online as well as at the usual ticket offices.

The Lausitz Festival is sponsored by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, Prof. Monika Gütters. The organizer is the Görlitzer Kulturservicegesellschaft mbH.

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